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No. 203

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 11, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DERRICK VAN ORDEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### TAKING STEPS TO STOP FENTANYL POISONING DEATHS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in 2022, we saw the highest number of opioid overdose deaths in our Nation's history. These deaths are the result of soft-on-crime policies from the Biden administration that have failed to enforce strict penalties on the traffickers who continue to deal in fentanyl-laced drugs.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, I received an email from Ray Cullen, a resident of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Ray, along with his wife, Deb, had raised their children in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. Ray told me a story about his son, Zach, who had been out with his friends. Zach was sold a combination of cocaine laced with fentanyl, a deadly poison that took Zach's life.

Zach was a victim of fentanyl poisoning that night. He didn't know that the drugs that he and his friends had purchased were laced with this deadly synthetic opioid.

Because of how lethal fentanyl is in small quantities, it has become the leading cause of death of Americans between the ages of 18 and 49 years.

Earlier this year, I was honored to be joined by Deb and Ray when the House passed the HALT Fentanyl Act. This legislation would permanently classify these drugs as schedule I narcotics and impose strict penalties for those who are caught trafficking these deadly poisons.

For far too long, we have seen fentanyl components manufactured in China and shipped to Mexico, where they are pressed into counterfeit pills and trafficked across our porous southern border.

Addressing these supply chains at every level must become a top priority for the Biden administration. Appealing the Chinese Communist Party with halfhearted requests to "cut back" on the production of fentanyl is doing nothing to protect families in Pennsylvania. These half measures are doing nothing to support our border towns that continue to deal with the constant threat of cartel operations moving north into the United States while Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed with illegal immigrants.

We cannot afford to wait any longer to address the opioid crisis. It is time for the Senate to pass the HALT

Fentanyl Act and finally take positive, concrete steps to stop the fentanyl poisoning deaths that have continued to occur throughout the United States.

During this holiday season, we remember families like the Cullens who have borne the brunt of these policy failures. We pray for them, and we hold them in our hearts as they prepare for another Christmas without a loved member of their family.

### THERE IS STILL TIME TO ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman famously labeled the 80th United States Congress the "do-nothing Congress."

Back then, Republicans controlled the House and Senate for the first time in a while, while Truman was in the White House.

Congress opposed all of Truman's Fair Deal bills but still saw some work on both the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. They also passed the Taft-Hartley Act over Truman's veto but generally did very little for the American people.

After that do-nothing Congress, Democrats were able to take back the House, take back the Senate, and reelect President Truman. I, of course, think of the famous photo of Truman standing with the newspaper that says: "Dewey Defeats Truman."

It turns out the American people like having a Congress working to solve problems. This is a job about results, and that Congress did very little.

That is a big reason why voters chose to send the Republican majority in the House and Senate packing back then. Now, we are in the 118th Congress, and we are on track to be one of the least productive Congresses in our Nation's history.

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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Mr. Speaker, 22 bills have been signed into law. At about this point in the last Congress, 81 bills had been signed into law. At this point in the 116th Congress, the Congress just before that, 107 bills had been signed into law.

Mr. Speaker, what have we accomplished for the American people? I will tell you what: Virtually nothing.

We have just 4 legislative days left this year, and we have very little to show for it. We have passed two CRs and raised the debt ceiling, but that is really about it.

To this date, we have been defined by the chaos and confusion in the Republican Congress and the 19 votes for the Speaker of the House so far this year. We are truly the do-nothing Congress.

We haven't passed funding for Israel or Ukraine. We haven't passed a farm bill or reauthorized the FAA. Border security and immigration reform are top-of-mind issues that need to be resolved. Yet, we will be facing another government shutdown when we come back in January.

Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking, and the American people are counting on us to do what we were sent here to do—to vote, to get things done. The world is at a critical juncture, and our inaction speaks volumes.

In Ukraine, we have heard from our diplomatic and defense leaders about the precarious situation in Ukraine and in Israel. Right now, we risk Ukraine literally running out of bullets. If we do nothing by the end of the year, Vladimir Putin will win.

The silence in this Chamber is easily mistaken around the world as support for Moscow, and we cannot let that happen.

The majority of the Republican Conference, I believe, supports standing with Ukraine, but the vocal minority in the Republican Conference has been able to block all action so far this year. It is the tail wagging the dog, and it is disgraceful.

Let's talk about the cost. If we gift wrap Ukraine for Vladimir Putin this holiday season, we will spend 100 times more money down the road containing an aggressive Russia all over the world.

This is a national security issue for the American people. Support for Ukraine is in our national interest.

Let's talk about Israel. Like Russia, Hamas poses an existential threat to democracy. It is our duty to firmly stand with our democratic allies.

The majority of the Members of this Chamber support a clean security and humanitarian aid package to Israel, yet nothing has happened. It is shameful that our new Speaker has chosen to play partisan political games with support for Israel.

Listen, Mr. Speaker. Something has got to give in this Congress. Democrats have a narrow majority in the Senate; Republicans have a very narrow—soon to be even more narrow—majority in the House; and Democrats have the White House. We have to work together if we are going to get anything done.

Until the Republican Conference begins to understand that, we will continue to accomplish nothing for the American people.

I believe we can work together. I believe we can pass a bill to support Israel and Ukraine, strengthen our southern border, and pass immigration reform, but only if we do it together.

That is the challenge we have, Mr. Speaker. There is still time to act. There is still time to vote. There is still time to come back next week to pass support for Israel and Ukraine. We need to do it. We need to get things done. We do not want to be defined as the do-nothing Congress.

I am here to get to work, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in reaching across the aisle and working together to get these things done.

#### HONORING CORDELL WALKER

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cordell Walker for his work caring for veterans in the Memphis area.

I first met Cordell probably more than 20 years ago through current Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland. Mr. Walker is retiring as executive director of Alpha Omega Veterans Services later this month after several decades of service to our community and to our veterans.

Cordell Walker said that after seeing his friends return home from Vietnam a shell of who they were, he decided that he wanted to dedicate his life to serving our Nation's veterans, and he has done exactly that.

This past Veterans Day, just a month or so ago, Cordell Walker was honored in a ceremony to open the new Cordell Walker Veterans Center in Memphis.

I believe—I think we probably all believe—that answering the call to service in the United States military is about the most admirable thing that a person can do.

Cordell Walker recognized that our veterans sacrificed so much for all of our freedom and that they deserve the best care after they retire from our military.

I thank Cordell Walker for his service caring for veterans in the Memphis area and throughout west Tennessee.

I am really proud to know Cordell, and I congratulate Cordell Walker on a job well done. Roberta and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING JUSTIN HUNTER

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Justin Hunter, who left us way too soon on September 16 of this year, 2023.

Originally from the bootheel of Missouri, just north of my district in west Tennessee, Justin Hunter had a big impact in west Tennessee. He served our community many years ago by working for former Congressman Ed Bryant.

It was in west Tennessee that Justin met his wife, Caroline. Together, they

attended law school at the University of Memphis.

Later, while working for Encompass Health, Justin put his experience to work to help improve access to rehabilitation hospital care.

Justin Hunter was a really strong and passionate advocate for rehabilitation hospitals. Justin used his understanding of the laws governing Medicare programs to help improve the quality of healthcare available to Americans across our Nation.

I know I just used the word "passion," but Justin was very passionate about everything he did and believed in. If he was in, he was in 100 percent on everything.

Justin Hunter will be remembered not only for his dedication to healthcare and to the law but also as an avid hunter and barbecue master and for his tremendous devotion to his family.

For both Roberta and me, our thoughts are with Justin's wife, Caroline, and with their two daughters, Helena and Vivian.

Justin is truly and sorely missed by so many, and I will always have good and fond memories of our friendship together.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

Rear Admiral Gregory Todd, Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, ruler of wind and wave, You establish the heavens and order all of creation.

Behold Your humble people, seeking only to serve and not to be served. Grant all who labor in this House a heart of humble service.

Lord, in Your wisdom, You led the predecessor to this Congress, the Continental Congress of 1775, out of concern for the souls of sailors serving in the Continental Navy, to mandate that divine services be held on all Navy ships, thus giving rise 248 years ago to the Navy Chaplain Corps.

Inspired by the insight of our forebears, we seek Your divine hand to raise up more religious ministry professionals to serve as United States Navy chaplains.

In our day, Lord, grant us an increase of Navy chaplains to care for the souls

of sailors, marines, coast guardsmen, and their families as they navigate the daily challenges of military service.

Lord, empower our Nation to send Navy chaplains to care for its greatest treasure: our sons and daughters.

Into Your divine hands we commit our prayer, trusting in Your divine mercy.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MORAN 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would now entertain requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

#### NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF EXTENSION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3315) to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3315

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF AMENDMENT.

Section 4(b) of the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-438; 122 Stat. 5000) is amended by striking "15-year" and inserting "19-year".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 3315.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3315, the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2023.

The bill before us today is an important piece of legislation. It will help National Guard members and Armed Services reservists who serve our country.

Some of these individuals face financial hardships during or after Active Duty. Bankruptcy may be needed to resolve these hardships.

In 2008, Congress recognized that guardsmen and reservists sometimes confront unique financial challenges when returning home from Active Duty.

Congress enacted the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act in 2008 to respond to these challenges and has extended its protection several times since. Those protections are set to expire later this month.

Under current law, certain guardsmen and reservists are exempt from the Bankruptcy Code's means test. This test helps decide whether a debtor is eligible for debt forgiveness under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code.

The test looks at recent income and expense data to gauge a consumer's ability to repay their debt, but the means test can be an obstacle to debt forgiveness for guardsmen and reservists. Their income and expenses can change dramatically when transitioning from civilian life to Active Duty and back.

The means test does not account for these changes in income and expenses due to Active-Duty service.

The National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2023 responds to this concern. This bill would extend for an additional 4 years the existing means test exemption for certain qualifying National Guard members and Armed Services reservists.

We continue to call on our guardsmen and our reservists to put their careers on hold to serve our country. We should ensure that those military per-

sonnel who fall on hard times are not denied access to bankruptcy because of their Active-Duty status.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, according to a 2022 lifestyle survey of servicemembers and veterans, financial issues were the top lifestyle stressor, and unfortunately, bankruptcy sometimes is the best answer for those in financial distress.

Under current law, National Guard members and reservists who serve on Active Duty are, like other active servicemembers, exempt from the Bankruptcy Code means test which determines whether a debtor's income is too high to have all of his or her debts erased in bankruptcy. This critical protection for National Guard members and reservists has to be extended every 4 years, and this is the time to do it.

Unless otherwise exempted, these servicemembers and veterans must complete the required forms and submit the specified paperwork to satisfy the Bankruptcy Code's means test.

This burdensome requirement would even apply to National Guard and reservists who have returned to the United States from active service and thus no longer receive combat pay.

Under the means test, such servicemember must calculate his or her income based on the average monthly income that he or she received during the 6-month period preceding the filing date of the bankruptcy case, rather than the debtor's actual income, which may be less because of the debtor's noncombat status.

Without this exemption, some servicemembers and veterans may be prevented from seeking the financial relief that they need and deserve. We should not deny the reservists and the National Guard these benefits.

This extension is an immediate concern. The bill would extend for 4 years the temporary authorization exempting certain qualifying reserve component members of the Armed Services and National Guard members from this means test.

I am proud to have led the effort to exempt the National Guard and reservists from the means test in 2008 and the extensions of this successful program in 2015 and 2019. If we do not act today, this critical protection for National Guard members and reservists will expire in a matter of weeks.

I hope we can act on a bipartisan basis, as we have always done, to extend the authority.

I thank my cosponsors Representatives BEN CLINE, MADELEINE DEAN, TIM BURCHETT, and leaders of the companion effort in the Senate, Senators DURBIN and GRAHAM.

This is truly a bipartisan, bicameral effort.

I thank Chairman JORDAN, who moved this bill through the Judiciary Committee and advocated for its quick

consideration on the floor, and I all urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes people think we don't work together, but in the military we do work together. I am proud to support this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge a voice vote on this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, to close, I reemphasize what Mr. COHEN from Tennessee said.

This is a bipartisan and bicameral effort to protect our guardsmen and our reservists as they are returning back after having served in Active Duty. This is an important measure to protect those individuals who have fallen on hard times financially and need the protections of bankruptcy court.

This exemption to the means test is important because of the variations of the income and the expenses that we see coming in and out of civilian life for these individuals.

As a result of the efforts of both the Democrats and the Republicans in the House and the Senate, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3315.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 7, 2023.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 7, 2023, at 3:37 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3250.

Appointment:

Member of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Member of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

#### AMENDING THE FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971 TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN REPORTING VIOLATIONS

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2747) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2747

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

#### SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINE PROGRAM.

Section 309(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(4)(C)(v)) is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "December 31, 2033".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations for an additional 10 years.

Congress has previously extended this program six times, each time on a nonpartisan basis. I rise today to encourage my colleagues to again extend the authorization of this crucial program.

The Federal Elections Commission, commonly referred to as the FEC, enforces Federal law that requires political committees to file reports of receipts and disbursements by a certain date.

□ 1415

Under the Administrative Fine Program, the FEC is able to swiftly resolve infractions related to late-filed or unfiled reports, ensuring transparency and accountability in our political process.

Currently, the Administrative Fine Program is set to expire on December 31, 2023. By passing this bill today, the House will extend the program for an additional 10 years, ensuring the FEC can expeditiously assess and enforce fines against campaign committees for their late-filed or unfiled reports.

Without the Administrative Fine Program, the FEC would be required to

go through its traditional enforcement process to achieve compliance. This process is more costly and more time consuming. It would result in fewer available resources for the agency to devote to serious violations of campaign finance law.

The Administrative Fine Program has been successful. Before the inception of the Administrative Fine Program, an average of 21 percent of campaign finance reports were filed late. Now, late-filed reports are below 10 percent, and the agency has assessed over \$9 million in fines. It is important to note that these fines do not fund the agency but are deposited in the U.S. Treasury.

Fewer late-filed reports means greater transparency for the American public. Greater transparency builds Americans' confidence in our elections.

The bill not only accomplishes the immediate goal of efficient campaign finance regulation, but it also aligns with the broader objectives of the American Confidence in Elections Act, or ACE Act: transparency and our shared goal to ensure confidence in our elections.

By passing this bill today, we can ensure the FEC enforcement operations continue to run smoothly. In late September, the Committee on House Administration considered an identical bill, H.R. 5734, and reported it to the full House by voice vote.

Our Senate colleagues passed S. 2747 by voice earlier this fall, which means this important bill would go to the President's desk following passage in the House.

I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the bipartisan membership of the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Rules Committee to support this important measure today.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Wisconsin for advancing this bill.

I rise in strong support of S. 2747, and I will probably be repeating and underscoring some of the things my good friend said, because this is important legislation. We should take time out to acknowledge how important it is.

This bill extends the Federal Election Commission's Administrative Fine Program for certain campaign finance reporting violations, which, as my good friend mentioned, has been extended several times in the past, last time through President Trump, and this will take it through the end of 2033.

The important program allows the FEC to assess administrative fines against those who fail to timely report their receipts and disbursements. The FEC relies heavily on the Administrative Fine Program to enforce campaign finance law.

It has been remarkably successful, as has been said. Since the year 2000, the FEC has made public more than 4,000 violations, and, through the program,

has assessed more than \$8.8 million in fines.

It is important to note, before the program began, an average of 21 percent of campaign finance reports were filed late. Since the Administrative Fine Program has been in place, that number has been reduced to less than 10 percent.

The FEC has made it clear to Congress that this program is one of the most effective tools it currently has to combat campaign finance violations, and the extension of the program, which expires at the end of this year, is indeed vital.

Extending the Administrative Fine Program is the Commission's top-priority, bipartisan legislative recommendation, and the Commissioners reiterated the need to extend the program during a hearing in front of the Committee on House Administration in September.

Further, this extension has wide bipartisan support. A version of this extension, I will just note parenthetically, was included in both the Democrats' Freedom to Vote Act and the Republicans' ACE Act. It is interesting when we can get an agreement on two bills which vary pretty dramatically. I was grateful to partner with Chairman STEIL on the House version of this extension.

Transparency and accountability in campaign finance are crucial to ensuring a healthy democracy. More than a century ago, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Louis Brandeis declared that: "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." This counsel, encouraging transparency and promoting good governance, remains vitally important to any strong civil society today.

Transparency about who is seeking to influence Federal elections is crucial to democratic self-governance. This is the purpose of the FEC, and this bipartisan act, S. 2747, will ensure that the FEC can continue to use one of its most effective tools to carry out its vital mission.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support S. 2747 to help preserve a crucial program and key tool enforcing our Nation's transparency and accountability laws.

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE), the chair of the Subcommittee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration and the former Florida Secretary of State.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing support of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations.

As the expiration deadline of December 31, 2023, approaches rather quickly, we, the Members of the House of Representatives, have an opportunity to

continue the trend of bipartisan oversight of the Federal Election Commission.

If passed, S. 2747 will mark the seventh time that lawmakers have recognized the administrative importance and financially beneficial structure of the Administrative Fine Program.

As the former Florida Secretary of State, I know firsthand that voters will always seek transparency from political candidates and political campaigns.

Elections officials have a saying: Elections are partisan. Elections administration is not.

This bill is an example of that very principle. It is an example of the transparency and the confidence that Americans want to see in their elections. These same themes can be found in the American Confidence in Elections Act, which passed out of the Committee on House Administration in mid-July and is an example of the types of procedures and principles and laws that can be guidance for every State in America.

Today, we have the opportunity to showcase the cooperation, the diligence, and the work completed by members and staff on the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Rules Committee. This bill reflects our shared values, bipartisanship, transparency, and good governance.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2747 so the Federal Election Commission can continue to ensure confidence and transparency in our elections process.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I thank my colleague, Mr. MORELLE, the ranking member on the Committee on House Administration, for his work in this regard.

As noted by my colleague, sometimes we disagree on elections administration. We have had those debates in our committee. This piece of legislation is a true nonpartisan opportunity for us to come together to provide more transparency for the American people, in particular, to make sure that this important program continues in place at the Federal Election Commission.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to be here with my colleagues. It is interesting to me, as I went home over the weekend, there were a number of public events. One of the things people are concerned about in Congress, when they watch us, is that we often seem to have the inability to agree on anything.

Well, I remind people that is not always true. There are things that we do agree on. There are things that are important to this government and important to our democracy. I think this is a great example of people coming together on both sides to support an important tool that can be used to ensure our elections have the confidence of the American people and make sure

that candidates who seek office are providing the kind of information necessary for transparency and accountability, as my good friend from Wisconsin has said.

I thank the chairman and the members of the committee. It is a privilege to be here, and I encourage all colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for speaking in support of this important measure. By passing the bill today, we can ensure FEC enforcement operations continue to run smoothly. I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join in supporting this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2747.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SILETZ RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2839) to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2839

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

#### SECTION 1. SILETZ RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 4 of Public Law 96-340 (commonly known as the "Siletz Reservation Act") (94 Stat. 1074) is amended to read as follows:

#### "SEC. 4. HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND ANIMAL GATHERING.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) CONSENT DECREE.—The term 'Consent Decree' means the final judgment and decree of the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, in the action entitled 'Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon against State of Oregon', entered on May 2, 1980.

"(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

"(3) SILETZ AGREEMENT.—The term 'Siletz Agreement' means the agreement entitled 'Agreement Among the State of Oregon, the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon to Permanently Define Tribal Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Gathering Rights of the Siletz Tribe and its Members' and entered into by the United States on April 22, 1980.

"(b) HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND ANIMAL GATHERING AGREEMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Siletz Agreement shall remain in effect until and unless replaced, amended, or otherwise modified by 1

or more successor government-to-government agreements between the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the State of Oregon relating to the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

“(2) AMENDMENTS.—The Siletz Agreement or any successor agreement entered into under paragraph (1) may be amended from time to time by mutual consent of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the State of Oregon.

“(3) CONTENTS OF NEW AGREEMENT OR AMENDMENTS.—The Siletz Agreement or any successor agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not provide for exclusive or primary Siletz take opportunity outside the exterior boundaries of the 1855 Executive Order Siletz Coast Reservation (as described in section 7(f)(1)(A) of the Siletz Tribe Indian Restoration Act (Public Law 95-195; 91 Stat. 1418; 130 Stat. 1364) relative to any other federally recognized Indian Tribe, and shall not provide for new or expanded take of fishery resources in the Columbia River or in the Willamette River from its mouth to the top of Willamette Falls.

“(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—In any action brought in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon to rescind, overturn, modify, or provide relief under Federal law from the Consent Decree, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon shall review the application of the parties on the merits without regard to the defense of res judicata or collateral estoppel.

“(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section enlarges, confirms, adjudicates, affects, or modifies any treaty or other right of an Indian Tribe.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2839, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2839 will amend the Siletz Reservation Act to provide a process by which the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the State of Oregon may negotiate to amend or replace the 1980 agreement that currently serves as the final determination of the Tribe's hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is a confederation of more than 27 different Tribes and bands of Indians who, beginning in 1856, were removed throughout western Oregon and placed on the Siletz Coast Reservation.

The Siletz Coast Reservation was repeatedly diminished by Federal action until the Siletz Tribe's Federal recognition was terminated by an act of Congress in 1954.

In 1977, Congress enacted a bill to restore the Tribe's Federal recognition. This restoration was not without conditions. The Siletz Tribe's hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights were limited through an agreement made with the State of Oregon.

This agreement was finalized on May 2, 1980, by the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon as a consent decree. The 1980 consent decree was then incorporated into the Siletz Reservation Act of 1980.

The agreement provided limited allocations for salmon fishing and deer and elk hunting while otherwise prohibiting Tribal hunting, fishing, gathering, and trapping, except as authorized under Oregon State law.

H.R. 2839 would allow the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon to negotiate to amend, replace, or terminate the 1980 consent decree. That consent decree remains in place until there is mutual agreement for a new agreement between both the Tribe and the State.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon would also be required to adjudicate any change in the consent decree on the merits of the case. This prevents the modification from being dismissed by the court because the matter had already been decided.

Additionally, the legislation includes language preserving all other hunting and fishing treaty rights held by other treaty Tribes.

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

□ 1430

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2839, which would amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

The Siletz Tribe should be able to freely hunt, fish, and gather on their ancestral lands, just like every other Tribe in Oregon, except one, and in this country.

Today, the Siletz have over 5,000 enrolled members, and they are concentrated in Oregon's Fourth Congressional District, which I am honored to represent.

The Siletz Tribe was stripped of its land and status in 1954 through the Western Oregon Termination Act.

In 1980, the Siletz Tribe was forced to give up their rights to hunting and fishing on Tribal lands in order to have their reservation restored. This restriction is called a consent decree. It is an unjust and racist policy that should have never happened, and it needs to be changed immediately.

This is a bipartisan bill, and I thank my colleagues for their support. It provides the legal ability for the Siletz Tribe to renegotiate a hunting and fishing agreement with the State of Oregon.

While the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently approved a his-

toric new hunting and fishing agreement with the Siletz Tribe, the State can choose or be forced by litigation to return to the previous unconscionable agreement at any time. That is why this bill is greatly needed.

The bill is necessary to invalidate the consent decree, and it does not impact the treaty rights of any other Tribe.

The Siletz Tribe has worked in good faith with other Tribes in the region to avoid contested areas, which is reflected in my bill. There was a lot of hard work that went into making this happen and making this right.

I am proud that H.R. 2839 passed out of committee with strong bipartisan support. In fact, it was unanimous. That is pretty strong bipartisan support.

I thank my colleagues in the Oregon delegation for their support of this bipartisan bill. I particularly thank Senator MERKLEY, who has a companion bill in the Senate and who has worked tirelessly to right this historic wrong.

The Siletz is one of only two Tribes in the entire country that was forced to give up their sovereign rights in order to have Federal status renewed. The other Tribe is the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. I support similar legislation to allow them to renegotiate fishing and hunting rights with the State of Oregon, as well. I hope to see this legislation move forward.

H.R. 2839 is about fairness. Siletz members should be able to hunt, fish, trap, and gather on their ancestral lands as they have traditionally done. They should be treated as other Tribes are.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this important legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would amend the Siletz Reservation Act to allow the State of Oregon and the Siletz Tribe to negotiate to amend, replace, or terminate the Tribe's 1980s hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal consent decree.

The current consent decree would remain in place until there is a new agreement that is mutually decided on, allowing all parties to reach an agreement before changes are made.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of the legislation for her work on behalf of her constituents. I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2839.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### DUCK STAMP MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 788) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue fully electronic stamps under that Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 788

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZING FULLY ELECTRONIC STAMPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718r) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ACTUAL STAMP” and inserting “ELECTRONIC STAMP”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “an actual stamp” and inserting “the electronic stamp”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) on the date of purchase of the electronic stamp; and”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “actual stamps” and inserting “actual stamps under subsection (e)”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) DELIVERY OF ACTUAL STAMPS.—The Secretary shall issue an actual stamp after March 10 of each year to each individual that purchased an electronic stamp for the preceding waterfowl season.”.

(b) CONTENTS OF ELECTRONIC STAMP.—Section 2 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718o) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Federal” and all that follows through “that is printed” and inserting “Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp required under the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.) that is printed”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) may contain an image of the actual stamp.”.

(c) STAMP VALID THROUGH CLOSE OF HUNTING SEASON.—Section 6 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “shall, during the effective period of the electronic stamp—” and inserting “shall—”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “for a period agreed to by the State and the Secretary, which shall not exceed 45 days” and inserting “through the first June 30 that occurs after the date of issuance of the electronic stamp by the State”.

(d) ELECTRONIC STAMPS AS PERMIT.—Section 1(a)(1) of the Migratory Bird Hunting

and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718a(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “as an electronic stamp (as defined in section 2 of the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (16 U.S.C. 718o)) or” after “Conservation Stamp.”; and

(2) by striking “face of the stamp” and inserting “face of the actual stamp (as defined in that section)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 788, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 788, sponsored by my friend and fellow Razorback, Senator JOHN BOOZMAN from Arkansas. This bill makes commonsense improvements to wildlife regulations by modernizing how waterfowl hunters across the country can purchase a Federal duck stamp.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who had a companion bill in the House that went through our committee.

The Federal duck stamp was first created when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act into law in 1934. The law required waterfowl and other migratory bird hunters, ages 16 and over, to purchase and possess a valid duck stamp prior to taking migratory waterfowl.

Current law requires hunters to physically possess a signed duck stamp while hunting for any migratory waterfowl. Even in States where electronic licensing is used, a signed physical duck stamp is required.

Mr. Speaker, on my mobile phone, I have the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hunting app. Right here, front and center, I have my Federal duck stamp electronically. Technically, I would be breaking the law if a game warden approached me when I was hunting and this is all that I had. I still have to carry my little duck stamps in my pocket that are signed, both the State and Federal duck stamps.

This bill would modernize that program so that these electronic duck stamps would suffice if you were approached by a game warden.

S. 788 modernizes the program by removing the 45-day requirement to have a physical duck stamp and allowing States the option to sell electronic duck stamps for the entirety of the hunting season.

Under this bill, purchasers would still receive the physical stamp at the end of their State waterfowl season, therefore preserving the long legacy of the Federal duck stamp for generations to come.

This is a good governance approach that will continue the unmatched American tradition of wildlife conservation through sportsmen participation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARRET GRAVES of Louisiana for his tireless work on this issue. He sponsored the House companion to S. 788. After today, this legislation is one step closer to becoming law.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the duck stamp, or Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, is the only Federal conservation revenue stamp. This means that 98 percent of the sale price is used to purchase conservation easements and to acquire wetland habitats for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The duck stamp also provides an opportunity to showcase wildlife art, with the Fish and Wildlife Service hosting an art competition each year and the winning piece selected for next year's design.

Sportsmen and women, artists, and conservationists purchase duck stamps as a collectible to cover entry fees to any National Wildlife Refuge System unit, as a hunting license, or as a donation to conservation.

Millions of stamps have been sold in recent years, contributing tens of millions of dollars toward conservation each year. This bipartisan bill would modernize government services by allowing online access to the Federal duck stamp. It would save applicants and agency officials time and money and make it more accessible for hunters, conservationists, and collectors to purchase duck stamps and to support wetland conservation.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), where I understand that if you can't get to a hunt in Arkansas, it is not a bad place to go as a consolation.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentlewoman from Oregon for their cooperation on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I note that my friend from Arkansas, whether he has the electronic stamp or the physical stamp, I feel that the ducks in Arkansas are safe. I have seen him shoot and am confident that those ducks are safe.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, oftentimes, when Congress acts, I think the American people need to be very concerned.

In this case, I think it is a really good thing that is happening today.

As my friends have discussed, back in 1934, President Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act into law. Today, over 1.6 million hunters go out and buy a physical duck stamp every single year.

This has resulted in over \$1.1 billion being invested in conservation. This has benefited over 6 million acres of our national wildlife refuges around the United States. This is a great program.

As my friend from Arkansas indicated, there is a compliance issue. With the great work that was done in 2013 to allow for an electronic duck stamp, there is a lag time between when the duck stamp is purchased and when the physical stamp comes in. You could find hunters out of compliance, despite the fact that they bought a stamp. Simply, this legislation fixes that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Senate cosponsors of this legislation who have jumped in, Senators BOOZMAN, MANCHIN, MARSHALL, and KING, for introducing the House companion—I want to be clear, the House companion. This was a House bill and has already passed out of the House, but now, the Senate is refusing to take our bill up, so we find ourselves here.

In any case, I think this is good news. We are going to take the win. I appreciate the opportunity to move forward.

The bottom line is that this ensures that hunters can be compliant and are not going to get fined for not having the physical stamp. Importantly, it preserves the physical stamp that will continue to be mailed. It still is available to be purchased at local sporting goods stores and post offices all around the United States.

We can continue to ensure compliance and ensure the enjoyment of waterfowl all over the United States, whether you are in North Dakota or south Louisiana or even in the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee's State, Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MIKE THOMPSON from California, who is the bipartisan cosponsor on this legislation. I urge adoption.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Arkansas and Louisiana, who represent great States to go hunting in if you can't make it all the way out to Oregon. I welcome you all there.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, and it should pass. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I hope this can be unanimous, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to make clear that the gentleman from Louisiana, even though he looks like a duck commander, he is not a duck commander, but he does enjoy the outdoors.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is based on a user pays system through the purchase

of items like the Federal duck stamp, is the envy of the world. In total, fees paid by the sportsmen communities contribute over \$1 billion in revenue annually that goes toward wildlife conservation, which is truly a remarkable achievement.

S. 788 is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that underpins the Northern American model by giving hunters certainty and modernizing the Federal duck stamp process.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 788.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1445

#### PROTECT SMALL BUSINESS AND PREVENT ILLICIT FINANCIAL ACTIVITY ACT

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5119) to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide small businesses with additional time to file beneficial ownership information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5119

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act".

##### SEC. 2. BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP INFORMATION REPORTING DEADLINES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 5336(b)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting "(but which may not adjust the report submission deadline)" after "Treasury"; and

(B) by striking "in a timely manner, and";

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting "(but which may not adjust the report submission deadline)" after "Treasury"; and

(B) by striking "at the time of" and inserting "not later than 90 days after the date of such";

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by inserting "(but which may not adjust the report submission deadline)" after "Treasury"; and

(B) by striking "in a timely manner, and not later than 1 year" and inserting "not later than 90 days"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(H) UNABLE TO OBTAIN.—FinCEN may not by rule, guidance, or otherwise, permit a re-

porting company from submitting a report relating to the inability of the reporting company to obtain or identify information in the alternative to submitting a report required under this subsection."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, American small businesses are the backbone of our economy. There are nearly 32.6 million small businesses operating in our country, and in my home State of Iowa, that makes up more than one-half of the businesses, those that are on Main Street in our hometown communities and right in the storefront where Americans shop and spend their time each week.

However, these small businesses are under attack from a Federal bureaucracy in D.C. trying to burden them in red tape, and alarmingly, also from our adversaries overseas, specifically Chinese Communist Party entities, that have infiltrated our country with shell companies that jeopardize our national security, violate our intellectual property laws, and hurt our economy both locally and globally.

Recent reports suggest that the Chinese Communist Party has more than 40,000 shell companies operating in the United States today. They use these companies to launder money, peddle drugs, and collect sensitive information on our people and our Nation. We cannot, we must not, and, today, we will not allow that to happen.

In 2020, Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act to shut down these illegal shell companies, but, right now, foreign-owned entities use these shell companies and exploit a loophole in this law by checking a box on the required form claiming that they don't know who owns the company, which, of course, we all know—both Republican and Democrat—is completely absurd.

Once enacted, our bipartisan Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act will finally close this loophole and will also reduce the burdensome red tape for the legitimate American businesses who are trying to do that which they have done so well for so long: serve our hometown communities.

First, these shell companies will no longer be able to exploit the system by



selecting “unable to obtain” or “unable to identify,” basically saying that we don’t know who owns us, when reporting their ownership information. By removing the option to basically claim absentia when it comes to ownership, we can crack down on the Chinese Communist Party’s economic incursion into the United States.

Not only will this bipartisan bill help crack down on Communist China, it will also make it much easier for legitimate American small businesses to comply with the law, no longer putting them at a detriment to their overseas competitors.

Small businesses already face unique challenges in this economy: brutal inflation, a struggling supply chain, and a bureaucracy based right here in D.C. that is intent on burying them in red tape, making them do far more work than adversary-owned entities or what foreign-owned companies do right now. Not to mention most operate with limited resources, and that is on a good day.

This bill will reduce government-imposed burdens by ensuring small businesses have sufficient time to satisfy requests for information while the government fixes this egregious loophole.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that the passage of this legislation is a critical step forward by preventing our adversaries in the Chinese Communist Party from exploiting our laws and engaging in illicit activity and will also reduce the burden of red tape on new and existing small businesses.

In closing, I thank my colleague from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), who is the Ranking Member of National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions Subcommittee, for helping champion this and being a co-lead on this important legislation, and I also thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5119, the Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act sponsored by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

In 2021, Congress enacted the Corporate Transparency Act, or CTA, establishing America’s national Beneficial Ownership Registry. This registry will start collecting information from applicable businesses and their beneficial owners on January 1, 2024, and will crack down on the anonymous shell companies used by terrorists, drug cartels, and other financial criminals.

The collection of information on beneficial owners of certain corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities registered in the United States will help protect our financial system from illicit use by making it even more

difficult for bad actors to disguise their financial activities through entities with complex ownership structures.

This bill would offer reporting businesses additional time to file their CTA information, pushing back a handful of deadlines in the September 2022 final rule on this issue. Additional time, especially for small, newly formed businesses, would improve the accuracy of the registry and streamline our law enforcement efforts.

I am pleased to support this bill that will assist with the development of America’s sorely needed Beneficial Ownership Registry.

Mr. Speaker, at least 30 countries already have some kind of central beneficial ownership registry to improve transparency. It is about time we start our own program, but we need to do it the right way and give small businesses ample time to file their information accurately.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the bill will improve the implementation of a registry that will provide much-needed transparency into business ownership and ultimately help to deter bad actors from abusing our financial system. Providing our Nation’s small businesses with sufficient time to comply with the CTA will help FinCEN to develop an effective and meaningful registry.

I, again, thank Representative NUNN and Mrs. BEATTY for championing this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to say thank you to Members on both sides of the aisle. The House Financial Services Committee has led strongly in making sure that the backbone of our economy, our small businesses, everyday Americans, and the economy of this country can remain stronger. With the passage of this bill we not only fight for the Main Street of America, but we also ask that those who would do business in the United States be held to the same standard.

As was highlighted by the gentleman from Texas, whether you are a terrorist entity, whether you are a laundering agency from overseas, or whether you are the Chinese Communist Party, no longer will you be part of this myriad of 40,000 entities trying to operate with impunity in the United States. We will hold you accountable. We will move forward to support those Americans who are doing it the right way, and, most importantly, we will stand strong for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to move this bill on a bipartisan path with this House and the interests of the American people. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which I am proud to lead, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5119, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### FOREIGN AFFILIATES SHARING PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5524) to amend the start date of the pilot program on sharing with foreign branches, subsidiaries and affiliates, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5524

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program Extension Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FOREIGN AFFILIATES SHARING PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 5318(g)(8)(B)(iii) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “3 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph” and inserting “3 years after the date on which the Secretary of the Treasury issues rules pursuant to subparagraph (A)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first established in the Anti-Money Laundering Act, the Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program allows financial institutions to share Suspicious Activity Reports and related information with the institution’s foreign branches, subsidiaries, and affiliates to help combat illicit finance risks.

Sharing financial intelligence is the bedrock of thwarting terrorists’ financial activity and the movement of dangerous drugs like fentanyl across our southern border here in the United States. It ensures that terrorists and

other criminals are not able to infiltrate the U.S. financial system.

In October of this year, an unlicensed money transmitting business admitted in court that they are illegally helping to fund foreign gamblers laundering money through the U.S. financial system to avoid scrutiny or investigation by U.S. or foreign law enforcement.

□ 1500

From 2012 to 2020, the business helped move money through at least 15 countries, including ones the State Department has identified as major money laundering countries like Mexico, Argentina, Switzerland, and the UAE.

This is just one example of why it matters to have the opportunity to share intelligence collected from suspicious activity reports to catch illicit financing activity.

Currently, this pilot program is nearing its 3-year completion mark without ever having been fully operational. The Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program Extension Act extends the termination date for 3 years after the Treasury issues rules for the pilot program. This extension allows Congress to adequately assess whether to make the program a permanent solution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GARCIA, the gentlewoman from Texas, for her amazing work in supporting this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation to protect our national security.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 5524, the Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program Extension Act. In January 2021, Congress successfully overrode Trump's veto to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, also known as NDAA, which is our Nation's annual Defense bill. This included the enactment of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020, the first significant change to America's anti-money laundering and financial-based terrorism policy since 9/11.

Our bipartisan goal in passing the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 was to improve the deterrence and detection of financial crime by promoting innovation, regulatory reform, and industry engagement.

In doing so, the U.S. anti-money laundering and financial counterterrorism efforts would be strengthened, modernized, and streamlined. One provision of the act established the Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program, which would permit U.S.-regulated financial institutions to share selected Bank Secrecy Act information with foreign branches and affiliates to help detect and deter illicit finance.

Currently, the sharing of these suspicious activity reports information with foreign branches of U.S. institution is not permitted because they are

not subject to our Nation's Bank Secrecy Act regulations.

By allowing financial institutions to share information with foreign affiliates, the pilot program would improve multinational compliance and detection while still ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect the confidentiality of such reports.

My bill moves the expiration date from January 1, 2024, to 3 years after the pilot begins. This is a necessary extension to give the agency sufficient time to implement the pilot program.

The rulemaking to design the pilot was noticed back in January 2022, but Treasury has not yet issued a final rule to launch the program, so obviously an extension is needed.

The new timeframe proposed here will enable the Department to complete its rulemaking process and finally implement the vital national security program as Congress originally intended.

Again, I would stress the importance of passing this bill to give the Treasury sufficient time to implement this very bipartisan pilot program to bolster our ability to combat money laundering and protect our national security.

The pilot program would provide institutions with a pathway to better manage the risk of financial crimes. The bill received a unanimous vote at the committee markup.

Now, more than ever, Americans should feel confident that the proceeds of their transactions are not being siphoned off and stowed away in the coffers of criminals. I thank my colleagues on the committee for supporting this bill, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members of the Financial Services Committee, particularly the incredible staff that have helped to lead this effort and recognize that this is a continuation of a program that has shown remarkable success.

As a 20-year intelligence officer serving in both the military and the intelligence community, we know firsthand that the illicit use of financing is the blood that keeps terrorist, criminal, and foreign entities active on our own soil and a threat to us overseas.

We must continue to march forward not only to hold them accountable, but to be able to work with our subsidiary and overseas partners to truly combat this threat on a global scale. The leadership shown on this committee as well as within the subcommittee are a direct measure to be able to empower our team, both in the administration, but particularly at our frontline levels, our banks and financial institutions, with the tools they need to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle and recognize that together this is a bill that

truly helps protect our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5224, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5224, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 07 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1513

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) at 3 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

#### PROMOTING RESILIENT BUILDINGS ACT OF 2023

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5473) to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5473

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2023".*

##### SEC. 2. PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

*Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"(m) LATEST PUBLISHED EDITIONS.—For purposes of subsections (e)(1)(B)(iv) and (g)(10), the term "latest published editions" means, with respect to relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards, the 2 most recently published editions."*

##### SEC. 3. HAZARD MITIGATION REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM.

*Section 205(f)(5) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5135(f)(5)) is amended—*

*(1) in the paragraph heading by striking "ESTABLISHING" and insert "IMPLEMENTING";*

*(2) by striking "establish" and insert "implement";*

*(3) by inserting "2" after "latest"; and*

(4) by inserting “, including any amendments made by State, local, Tribal, or territorial governments to such codes, specifications, and standards,” after “standards”.

**SEC. 4. RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT AND RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall carry out a residential resilience pilot program through the program established under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to make available assistance to States and local governments for the purpose of providing grants to individuals for residential resilience retrofits.

(b) **AMOUNT OF FUNDS.**—The Administrator may use not more than 10 percent of the assistance made available to applicants on an annual basis under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) to provide assistance under this section.

(c) **TIMELINE.**—The Administrator shall establish the pilot program under this section not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and the program shall terminate on September 30, 2026.

(d) **PRIORITY.**—In carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Administrator shall ensure that a State or local government receiving assistance under the program provides grants to individuals that demonstrate financial need.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) a summary of the grant awards and projects carried out under this section;

(2) a detailed compilation of results achieved by the grant awards and projects carried out under this section, including the number of homes receiving retrofits, the types and average costs of retrofits, demographic information for participants in the program, and estimate avoidance in disaster impacts and Federal disaster payments as a result of the grant investments; and

(3) any identified implementation challenges and recommendations for improvements to the pilot program.

(f) **APPLICABILITY.**—This section shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

**(g) RESIDENTIAL RESILIENT RETROFITS DEFINED.**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In this section, the term “residential resilient retrofits” means a project that—

(A) is designed to increase the resilience of an existing home or residence using mitigation measures which the administrator determines reduce damage and impacts from natural disaster hazards and risks that are most likely to occur in the area where the home is located; and

(B) to the extent applicable, are consistent with the 2 most recently published editions of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards, including any amendments made by State, local, tribal, or territorial governments to such codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs and establish criteria for the design, construction, and maintenance of residential structures and facilities that may be eligible for assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the buildings’ users against disasters.

(2) **INCLUSION.**—In this section, the term “residential resilient retrofits” includes—

(A) elevations of homes and elevations of utilities within and around structures to mitigate damages;

(B) floodproofing measures;

(C) the construction of tornado safe rooms;

(D) seismic retrofits;

(E) wildfire retrofit and mitigation measures;

(F) wind retrofits, including roof replacements, hurricane straps, and tie-downs; and

(G) any other measures that meet the requirements of paragraph (1), as determined by the Administrator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 5473, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) for introducing H.R. 5473, the Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2023.

H.R. 5473 cuts red tape and improves resiliency against disasters by making a technical correction to the Stafford Act and extending the building code of 2018, which expired earlier this year.

This bill ensures that there is flexibility in how the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, applies definitions for building codes and promotes individual States’ abilities to consider what is best for their communities.

□ 1515

This bill also supports homeowners in mitigating against future disasters through a pilot program intended to test and analyze whether such assistance will help reduce future costs and save some lives.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5473. This bill, introduced by Representatives Edwards and Norcross, would provide FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with greater flexibility when incentivizing the use of hazard-resistant building codes in its predisaster mitigation programs.

Current law directs FEMA to only consider the latest edition of building codes when implementing predisaster mitigation programs. This legislation will allow FEMA to consider the latest two editions of codes. The additional flexibility will help States and communities that are struggling to adapt to frequent changes in building codes.

Thanks to an amendment offered by Ranking Member TITUS and adopted at markup, this bill now includes a pilot program within FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program called BRIC—not to be confused with Brazil, Russia, India, and China—making it possible to fund individual home retrofits for the purpose of disaster resilience.

The severity of disasters has skyrocketed in recent years, putting homeowners at serious risk. Implementing recommended mitigation measures could make the difference between a family losing their home and life savings or being able to stay safe and continue their daily routines post-disaster.

This pilot program will ensure financial barriers do not stand in the way of making homes safer, so no family is left behind. Homeowners might leverage this pilot to make the roof less flammable and more resilient to wildfires and remove overhanging branches to reduce the risk of damage from severe storms or build a tornado-safe room.

These measures may also come with the added benefit of reduced insurance premiums. Having a home is very important in America, so it is critical that we support ways to lower premiums and make homes more insurable as disaster risk and insurance costs are ballooning.

The House passed the language in this bipartisan bill on suspension in the 117th Congress. I look forward to passing this measure today to improve implementation of predisaster mitigation programs and make homes more resilient to disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and me as we support this legislation. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), a former T&I Committee member.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my bipartisan co-lead, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) for his partnership on this act.

Building codes regulate new construction and major renovations, setting minimum standards for homes and commercial structures to withstand natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or, in the case of western North Carolina communities, flooding.

In 2018, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act brought consistency to the home building industry by establishing the definition of building codes as they relate to hazard mitigation to include the latest two published editions of relevant codes, specifications, and standards. This definition, however, will sunset in October. Left unresolved, FEMA can revert the definition to the single latest edition of codes.

My bill, the Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2023, will codify the

definition to mean the two latest published editions of building codes, which is expected to prevent significant administrative burdens on States and local municipalities responsible for producing hazard mitigation plans, reduce burdensome regulations on trade industries responsible for adapting their techniques to meet new building standards and codes, and to support stabilized building costs that would otherwise be interrupted by frequently changing building codes and rising construction costs.

Using the latest two editions of building codes does not jeopardize home resilience and will continue to ensure our communities are prepared for disaster if it ever strikes.

Additionally, the Promoting Resilient Buildings Act, as amended, establishes a pilot program to fund individual resilient home retrofits with FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, or BRIC, program.

In order to increase disaster mitigation among States, it is imperative we expand program flexibility. This expansion includes providing opportunities for individual homeowners to access pre-hazard mitigation funding to minimize the impact of natural disasters. I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) for her amendment, as reported by the committee, to provide this important flexibility.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues support this bill, which is important to homebuilders and community members through NC-11 and across the Nation.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to ping-pong this back and forth. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

This bill extends the current building code definition set in the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to allow greater flexibility for States and local governments, ultimately ensuring that disaster victims have an easier time rebuilding after a disaster.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5473, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2023, PART II

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6503) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend au-

thorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6503

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—FEDERAL AVIATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Airport improvement program.

Sec. 102. Extension of expiring authorities; miscellaneous authorizations.

Sec. 103. Federal Aviation Administration operations.

Sec. 104. Air navigation facilities and equipment.

Sec. 105. Research, engineering, and development.

Sec. 106. Small community air service.

#### TITLE II—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Expenditure authority from Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

Sec. 202. Extension of taxes funding Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

#### TITLE I—FEDERAL AVIATION PROGRAMS

##### SEC. 101. AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

"(7) \$1,464,480,874 for the period beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024."

(b) OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Subject to limitations specified in advance in appropriation Acts, sums made available pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (a) may be obligated at any time through September 30, 2024, and shall remain available until expended.

(c) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of calculating funding apportionments and meeting other requirements under sections 47114, 47115, 47116, and 47117 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(1) first calculate such funding apportionments on an annualized basis as if the total amount available under section 48103 of such title for fiscal year 2024 was \$3,350,000,000; and

(2) then reduce by 56 percent—

(A) all funding apportionment amounts calculated under paragraph (1); and

(B) amounts made available pursuant to subsections (b) and (f)(2) of section 47117 of such title.

(d) EXTENSION OF PROJECT GRANT AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking "December 31, 2023," and inserting "March 8, 2024,".

(e) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RULE FOR APPORTIONMENTS.—Section 47114(c)(1)(J) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023," and inserting "March 8, 2024,".

##### SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES; MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INSURANCE.—Section 44310(b) of title 49, United States

Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(b) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TEST RANGES.—Section 44803(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(c) SPECIAL AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—Section 44807(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(d) EXTENSION OF AIRPORT SAFETY AND AIRSPACE HAZARD MITIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—Section 44810(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(e) COMPETITIVE ACCESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 47107(r)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "January 1, 2024" and inserting "March 9, 2024".

(f) MARSHALL ISLANDS, MICRONESIA, AND PALAU.—Section 47115(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(g) SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.—Section 47115(j)(4)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking clause (vi) and adding at the end the following:

"(vi) \$244,177,049 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024."

(h) COMPATIBLE LAND USE PLANNING AND PROJECTS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 47141(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(i) NON-MOVEMENT AREA SURVEILLANCE PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 47143(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "January 1, 2024" and inserting "March 9, 2024".

(j) WEATHER REPORTING PROGRAMS.—Section 48105 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (5) and adding at the end the following:

"(5) \$17,049,180 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024."

(k) LEARNING PERIOD.—Section 50905(c)(9) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking "January 1, 2024" and inserting "March 9, 2024".

(l) MIDWAY ISLAND AIRPORT.—Section 186(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108–176; 117 Stat. 2518) is amended by striking "December 31, 2023," and inserting "March 8, 2024,".

(m) FINAL ORDER ESTABLISHING MILEAGE AND ADJUSTMENT ELIGIBILITY.—Section 409(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 4731 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(n) CONTRACT WEATHER OBSERVERS.—Section 2306(b) of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–190; 130 Stat. 641) is amended by striking "January 1, 2024" and inserting "March 9, 2024".

(o) REMOTE TOWER PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 161(a)(10) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 47104 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(p) AIRPORT ACCESS ROADS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS; STORAGE FACILITIES FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 162 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 47102 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(q) UAS REMOTE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 372(d) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 44810 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2023" and inserting "March 8, 2024".

(r) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AVIATION CONSUMER PROTECTION.—Section 411(h) of the

FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 42301 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(s) AVIATION CONSUMER ADVOCATE.—Section 424(e) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 42302 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(t) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AIR TRAVEL NEEDS OF PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 439(g) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 41705 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(u) ENHANCED TRAFFIC SERVICES.—Section 547(e) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40103 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(v) PILOT PROGRAM FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORT PROPERTIES.—Section 822(k) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47141 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

#### SEC. 103. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) \$5,208,743,169 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024.”; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

#### SEC. 104. AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7) and adding at the end the following:

“(7) \$1,287,431,694 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024.”.

#### SEC. 105. RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (16) and inserting the following:

“(16) \$111,475,410 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024.”.

#### SEC. 106. SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE.

(a) ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AUTHORIZATION.—Section 41742(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$89,191,486 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2023,” and inserting “\$155,115,628 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024.”.

(b) AIRPORTS NOT RECEIVING SUFFICIENT SERVICE.—Section 41743(e)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$2,513,661 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on December 31, 2023,” and inserting “\$4,371,585 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024.”.

### TITLE II—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS

#### SEC. 201. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FROM AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9502(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “January 1, 2024” and inserting “March 9, 2024”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “or the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II;”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9502(e)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “January 1, 2024” and inserting “March 9, 2024”.

#### SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF TAXES FUNDING AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—Section 4081(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(b) TICKET TAXES.—

(1) PERSONS.—Section 4261(k)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(2) PROPERTY.—Section 4271(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(c) FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS.—

(1) FUEL TAX.—Section 4043(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(2) TREATMENT AS NONCOMMERCIAL AVIATION.—Section 4083(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “January 1, 2024” and inserting “March 9, 2024”.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM TICKET TAX.—Section 4261(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2023” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 6503.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 6503 extends the statutory authorities of the Federal Aviation Administration through March 8, 2024. This bill also authorizes the continued collection of aviation excise taxes, which are user fees that are critical to ensuring the safe operation of our air traffic control system and for capital infrastructure projects at airports all over the country.

This subsequent extension is necessary because the Senate has yet to finalize their FAA reauthorization bill. The House did its part to provide for a long-term reauthorization when we passed H.R. 3935 in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion on July 20 with more than 350 votes.

I commend my House colleagues for their commitment to reauthorizing the FAA on time and ahead of schedule. I remain committed to enacting a long-term comprehensive FAA bill as soon as possible, and I know that that goal is shared by our counterparts in the Senate. In the meantime, however, we have to keep the lights on at the FAA to ensure continued safe operation of the national airspace system.

Failure to enact this legislation would result in a loss of revenue total-

ing \$50 million per day from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. In other words, not passing this bill would directly and immediately increase our national debt by more than \$50 million a day and leave our aviation system less safe.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill so that we can maintain safety in the national airspace system in the absence of a long-term reauthorization. I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am standing in lieu of the ranking member Mr. LARSEN, who can't be here, and he asked me to do this as I am the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Aviation, which this bill came out of.

I was here earlier today on a veterans' bill, and I mentioned that people sometimes don't think we work together, but military and veterans' issues are a place where Democrats and Republicans come together. We also come together on transportation issues generally, and this time we most assuredly did. There was an overwhelmingly large majority passing this bill on the floor, and it was because of the work of Chairman GRAVES, Ranking Member LARSEN, and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

This is a good bill. It protects the flying public. It takes care of consumers who have been left in the breach either on the tarmac or left for hours with the plane not leaving or getting in late, giving them the right to get refunds, compensation, water, all those other things they would like to have. It takes care of trying to see that our air traffic controllers have a larger group of people to choose from, opening it up to minorities who have not really been encouraged and/or permitted so much into the air traffic control system.

We need more and more air traffic controllers, so this bill encourages more people to get involved in that because when we have a lack of air traffic controllers, we have got potential safety problems. We have had 9, 10, or 11—I don't know exactly how many—near-collisions because the air traffic controllers had too much work, some of them were doing other things, and they just don't have enough folks. For safety, we need to get this passed, as well as for consumers.

There are many other improvements detailed in the bill, but I am not going to go through these eight wonderful pages that my staffer has drawn up for me to read. I will just say it is a good bill. The Senate should get their work done and join with us in improving the public's safety in the air and their rights as consumers. The bill includes improvements in airport construction and also gives people with disabilities many more opportunities, too.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everybody to vote “aye” and pass this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the words of the gentleman from Tennessee.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, merry Christmas. I thank Chairman GRAVES for yielding and for his leadership this year as we have worked to address many challenging issues that are facing our aviation industry.

Hopefully, soon we will be celebrating enactment of the FAA reauthorization bill that was shepherded through the House in July rather than debating additional short-term extensions. However, Mr. Speaker, here we are, and I rise in support of the Airport and Airway Extension Act.

This legislation will continue the current authorization of the Airport Improvement Program, Essential Air Service, and other key programs through March while we wait for the Senate to act on H.R. 3935.

As we know, our Nation's airports—including Hartsfield-Jackson, which serves my home State of Georgia and, by the way, is the busiest in the world—are constantly working to build new infrastructure in response to rising demand for passenger and cargo services.

They depend on AIP to keep those projects rolling and people and goods flying. That is why I support the Airport and Airway Extension Act, but I also call on the Senate to act quickly on our long-term FAA reauthorization bill, which will modernize FAA operations, grow the aviation workforce, strengthen the general aviation sector, improve the passenger experience, and so much more.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support the bill before us today and look forward to continuing our work to keep America's skies the safest and most efficient in the world.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in response to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), my friend, who wished us all merry Christmas, I wish him merry Christmas and happy Hanukkah.

Today is the Hanukkah party at the White House, and the Speaker has yet to limit votes so that the Members who attend can attend and not miss votes. We had votes moved on Christmas, and they should be moved on Hanukkah, too. I know the Speaker is very concerned about the Bible, and in the Bible, Moses said, let my people go. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, this body is often fighting over things. We are at one of the most polarized points in our Nation that I have ever experienced, but in this case, this is an instance where Republicans and Democrats are coming together. I thank my good friend, STEVE COHEN, not just for this bill but also for the 5-

year authorization that we passed out of this Chamber back in July. I also thank RICK LARSEN, the ranking member of the full committee; and, of course, SAM GRAVES, the full committee chairman, a good friend, and probably the best expert on aviation in the entire House of Representatives, for their work on aviation this year.

□ 1530

Mr. Speaker, I often hear people quote John Dingell, who said that the other party is the opposition, but the Senate is the enemy. In this case, I think that is exactly what we are experiencing.

Right now, we are in a situation where the House of Representatives, in this very polarized environment, passed a bipartisan FAA bill that we worked on for over 18 months.

The aviation team did an amazing job going through and distilling over 2,000 requests from Members of Congress and stakeholders and generating a bill, while not a metric of success, over 900 pages, ultimately passing the House Transportation Committee unanimously and passing the House of Representatives by a vote of 351 to only 69 people who didn't understand the bill.

Mr. Speaker, that shows huge momentum. We were able to work through complicated issues, as you heard others say, things like improving the passenger experience and making regulatory decisions for the FAA to ensure that we continue to play the leadership role in aviation innovation; to ensure that we have regulatory certainty and that we are not sending innovators and entrepreneurs to other countries to make investments because we don't have regulations, stability, or predictability in the aviation sector where new entrants are coming in at a remarkable rate; to ensure that we move the ball forward and properly strike that balance, as I know the full committee chair is so concerned about, between general aviation and commercial aviation; and to ensure that commercial space travel is properly regulated and has the certainty that they need.

Mr. Speaker, we reorganized the FAA. We improved the training of air traffic controllers. We improved addressing the major cliff that we are going over on pilots, A&P mechanics, and others involved in the aviation space who are so critical to this country.

Rather than sending a bill to the President's desk to do a long-term reauthorization of the FAA for 5 years, which addresses most of the problems in the FAA, we find ourselves now doing a 3-month extension until March 8 because the Senate has been unable to get their job done.

Just 2 weeks ago, we had a hearing in the Aviation Subcommittee where we went through and explored these issues. We looked at this.

The FAA now finally has an Administrator. I am fully supportive of the Ad-

ministrator of the FAA, Administrator Whitaker, for being in there, but we have to have long-term certainty.

While I am voting for this bill and support it, it does not address the problems in the aviation space. They will not be addressed until the Senate takes up the bill and, ultimately, goes to conference with the House to where we are working on a conference report and sending a long-term authorization to the President.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I thank the other members of the Big Four: Mr. COHEN, Mr. LARSEN, and Mr. SAM GRAVES. I thank everybody for working on this. I thank the aviation team on both sides.

I support this legislation, and I urge its adoption, but we cannot take the pressure off of the United States Senate to ultimately do their job and pass a long-term FAA reauthorization.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I will yield back the balance of my time and not ask Mr. GRAVES who won the Heisman Trophy because he knows well—the LSU quarterback.

New and persistent challenges facing the U.S. aviation system make clear that the status quo is unsustainable. We must extend the FAA's current authorization and recommit to passing a long-term, comprehensive reauthorization to avoid repeating this scenario. I support H.R. 6503 fully, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Again, I urge all Members to support this must-pass bill so we can keep our aviation system operating safely. Failing to pass an extension would cost the Federal Government more than \$50 million a day in those lost revenues.

What is more, the FAA would be prohibited from making new obligations from the aviation trust fund to fund FAA's important safety, operational, and research functions.

To be clear, and I want to be clear to my colleagues, this bill provides a clean extension of FAA authorities. This bill does not include any policy riders at all.

Again, I know there is an appetite across the Capitol to enact a long-term and comprehensive FAA bill, and that continues to be my priority. I urge the Senate to act soon on its FAA bill so that Congress can deliver certainty to the aviation industry and the FAA.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6503.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

### COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EXTENSION ACT OF 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3224) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend the authorization of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3224

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF THE COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

##### (a) EXTENSION.—

(1) TERMINATION DATE.—Section 1901 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(e) TERMINATION.—The Office shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023.”.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The termination date specified in subsection (e) of section 1901 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by paragraph (1), shall not apply to sections 1931 and 1932 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 597 and 597a; relating to the Chief Medical Officer and the medical countermeasures program of the Department of Homeland Security).

##### (b) ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

(1) EMPLOYEE MORALE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit a report to and brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding an employee engagement action plan and strategy to continuously improve morale within the Office.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of and brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the following with respect to the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security:

(A) The efforts of the Office to prioritize the programs and activities that carry out the mission of the Office, including research and development.

(B) The consistency and effectiveness of the Office's stakeholder coordination across

the mission of the Department, including operational and support components of the Department and State and local entities.

(C) The efforts of the Office to manage and coordinate the lifecycle of research and development within the Office and with other components of the Department, including the Science and Technology Directorate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3224.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 3224, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023.

Authorized in 2018, the mission of the Department of Homeland Security's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office is to enable its operational partners at the Federal, State, and local levels to prevent the use of WMDs against the United States of America and to promote readiness for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

At the Federal level, CWMD works with the United States Customs and Border Protection to acquire radiation portal monitors that scan cargo at U.S. ports of entry, as well as works with the U.S. Coast Guard to procure personal radiation detectors.

At the local level, the CWMD Office achieves its mission of supporting State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners through funding, equipment, and expertise.

In my home State of New York and in many other States across this great country, the CWMD Office operates the Securing the Cities program, which helps build regional capabilities to detect, analyze, and report nuclear and other radioactive materials.

My bill, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023, will extend the sunset clause to ensure that the vital work of the CWMD Office continues.

Additionally, my legislation takes meaningful steps to address some longstanding challenges the office has faced, such as dwindling employee morale, and requires the Assistant Secretary for the CWMD Office to submit a report to Congress on how the office will continuously improve morale and employee engagement within the office.

Further, my bill requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct

a review of the CWMD Office's coordination with stakeholders and efforts to provide the programs and activities that carry out the office's mission, among other items.

From aviation and border security to emergency response and cybersecurity, the Department of Homeland Security has one common mission, Mr. Speaker, and that is to keep America safe.

The Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office facilitates its mission by ensuring that operational partners have the tools and support needed to safeguard the United States of America against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

Although we hope that we never ever see the day when one of our adversaries deploys a weapon of mass destruction against this great Nation, we cannot neglect the ever-present threat of terrorism that continues to exist today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this common-sense bill, H.R. 3224, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are here today to consider H.R. 3224, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023. I commend my Republican colleague from New York for introducing this legislation.

The CWMD Office within the Department of Homeland Security plays a pivotal role in safeguarding our Nation's security by addressing the threat of weapons capable of causing harm to our communities and infrastructure.

CWMD improves our Nation's capability to plan for, detect, and guard against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and health security threats, otherwise known as CBRN.

CWMD further enables CBRN detection programs, training, and other capabilities for State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners and provides ground support for national special security events such as Presidential inaugurations and major sporting events.

Without the support of dedicated DHS components like CWMD, terrorists could exploit the absence of comprehensive measures. It could leave the Nation vulnerable to catastrophic attacks with the potential for widespread harm, loss of life, and severe disruption to national security and public safety.

CWMD operates important programs such as Securing the Cities, which provides 14 local governments across the country with detection equipment, training, exercise support, operational and technical subject matter expertise, and programmatic support.

When CWMD was authorized in 2018, Congress included a sunset for December 21, 2023, with the idea that we could closely monitor the progress of the office. The last continuing resolution extended CWMD through February 2, 2024, but the office needs a longer extension to ensure that its programs and staff have continuity.

With the sunset quickly approaching, the Committee on Homeland Security has worked in a bipartisan fashion to extend CWMD by 2 years with H.R. 3224.

This bipartisan bill will also provide a report to Congress regarding a CWMD employee engagement action plan and strategy to improve morale within the office, which is important given that there have been significant workforce and morale issues. CWMD is consistently ranked low in morale, according to a survey done by the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government.

The bill further requires the Government Accountability Office to brief Congress regarding CWMD and how it is carrying out its mission. While Congress will continue to provide oversight of CWMD and, in the future, provide a permanent authorization for the office, passage of H.R. 3224 is a positive step.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3224, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), the ranking member of the Emergency Management and Technology Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security and an original cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, let me say a huge thank-you to Representative IVEY for yielding and particular appreciation and thanks to Congressman D'ESPOSITO, the chairman of the subcommittee.

I am pleased that we are here today to consider Representative D'ESPOSITO's bill, H.R. 3224, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023, of which I am a proud original cosponsor.

□ 1545

The Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, CWMD, office within the Department of Homeland Security was established to elevate and consolidate the Department's effort to protect our Nation from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

CWMD supports Federal, State, and local law enforcement and first responders to defend against CBRN attacks and accomplishes this through programs such as the Securing the Cities program, STC, which holds significant importance for the residents of my home of New Orleans.

The Securing the Cities program bolsters our cities' capacity to identify and thwart potential terrorist threats, particularly during major events like Mardi Gras, Sugar Bowl, Super Bowl, and so many other events that are home to the State of Louisiana.

Another critical program deployed by CWMD is the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, NBIC. NBIC plays a pivotal role in early detection, rapid response, and coordinated efforts by identifying and tracking biological

events and distributing its products to Federal, State, and local, congressional, and private sector partners. NBIC's coordination helps ensure a more effective and unified response to mitigate the impact of biological threats.

CWMD's expertise is instrumental in formulating and implementing strategies, coordinating intelligence efforts, and providing essential resources to fortify the Nation's CBRN capabilities.

Recognizing the pivotal role of this office, I am pleased that we could unite on a bipartisan basis to bring H.R. 3224, the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023, to the floor today.

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. This bipartisan legislation extends CWMD's authorization for 2 years and mandates a Congressional report on the office's plans to enhance morale—an ongoing concern. The bill also requires the Government Accountability Office to brief Congress regarding the CWMD and how it is carrying out its mission.

CWMD is a critical asset, ensuring a safer and more secure nation for present and future generations. Continued support for this office is paramount, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3224.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3224 is crucial for sustaining our Nation's capabilities to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats.

The expertise provided by CWMD is essential in the fight against weapons of mass destruction.

Passage of this legislation is vital to maintaining our preparedness and ensuring the security of the Nation against the evolving challenges posed by bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support H.R. 3224, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is very clear that this bill, H.R. 3224, is not a partisan issue. It is one that the American people will benefit from in order to keep this great homeland safe.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3224, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PROHIBITING RUSSIAN URANIUM IMPORTS ACT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1042) to prohibit the importation into the United States of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1042

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act”.

#### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS.—Section 3112A of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h–10a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM.—

“(1) PROHIBITION.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the following may not be imported into the United States:

“(A) Unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity.

“(B) Unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is determined to have been exchanged with, swapped for, or otherwise obtained in lieu of unirradiated low-enriched uranium described in subparagraph (A) in a manner designed to circumvent the restrictions under this section.

“(2) WAIVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, may waive the application of paragraph (1) to authorize the importation of low-enriched uranium described in that paragraph if the Secretary of Energy determines that—

“(i) no alternative viable source of low-enriched uranium is available to sustain the continued operation of a nuclear reactor or a United States nuclear energy company; or

“(ii) importation of low-enriched uranium described in paragraph (1) is in the national interest.

“(B) LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS OF IMPORTS OF LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The importation into the United States of low-enriched uranium described in paragraph (1), including low-enriched uranium obtained under contracts for separative work units, whether or not such low-enriched uranium is derived from highly enriched uranium of weapons origin, may not exceed—

“(I) in calendar year 2024, 476,536 kilograms;

“(II) in calendar year 2025, 470,376 kilograms;

“(III) in calendar year 2026, 464,183 kilograms; and



“(IV) in calendar year 2027, 459,083 kilograms.

“(ii) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

“(I) administer the import limitations described in clause (i) in accordance with the provisions of the Suspension Agreement, including the provisions described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i);

“(II) be responsible for enforcing the import limitations described in clause (i); and

“(III) enforce the import limitations described in clause (i) in a manner that imposes a minimal burden on the commercial nuclear industry.

“(C) TERMINATION.—Any waiver issued under subparagraph (A) shall terminate not later than January 1, 2028.

“(D) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon issuing a waiver under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the committees specified in clause (ii) a notification that a waiver has been issued, which shall include identification of the recipient of the waiver.

“(ii) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees specified in this clause are—

“(I) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

“(II) the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

“(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not apply to imports—

“(A) by or under contract to the Department of Energy for national security or non-proliferation purposes; or

“(B) of non-uranium isotopes.

“(4) TERMINATION.—The provisions of this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2040.

“(5) RUSSIAN ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘Russian entity’ means an entity organized under the laws of or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Russian Federation.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3112A(c) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10a(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ix), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(II) in clause (x), by striking the semicolon and inserting a period; and

(III) by striking clauses (xi) through (xxvii); and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “United States” and all that follows through “for processing” and inserting “United States for processing”;

(C) by striking paragraph (5);

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively;

(E) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (D), by striking “In addition to the adjustment under paragraph (5)(A), the” and inserting “The”;

(F) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraph (9)”;

(G) in paragraph (8), as so redesignated, by striking “December 31, 2040” and inserting “the date described in subsection (d)(1)”;

(H) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (9), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (2)(C) and (8)” and inserting “paragraphs (2)(C) and (7)”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment to section 3112A(c)(2)(A)(xi) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10a(c)(2)(A)(xi)) made by paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection

shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1042, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act, which I introduced with Mr. LATTA.

American leadership in nuclear energy and nuclear technology is critical to our economic and national security. One of the most urgent security threats America faces right now is our dangerous reliance on Russia’s supply of nuclear fuels for our nuclear fleet. This threat has intensified as a result of the war in Ukraine.

American nuclear fuel infrastructure has been stunted by policies that Russia has exploited by flooding the U.S. market with this cheaper fuel. Today that accounts for more than 20 percent of our nuclear fuels for American reactors.

Last year alone, our industry paid over \$800 million to Russia’s state-owned nuclear energy corporation, Rosatom and its fuel subsidiaries. That number could be even higher this year, and these resources are no doubt going towards funding Putin’s war efforts in Ukraine.

Further, we have seen how Putin has weaponized Europe’s reliance on Russian natural gas. There is no reason to believe that Russia wouldn’t do the same with our nuclear fuel supply if Putin saw an opportunity.

Rosatom has also supported China’s nuclear energy ambitions. The risks of continuing this dependence on Russia for our nuclear fuel are simply too great. It is weakening America’s nuclear fuel infrastructure, which has significantly declined because of the reliance on these cheap fuels.

That is why I am leading H.R. 1042.

Our bill bans fuel imports from Russia and sends a strong signal to the market that will help ensure America’s nuclear leadership and fuel infrastructure. Our legislation also provides waivers to cover any supply gaps leading up to 2028, at which point no more Russian fuel will be allowed to be imported into the U.S.

This bill both protects any short-term needs of the industry and pro-

vides the long-term certainty necessary to build out American capacity, as well as European capacity that serves our markets.

H.R. 1042 has bipartisan support from the Committee on Energy and Commerce. It also has support from the nuclear industry, the nuclear fuels industry, and policy advocates.

Additionally, the Biden administration has also said that a ban on Russian fuels is necessary to advance our domestic fuel build-out, including the fuels for advanced reactors.

Across Europe, utility providers are starting to transition away from Russian fuels, announce new capacity, and invest in plant projects. We are seeing important fuel processes returning online in the United States.

For example, the uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois, has restarted operations for the first time in years. That facility alone could meet the domestic uranium conversion needs within 2 years, but only if they have assurances that cheap Russian fuel won’t undercut their business.

The reality is, no facility owner is going to be able to invest to expand production capacity without the certainty of long-term contracts for their products. Those long-term contracts from fuel customers, the utility companies, will not be written if there remains uncertainty about Russian fuel continuing to flow into the United States, and the risk that Russia will once again be able to flood the market with cheaper products.

H.R. 1042 provides those assurances to industry.

American leadership in nuclear energy and nuclear technology is critical to our economic, energy, and national security, and a strong domestic nuclear fuel system, from mining to enrichment, is vital to our leadership.

In the U.S. alone, nuclear energy provides nearly 20 percent of our electricity generation, all of which is emissions free.

Nuclear plants operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, making them one of the most reliable, zero-carbon, baseload energy resources.

H.R. 1042 will protect the short-term needs of the nuclear industry and provide the long-term certainty necessary to encourage investment and secure a durable domestic supply of fuel.

I urge my colleagues to support the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act to restore our industry and take down Russia’s nuclear fuel empire.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1042, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act.

Our imports of Russian nuclear fuel date back to the megatons for megawatts disarmament program at the end of the Cold War. That program has been over for a decade now, and we have developed a dependence on Russian uranium.

Our Nation's nuclear reactors currently depend on Russia for nearly 15 percent of their enriched uranium.

This is troubling because over the last 2 years we have seen how Russia tries to wield its energy resources as a weapon. It is simply unsustainable.

I support ending our dangerous reliance on Russia for enriched uranium, but if we are serious about energy security, we cannot simply switch one foreign dependence for another. That is why we must invest in our own uranium fuel cycle here at home.

Right now, we have limited fuel facilities to provide the nuclear fuel our existing fleet needs, much less the advanced fuels that future reactors will need. Any move we make to end our reliance on Russian uranium must be partnered with a build-out of our domestic uranium supply chain. Otherwise, any action would just increase cost to consumers and impact reliability.

That is why in committee, Democrats attempted to partner this bill with authorizations to the Department of Energy to invest in U.S. domestic enrichment and conversion capacity. Unfortunately, those efforts were initially rejected by our Republican majority, therefore, I opposed this bill at that time.

Fortunately, the committee has now advanced legislation that authorizes those investments in our domestic fuel cycle, and that language will be included in the final defense authorization bill.

With that legislation set to become law, I am now much more comfortable moving this bill. After passage of the defense authorization bill, we must ensure these important programs are funded at the levels authorized so we can finally end our dangerous reliance on Russian uranium.

The combination of banning imports of Russian uranium and investing in domestic capacity will provide private industry with both the certainty and the incentives it needs to invest in the nuclear fuel supply chain. This will help us become a world leader again, not just in fuel production for our current reactors, but in fuel production for the next generation of reactors, as well.

I urge support for this bill, Mr. Speaker. I ask that we support this bill on a bipartisan basis. It is a good bill at this point, and we want to get it to the Senate as quickly as possible.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I, too, urge support for this bill. I am pleased we have been able to come together to move this legislation forward, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) that the House suspend

the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1042, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LOWER COSTS, MORE TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5378) to promote price transparency in the health care sector, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5378

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Costs, More Transparency Act".

##### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

##### TITLE I—IMPROVING HEALTH CARE TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 101. Hospital price transparency.

Sec. 102. Clinical diagnostic laboratory test price transparency.

Sec. 103. Imaging price transparency.

Sec. 104. Ambulatory surgical center price transparency.

Sec. 105. Health coverage price transparency.

Sec. 106. Pharmacy benefits price transparency.

Sec. 107. Reports on health care transparency tools and data.

Sec. 108. Report on integration in Medicare.

Sec. 109. Advisory Committee.

Sec. 110. Report on impact of Medicare regulations on provider and payer consolidation.

Sec. 111. Implementation funding.

##### TITLE II—REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR PATIENTS

Sec. 201. Increasing transparency in generic drug applications.

Sec. 202. Improving transparency and preventing the use of abusive spread pricing and related practices in Medicaid.

Sec. 203. Parity in Medicare payments for hospital outpatient department services furnished off-campus.

Sec. 204. Requiring a separate identification number and an attestation for each off-campus outpatient department of a provider.

##### TITLE III—SUPPORTING PATIENTS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, AND HOSPITALS

Sec. 301. Extension for community health centers, the national health service corps, and teaching health centers that operate GME programs.

Sec. 302. Extension of special diabetes programs.

Sec. 303. Delaying certain disproportionate share payment cuts.

Sec. 304. Medicaid improvement fund.

##### TITLE IV—INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH DATA AND LOW- ERING HIDDEN FEES

Sec. 401. Increasing Plan Fiduciaries' Access to Health Data.

Sec. 402. Hidden Fees Disclosure Requirements.

Sec. 403. Prescription drug price information requirement.

Sec. 404. Implementation funding.

#### TITLE I—IMPROVING HEALTH CARE TRANSPARENCY

##### SEC. 101. HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

(a) MEDICARE.—Part E of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### "SEC. 1899C. HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

"(a) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2026, each specified hospital that receives payment under this title for furnishing items and services shall comply with the price transparency requirement described in paragraph (2).

"(2) REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the price transparency requirement described in this paragraph is, with respect to a specified hospital, that such hospital, in accordance with a method and format established by the Secretary under subparagraph (C), compile and make public (without subscription and free of charge) for each year—

"(i) all of the hospital's standard charges (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for each item and service furnished by such hospital;

"(ii) information in a consumer-friendly format (as specified by the Secretary)—

"(I) on the hospital's prices (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for as many of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable services that are furnished by the hospital, and as many additional hospital-selected shoppable services (or all such additional services, if such hospital furnishes fewer than 300 shoppable services) as may be necessary for a combined total of at least 300 shoppable services; and

"(II) that includes, with respect to each Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable service that is not furnished by the hospital, an indication that such service is not so furnished; and

"(iii) an attestation that all information made public pursuant to this subparagraph is complete and accurate.

"(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the information described in this subparagraph is, with respect to standard charges and prices, as applicable, made public by a specified hospital, the following:

"(i) A plain language description of each item or service, accompanied by, as applicable, the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code, the diagnosis-related group, the national drug code, or other identifier used or approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"(ii) The gross charge, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service, when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting.

"(iii) The discounted cash price, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting (or, in the case no discounted cash price is available for an item or service, the median cash price charged by the hospital to self-pay individuals for such item or service when provided in such settings for the previous three years, expressed as a dollar amount, as well as, with respect to prices made public pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii), a link to a consumer-friendly document that clearly explains the hospital's charity care policy that

includes, if applicable, any sliding scale payment structure employed for determining charges for a self-pay individual).

“(iv) The payer-specific negotiated charges, as applicable, clearly associated with the name of the third party payer and plan and expressed as a dollar amount, that apply to each such item or service when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting.

“(v) The de-identified maximum and minimum negotiated charges, as applicable, for each such item or service.

“(vi) Any other additional information the Secretary may require for the purpose of improving the accuracy of, or enabling consumers to easily understand and compare, standard charges and prices for an item or service, except information that is duplicative of any other reporting requirement under this subsection.

In the case of standard charges and prices for an item or service included as part of a bundled, per diem, episodic, or other similar arrangement, the information described in this subparagraph shall be made available as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(C) UNIFORM METHOD AND FORMAT.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall establish a standard, uniform method and format for specified hospitals to use in compiling and making public standard charges pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) and a standard, uniform method and format for such hospitals to use in compiling and making public prices pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii). Such methods and formats—

“(i) shall, in the case of such method and format for making public standard charges pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), ensure that such charges are made available in a machine-readable format (or a successor technology specified by the Secretary);

“(ii) may be similar to any template made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as of the date of the enactment of this subparagraph;

“(iii) shall meet such standards as determined appropriate by the Secretary in order to ensure the accessibility and usability of such charges and prices; and

“(iv) shall be updated as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders.

“(3) MONITORING COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall, through notice and comment rulemaking and in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, establish a process to monitor compliance with this subsection. Such process shall ensure that each specified hospital’s compliance with this subsection is reviewed not less frequently than once every 3 years.

“(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a specified hospital that fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection—

“(i) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines such failure exists, the Secretary shall submit to such hospital a notification of such determination (which may include, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, a request for a corrective action plan to comply with such requirements); and

“(ii) in the case of a hospital that does not receive a request for a corrective action plan as part of a notification submitted by the Secretary under clause (i)—

“(I) the Secretary shall, not later than 45 days after such notification is sent, determine whether such hospital is in compliance with such requirements; and

“(II) if the Secretary determines under subclause (I) that such hospital is not in compliance with such requirements, the Secretary shall either—

“(aa) submit to such hospital a request for a corrective action plan to comply with such requirements; or

“(bb) if the Secretary determines that such hospital has not taken meaningful actions to come into compliance since such notification was sent, impose a civil monetary penalty in accordance with subparagraph (B).

“(B) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (vii), in addition to any other enforcement actions or penalties that may apply under another provision of law, a specified hospital that has received a request for a corrective action plan under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) and fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection by the date that is 45 days after such request is made, and a specified hospital with respect to which the Secretary has made a determination described in clause (ii)(II)(bb) of such subparagraph, shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty of an amount specified by the Secretary for each day (beginning with the day on which the Secretary first determined that such hospital was not complying with such requirements) during which such failure was ongoing. Such amount shall not exceed—

“(I) in the case of a specified hospital with 30 or fewer beds, \$300 per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$400 per day);

“(II) in the case of a specified hospital with more than 30 beds but fewer than 101 beds, \$12.50 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$15 per bed per day);

“(III) in the case of a specified hospital with more than 100 beds but fewer than 201 beds, \$17.50 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$20 per bed per day);

“(IV) in the case of a specified hospital with more than 200 beds but fewer than 501 beds, \$20 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$25 per bed per day); and

“(V) in the case of a specified hospital with more than 500 beds, \$25 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$35 per bed per day).

“(ii) INCREASE AUTHORITY.—In applying this subparagraph with respect to violations occurring in 2027 or a subsequent year, the Secretary may through notice and comment rulemaking increase—

“(I) the limitation on the per day amount of any penalty applicable to a specified hospital under clause (i)(I);

“(II) the limitations on the per bed per day amount of any penalty applicable under any of subclauses (II) through (V) of clause (i); and

“(III) the amounts specified in clause (iii)(II).

“(iii) PERSISTENT NONCOMPLIANCE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a specified hospital (other than a specified hospital with 30 or fewer beds) that the Secretary has determined to be knowingly and willfully noncompliant with the provisions of this subsection two or more times during a 1-year period, the Secretary may increase any penalty otherwise applicable under this subpara-

graph by the amount specified in subclause (II) with respect to such hospital and may require such hospital to complete such additional corrective actions plans as the Secretary may specify.

“(II) SPECIFIED AMOUNT.—For purposes of subclause (I), the amount specified in this subclause is, with respect to a specified hospital—

“(aa) with more than 30 beds but fewer than 101 beds, an amount that is not less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000;

“(bb) with more than 100 beds but fewer than 301 beds, an amount that is greater than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$2,000,000;

“(cc) with more than 300 beds but fewer than 501 beds, an amount that is greater than \$2,000,000 and not more than \$4,000,000; and

“(dd) with more than 500 beds, and amount that is not less than \$5,000,000 and not more than \$10,000,000.

“(iv) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE OR REDUCE PENALTY.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the Secretary may waive any penalty, or reduce any penalty by not more than 75 percent, otherwise applicable under this subparagraph with respect to a specified hospital located in a rural or underserved area if the Secretary certifies that imposition of such penalty would result in an immediate threat to access to care for individuals in the service area of such hospital.

“(II) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—The Secretary may not elect to waive a penalty under subclause (I) with respect to a specified hospital more than once in a 6-year period and may not elect to reduce such a penalty with respect to such a hospital more than once in such a period. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed as prohibiting the Secretary from both waiving and reducing a penalty with respect to a specified hospital during a 6-year period.

“(v) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, provide technical assistance relating to compliance with the provisions of this subsection to specified hospitals requesting such assistance.

“(vi) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b) of such section) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under this subparagraph in the same manner as such provisions apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under subsection (a) of such section.

“(vii) NONDUPLICATION OF CERTAIN PENALTIES.—The Secretary may not subject a specified hospital to a civil monetary penalty under this subparagraph with respect to noncompliance with the provisions of this section for a period if the Secretary has imposed a civil monetary penalty on such hospital under section 2718(f) of the Public Health Service Act for failure to comply with the provisions of such section for such period.

“(C) PUBLICATION OF HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION.—Beginning on January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the public website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services information with respect to compliance with the requirements of this subsection and enforcement activities undertaken by the Secretary under this subsection. Such information shall be updated in real time and include—

“(i) the number of reviews of compliance with this subsection undertaken by the Secretary;

“(ii) the number of notifications described in subparagraph (A)(i) sent by the Secretary;

“(iii) the identity of each specified hospital that was sent such a notification and a description of the nature of such hospital’s noncompliance with this subsection;

“(iv) the amount of any civil monetary penalty imposed on such hospital under subparagraph (B);

“(v) whether such hospital subsequently came into compliance with this subsection;

“(vi) any waivers or reductions of penalties made pursuant to a certification by the Secretary under subparagraph (B)(iv), including—

“(I) the name of any specified hospital that received such a waiver or reduction;

“(II) the dollar amount of each such penalty so waived or reduced; and

“(III) the rationale for the granting of each such waiver or reduction; and

“(vii) any other information as determined by the Secretary.

“(b) ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall through rulemaking ensure that a hospital submitting charges and information pursuant to such amendments takes reasonable steps (as specified by the Secretary) to ensure the accessibility of such charges and information to individuals with limited English proficiency. Such steps may include the hospital’s provision of interpretation services or the hospital’s provision of translations of charges and information.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) DISCOUNTED CASH PRICE.—The term ‘discounted cash price’ means the charge that applies to an individual who pays cash, or cash equivalent, for an item or service.

“(2) FEDERAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—The term ‘Federal health care program’ has the meaning given such term in section 1128B.

“(3) GROSS CHARGE.—The term ‘gross charge’ means the charge for an individual item or service that is reflected on a specified hospital’s or provider of service’s or supplier’s, as applicable, chargemaster, absent any discounts.

“(4) GROUP HEALTH PLAN; GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—The terms ‘group health plan’, ‘group health insurance coverage’, and ‘individual health insurance coverage’ have the meaning given such terms in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act.

“(5) PAYER-SPECIFIC NEGOTIATED CHARGE.—The term ‘payer-specific negotiated charge’ means the charge that a specified hospital or provider of services or supplier, as applicable, has negotiated with a third party payer for an item or service.

“(6) SHOPPABLE SERVICE.—The term ‘shoppable service’ means a service that can be scheduled by a health care consumer in advance and includes all ancillary items and services customarily furnished as part of such service.

“(7) SPECIFIED HOSPITAL.—The term ‘specified hospital’ means a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e)), a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mmm)(1)), or a rural emergency hospital (as defined in section 1861(kkk)).

“(8) THIRD PARTY PAYER.—The term ‘third party payer’ means an entity that is, by statute, contract, or agreement, legally responsible for payment of a claim for a health care item or service.”

(b) PHSA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2718 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–18) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) HOSPITAL TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2026, each hospital shall comply with the price transparency requirement described in paragraph (2).

“(2) REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the price transparency requirement described in this paragraph is, with respect to a hospital, that such hospital, in accordance with a method and format established by the Secretary under subparagraph (C), compile and make public (without subscription and free of charge) for each year—

“(i) all of the hospital’s standard charges (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for each item and service furnished by such hospital;

“(ii) information in a consumer-friendly format (as specified by the Secretary)—

“(I) on the hospital’s prices (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for as many of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable services that are furnished by the hospital, and as many additional hospital-selected shoppable services (or all such additional services, if such hospital furnishes fewer than 300 shoppable services) as may be necessary for a combined total of at least 300 shoppable services; and

“(II) that includes, with respect to each Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable service that is not furnished by the hospital, an indication that such service is not so furnished; and

“(iii) an attestation that all information made public pursuant to this subparagraph is complete and accurate.

“(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the information described in this subparagraph is, with respect to standard charges and prices, as applicable, made public by a hospital, the following:

“(i) A plain language description of each item or service, accompanied by, as applicable, the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code, the diagnosis-related group, the national drug code, current procedure terminology codes, or other identifier used or approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“(ii) The gross charge, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service, when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting.

“(iii) The discounted cash price, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting (or, in the case no discounted cash price is available for an item or service, the median cash price charged by the hospital to self-pay individuals for such item or service when provided in such settings for the previous three years, expressed as a dollar amount, as well as, with respect to prices made public pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii), a link to a consumer-friendly document that clearly explains the hospital’s charity care policy that includes, if applicable, any sliding scale payment structure employed for determining charges for a self-pay individual).

“(iv) The payer-specific negotiated charges, as applicable, clearly associated with the name of the third party payer and plan and expressed as a dollar amount, that apply to each such item or service when provided in, as applicable, the inpatient setting and outpatient department setting.

“(v) The de-identified maximum and minimum negotiated charges, as applicable, for each such item or service.

“(vi) Any other additional information the Secretary may require for the purpose of improving the accuracy of, or enabling con-

sumers to easily understand and compare, standard charges and prices for an item or service, except information that is duplicative of any other reporting requirement under this subsection.

In the case of standard charges and prices for an item or service included as part of a bundled, per diem, episodic, or other similar arrangement, the information described in this subparagraph shall be made available as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(C) UNIFORM METHOD AND FORMAT.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall establish a standard, uniform method and format for hospitals to use in compiling and making public standard charges pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) and a standard, uniform method and format for such hospitals to use in compiling and making public prices pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii). Such methods and formats—

“(i) shall, in the case of such method and format for making public standard charges pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), ensure that such charges are made available in a machine-readable format (or a successor technology specified by the Secretary);

“(ii) may be similar to any template made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as of the date of the enactment of this subparagraph;

“(iii) shall meet such standards as determined appropriate by the Secretary in order to ensure the accessibility and usability of such charges and prices; and

“(iv) shall be updated as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders.

“(3) MONITORING COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall, through notice and comment rulemaking and in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, establish a process to monitor compliance with this subsection. Such process shall ensure that each hospital’s compliance with this subsection is reviewed not less frequently than once every 3 years.

“(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a hospital that fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection—

“(i) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines such failure exists, the Secretary shall submit to such hospital a notification of such determination (which may include, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, a request for a corrective action plan to comply with such requirements); and

“(ii) in the case of a hospital that does not receive a request for a corrective action plan as part of a notification submitted by the Secretary under clause (i)—

“(I) the Secretary shall, not later than 45 days after such notification is sent, determine whether such hospital is in compliance with such requirements; and

“(II) if the Secretary determines under subclause (I) that such hospital is not in compliance with such requirements, the Secretary shall either—

“(aa) submit to such hospital a request for a corrective action plan to comply with such requirements; or

“(bb) if the Secretary determines that such hospital has not taken meaningful actions to come into compliance since such notification was sent, impose a civil monetary penalty in accordance with subparagraph (B).

“(B) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other enforcement actions or penalties that may apply under another provision of law, a hospital that has received a request for a corrective action plan under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) and fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection by the

date that is 45 days after such request is made, and a hospital with respect to which the Secretary has made a determination described in clause (ii)(II)(bb) of such subparagraph, shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty of an amount specified by the Secretary for each day (beginning with the day on which the Secretary first determined that such hospital was not complying with such requirements) during which such failure was ongoing. Such amount shall not exceed—

“(I) in the case of a hospital with 30 or fewer beds, \$300 per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$400 per bed per day);

“(II) in the case of a hospital with more than 30 beds but fewer than 101 beds, \$12.50 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$15 per bed per day);

“(III) in the case of a hospital with more than 100 beds but fewer than 201 beds, \$17.50 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$20 per bed per day);

“(IV) in the case of a hospital with more than 200 beds but fewer than 501 beds, \$20 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$25 per bed per day); and

“(V) in the case of a hospital with more than 500 beds, \$25 per bed per day (or, in the case of such a hospital that has been noncompliant with such requirements for a 1-year period or longer, beginning with the first day following such 1-year period, \$35 per bed per day).

“(ii) INCREASE AUTHORITY.—In applying this subparagraph with respect to violations occurring in 2027 or a subsequent year, the Secretary may through notice and comment rulemaking increase—

“(I) the limitation on the per day amount of any penalty applicable to a hospital under clause (i)(I);

“(II) the limitations on the per bed per day amount of any penalty applicable under any of subclauses (II) through (V) of clause (i); and

“(III) the amounts specified in clause (iii)(II).

“(iii) PERSISTENT NONCOMPLIANCE.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a hospital (other than a hospital with 30 or fewer beds) that the Secretary has determined to be knowingly and willfully noncompliant with the provisions of this subsection two or more times during a 1-year period, the Secretary may increase any penalty otherwise applicable under this subparagraph by the amount specified in subclause (II) with respect to such hospital and may require such hospital to complete such additional corrective actions plans as the Secretary may specify.

“(II) SPECIFIED AMOUNT.—For purposes of subclause (I), the amount specified in this subclause is, with respect to a hospital—

“(aa) with more than 30 beds but fewer than 101 beds, an amount that is not less than \$500,000 and not more than \$1,000,000;

“(bb) with more than 100 beds but fewer than 301 beds, an amount that is greater than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$2,000,000;

“(cc) with more than 300 beds but fewer than 501 beds, an amount that is greater than \$2,000,000 and not more than \$4,000,000; and

“(dd) with more than 500 beds, and amount that is not less than \$5,000,000 and not more than \$10,000,000.

“(iv) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE OR REDUCE PENALTY.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the Secretary may waive any penalty, or reduce any penalty by not more than 75 percent, otherwise applicable under this subparagraph with respect to a hospital located in a rural or underserved area if the Secretary certifies that imposition of such penalty would result in an immediate threat to access to care for individuals in the service area of such hospital.

“(II) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—The Secretary may not elect to waive a penalty under subclause (I) with respect to a hospital more than once in a 6-year period and may not elect to reduce such a penalty with respect to such a hospital more than once in such a period. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed as prohibiting the Secretary from both waiving and reducing a penalty with respect to a hospital during a 6-year period.

“(v) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, provide technical assistance relating to compliance with the provisions of this section to hospitals requesting such assistance.

“(vi) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b) of such section) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under this subparagraph in the same manner as such provisions apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under subsection (a) of such section.

“(vii) NONDUPLICATION OF PENALTIES.—The Secretary may not subject a hospital to a civil monetary penalty under this subparagraph with respect to noncompliance with the provisions of this subsection for a period if the Secretary has imposed a civil monetary penalty on such hospital under section 1899C of the Social Security Act for failure to comply with the provisions of such section for such period.

“(C) PUBLICATION OF HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION.—Beginning on January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the public website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services information with respect to compliance with the requirements of this subsection and enforcement activities undertaken by the Secretary under this subsection. Such information shall be updated in real time and include—

“(i) the number of reviews of compliance with this subsection undertaken by the Secretary;

“(ii) the number of notifications described in subparagraph (A)(i) sent by the Secretary;

“(iii) the identity of each hospital that was sent such a notification and a description of the nature of such hospital’s noncompliance with this subsection;

“(iv) the amount of any civil monetary penalty imposed on such hospital under subparagraph (B);

“(v) whether such hospital subsequently came into compliance with this subsection;

“(vi) any waivers or reductions of penalties made pursuant to a certification by the Secretary under subparagraph (B)(iv), including—

“(I) the name of any hospital that received such a waiver or reduction;

“(II) the dollar amount of each such penalty so waived or reduced; and

“(III) the rationale for the granting of each such waiver or reduction; and

“(vii) any other information as determined by the Secretary.

“(5) ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the amend-

ments made by this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall through rulemaking ensure that a hospital submitting charges and information pursuant to such amendments takes reasonable steps (as specified by the Secretary) to ensure the accessibility of such charges and information to individuals with limited English proficiency. Such steps may include the hospital’s provision of interpretation services or the hospital’s provision of translations of charges and information.

“(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) DISCOUNTED CASH PRICE.—The term ‘discounted cash price’ means the charge that applies to an individual who pays cash, or cash equivalent, for a hospital-furnished item or service.

“(B) FEDERAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—The term ‘Federal health care program’ has the meaning given such term in section 1128B of the Social Security Act.

“(C) GROSS CHARGE.—The term ‘gross charge’ means the charge for an individual item or service that is reflected on a hospital’s chargemaster, absent any discounts.

“(D) PAYER-SPECIFIC NEGOTIATED CHARGE.—The term ‘payer-specific negotiated charge’ means the charge that a hospital has negotiated with a third party payer for an item or service.

“(E) SHOPPABLE SERVICE.—The term ‘shoppable service’ means a service that can be scheduled by a health care consumer in advance and includes all ancillary items and services customarily furnished as part of such service.

“(F) THIRD PARTY PAYER.—The term ‘third party payer’ means an entity that is, by statute, contract, or agreement, legally responsible for payment of a claim for a health care item or service.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2718 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-18) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting “(other than the provisions of subsection (f))” after “this section”; and

(B) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The preceding provisions of this subsection shall not apply beginning on January 1, 2026.”

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply beginning January 1, 2026.

(c) ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the amendments made by this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall through rulemaking ensure that a hospital submitting charges and information pursuant to such amendments takes reasonable steps (as specified by the Secretary) to ensure the accessibility of such charges and information to individuals with limited English proficiency. Such steps may include the hospital’s provision of interpretation services or the hospital’s provision of translations of charges and information.

#### SEC. 102. CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TEST PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

Section 1846 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-2) is amended—

(1) in the header, by inserting “AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS” after “SANCTIONS”; and

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

“(c) PRICE TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2026, any applicable laboratory that receives payment under this title for furnishing any specified clinical diagnostic laboratory test under this title shall—

“(A) make publicly available on an internet website the information described in

paragraph (2) with respect to each such specified clinical diagnostic laboratory test that such laboratory so furnishes; and

“(B) ensure that such information is updated not less frequently than annually.

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to an applicable laboratory and a specified clinical diagnostic laboratory test, the following:

“(A) The discounted cash price for such test (or, if no such price exists, the gross charge for such test).

“(B) The deidentified minimum payer-specific negotiated charge between such laboratory and any third party payer for such test.

“(C) The deidentified maximum payer-specific negotiated charge between such laboratory and any third party payer for such test.

“(3) UNIFORM METHOD AND FORMAT.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall establish a standard, uniform method and format for applicable laboratories to use in compiling and making public information pursuant to paragraph (1). Such method and format—

“(A) may be similar to any template made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (as described in section 1899C(a)(2)(C)(ii));

“(B) shall meet such standards as determined appropriate by the Secretary in order to ensure the accessibility and usability of such information; and

“(C) shall be updated as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders.

“(4) INCLUSION OF ANCILLARY SERVICES.—Any price or rate for a specified clinical diagnostic laboratory test available to be furnished by an applicable laboratory made publicly available in accordance with paragraph (1) shall include the price or rate (as applicable) for any ancillary item or service (such as specimen collection services) that would normally be furnished by such laboratory as part of such test, as specified by the Secretary.

“(5) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case that the Secretary determines that an applicable laboratory is not in compliance with paragraph (1)—

“(i) not later than 30 days after such determination, the Secretary shall notify such laboratory of such determination; and

“(ii) if such laboratory continues to fail to comply with such paragraph after the date that is 90 days after such notification is sent, the Secretary may impose a civil monetary penalty in an amount not to exceed \$300 for each (beginning with the day on which the Secretary first determined that such laboratory was failing to comply with such paragraph) during which such failure is ongoing.

“(B) INCREASE AUTHORITY.—In applying this paragraph with respect to violations occurring in 2027 or a subsequent year, the Secretary may through notice and comment rulemaking increase the per day limitation on civil monetary penalties under subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(C) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b) of such section) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under this paragraph in the same manner as such provisions apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under subsection (a) of such section.

“(6) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, provide technical assistance relating to compliance with the provisions of this subsection to applicable laboratories requesting such assistance.

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPLICABLE LABORATORY.—The term ‘applicable laboratory’ has the meaning given such term in section 414.502, of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), except that such term does not include a laboratory with respect to which standard charges and prices for specified clinical diagnostic laboratory tests furnished by such laboratory are made available by a hospital pursuant to section 1899C or section 2718(f) of the Public Health Service Act.

“(B) DISCOUNTED CASH PRICE.—The term ‘discounted cash price’ means the charge that applies to an individual who pays cash, or cash equivalent, for an item or service.

“(C) GROSS CHARGE.—The term ‘gross charge’ means the charge for an individual item or service that is reflected on an applicable laboratory’s chargemaster, absent any discounts.

“(D) PAYER-SPECIFIC NEGOTIATED CHARGE.—The term ‘payer-specific negotiated charge’ means the charge that an applicable laboratory has negotiated with a third party payer for an item or service.

“(E) SPECIFIED CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TEST.—the term ‘specified clinical diagnostic laboratory test’ means a clinical diagnostic laboratory test that is included on the list of shoppable services specified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (as described in section 1899C(a)(2)(A)(ii)(I)), other than such a test that is only available to be furnished by a single provider of services or supplier.

“(F) THIRD PARTY PAYER.—The term ‘third party payer’ means an entity that is, by statute, contract, or agreement, legally responsible for payment of a claim for a health care item or service.”

#### SEC. 103. IMAGING PRICE TRANSPARENCY.

Section 1899C of the Social Security Act, as added by section 101, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

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

“(b) IMAGING SERVICES PRICE TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2028, each provider of services and supplier that receives payment under this title for furnishing a specified imaging service, other than such a provider or supplier with respect to which standard charges and prices for such services furnished by such provider or supplier are made available by a hospital pursuant to section 1899C or section 2718(f) of the Public Health Service Act, shall—

“(A) make publicly available (in accordance with paragraph (3)) on an internet website the information described in paragraph (2) with respect to each such service that such provider of services or supplier furnishes; and

“(B) ensure that such information is updated not less frequently than annually.

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to a provider of services or supplier and a specified imaging service, the following:

“(A) The discounted cash price for such service (or, if no such price exists, the gross charge for such service).

“(B) If required by the Secretary, the deidentified minimum payer-specific negotiated charge for such service and the deidentified maximum payer-specific negotiated charge for such service.

“(3) UNIFORM METHOD AND FORMAT.—Not later than January 1, 2028, the Secretary shall establish a standard, uniform method and format for providers of services and suppliers to use in making public information described in paragraph (2). Any such method and format—

“(A) may be similar to any template made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (as described in section 1899C(a)(2)(C)(ii));

“(B) shall meet such standards as determined appropriate by the Secretary in order to ensure the accessibility and usability of such information; and

“(C) shall be updated as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders.

“(4) MONITORING COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall, through notice and comment rulemaking and in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, establish a process to monitor compliance with this subsection.

“(5) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case that the Secretary determines that a provider of services or supplier is not in compliance with paragraph (1)—

“(i) not later than 30 days after such determination, the Secretary shall notify such provider or supplier of such determination;

“(ii) upon request of the Secretary, such provider or supplier shall submit to the Secretary, not later than 45 days after the date of such request, a corrective action plan to comply with such paragraph; and

“(iii) if such provider or supplier continues to fail to comply with such paragraph after the date that is 90 days after such notification is sent (or, in the case of such a provider or supplier that has submitted a corrective action plan described in clause (ii) in response to a request so described, after the date that is 90 days after such submission), the Secretary may impose a civil monetary penalty in an amount not to exceed \$300 for each day (beginning with the day on which the Secretary first determined that such provider or supplier was failing to comply with such paragraph) during which such failure to comply or failure to submit is ongoing.

“(B) INCREASE AUTHORITY.—In applying this paragraph with respect to violations occurring in 2029 or a subsequent year, the Secretary may through notice and comment rulemaking increase the amount of the civil monetary penalty under subparagraph (A)(iii).

“(C) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b) of such section) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under this paragraph in the same manner as such provisions apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under subsection (a) of such section.

“(D) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE OR REDUCE PENALTY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may waive or reduce any penalty otherwise applicable with respect to a provider of services or supplier under this subparagraph if the Secretary certifies that imposition of such penalty would result in an immediate threat to access to care for individuals in the service area of such provider or supplier.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not elect to waive or reduce a penalty under clause (i) with respect to a specific provider of services or supplier more than 3 times.

“(E) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, provide technical assistance relating to compliance with the provisions of this subsection to providers of services and suppliers requesting such assistance.

“(F) CLARIFICATION OF NONAPPLICABILITY OF OTHER ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, this paragraph shall be the sole means of enforcing the provisions of this subsection.”; and

(3) in subsection (c), as so redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

“(8) SPECIFIED IMAGING SERVICE.—the term ‘specified imaging service’ means an imaging service that is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable service (as described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(I)).”.

**SEC. 104. AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER PRICE TRANSPARENCY.**

Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(aa) AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER PRICE TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2026, each ambulatory surgical center that receives payment under this title for furnishing items and services shall comply with the price transparency requirement described in paragraph (2).

“(2) REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the price transparency requirement described in this subsection is, with respect to an ambulatory surgical center, that such surgical center in accordance with a method and format established by the Secretary under subparagraph (C), compile and make public (without subscription and free of charge), for each year—

“(i) all of the ambulatory surgical center’s standard charges (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for each item and service furnished by such surgical center;

“(ii) information on the ambulatory surgical center’s prices (including the information described in subparagraph (B)) for as many of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable services that are furnished by such surgical center, and as many additional ambulatory surgical center-selected shoppable services (or all such additional services, if such surgical center furnishes fewer than 300 shoppable services) as may be necessary for a combined total of at least 300 shoppable services; and

“(iii) with respect to each Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-specified shoppable service that is not furnished by the ambulatory surgical center, an indication that such service is not so furnished.

“(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the information described in this subparagraph is, with respect to standard charges and prices (as applicable) made public by an ambulatory surgical center, the following:

“(i) A plain language description of each item or service, accompanied by, as applicable, the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code, the diagnosis-related group, the national drug code, or other identifier used or approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

“(ii) The gross charge, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service.

“(iii) The discounted cash price, as applicable, expressed as a dollar amount, for each such item or service (or, in the case no discounted cash price is available for an item or service, the median cash price charged to self-pay individuals for such item or service for the previous three years, expressed as a dollar amount).

“(iv) The current payer-specific negotiated charges, clearly associated with the name of the third party payer and plan and expressed as a dollar amount, that applies to each such item or service.

“(v) The de-identified maximum and minimum negotiated charges, as applicable, for each such item or service.

“(vi) Any other additional information the Secretary may require for the purpose of improving the accuracy of, or enabling consumers to easily understand and compare, standard charges and prices for an item or service, except information that is duplicative of any other reporting requirement under this subsection.

“(C) UNIFORM METHOD AND FORMAT.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall establish a standard, uniform method and format for ambulatory surgical centers to use in making public standard charges and a standard, uniform method and format for such centers to use in making public prices pursuant to subparagraph (A). Any such method and format—

“(i) shall, in the case of such charges made public by an ambulatory surgical center, ensure that such charges are made available in a machine-readable format (or successor technology);

“(ii) may be similar to any template made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph;

“(iii) shall meet such standards as determined appropriate by the Secretary in order to ensure the accessibility and usability of such charges and prices; and

“(iv) shall be updated as determined appropriate by the Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders.

“(3) MONITORING COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary shall, through notice and comment rulemaking and in consultation with the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, establish a process to monitor compliance with this subsection. Such process shall ensure that each ambulatory surgical center’s compliance with this subsection is reviewed not less frequently than once every 3 years.

“(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an ambulatory surgical center that fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection—

“(i) the Secretary shall notify such ambulatory surgical center of such failure not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary determines such failure exists; and

“(ii) upon request of the Secretary, the ambulatory surgical center shall submit to the Secretary, not later than 45 days after the date of such request, a corrective action plan to comply with such requirements.

“(B) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other enforcement actions or penalties that may apply under another provision of law, an ambulatory surgical center that has received a notification under subparagraph (A)(i) and fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection by the date that is 90 days after such notification (or, in the case of an ambulatory surgical center that has submitted a corrective action plan described in subparagraph (A)(ii) in response to a request so described, by the date that is 90 days after such submission) shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty of an amount specified by the Secretary for each subsequent day during which such failure is ongoing (not to exceed \$300 per day).

“(ii) INCREASE AUTHORITY.—In applying this subparagraph with respect to violations occurring in 2027 or a subsequent year, the Secretary may through notice and comment rulemaking increase the limitation on the per day amount of any penalty applicable to an ambulatory surgical center under clause (i).

“(iii) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of section 1128A (other than subsections (a) and (b) of such section) shall apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under this subparagraph in the

same manner as such provisions apply to a civil monetary penalty imposed under subsection (a) of such section.

“(iv) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE OR REDUCE PENALTY.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the Secretary may waive any penalty, or reduce any penalty by not more than 75 percent, otherwise applicable under this subparagraph with respect to an ambulatory surgical center located in a rural or underserved area if the Secretary certifies that imposition of such penalty would result in an immediate threat to access to care for individuals in the service area of such surgical center.

“(II) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—The Secretary may not elect to waive a penalty under subclause (I) with respect to an ambulatory surgical center more than once in a 6-year period and may not elect to reduce such a penalty with respect to such a surgical center more than once in such a period. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed as prohibiting the Secretary from both waiving and reducing a penalty with respect to an ambulatory surgical center during a 6-year period.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(A) DISCOUNTED CASH PRICE.—The term ‘discounted cash price’ means the charge that applies to an individual who pays cash, or cash equivalent, for a item or service furnished by an ambulatory surgical center.

“(B) FEDERAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—The term ‘Federal health care program’ has the meaning given such term in section 1128B.

“(C) GROSS CHARGE.—The term ‘gross charge’ means the charge for an individual item or service that is reflected on an ambulatory surgical center’s chargemaster, absent any discounts.

“(D) GROUP HEALTH PLAN; GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—The terms ‘group health plan’, ‘group health insurance coverage’, and ‘individual health insurance coverage’ have the meaning given such terms in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act.

“(E) PAYER-SPECIFIC NEGOTIATED CHARGE.—The term ‘payer-specific negotiated charge’ means the charge that an ambulatory surgical center has negotiated with a third party payer for an item or service.

“(F) SHOPPABLE SERVICE.—The term ‘shoppable service’ means a service that can be scheduled by a health care consumer in advance and includes all ancillary items and services customarily furnished as part of such service.

“(G) THIRD PARTY PAYER.—The term ‘third party payer’ means an entity that is, by statute, contract, or agreement, legally responsible for payment of a claim for a health care item or service.”.

**SEC. 105. HEALTH COVERAGE PRICE TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) PRICE TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IRC.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 9819 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 9819. TRANSPARENCY IN COVERAGE.**

“(a) COST-SHARING TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a group health plan shall permit a participant or beneficiary to learn the amount of cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) under the participant or beneficiary’s plan that the participant or beneficiary would be responsible for paying with respect to the furnishing of a specific item or service by a provider in a timely manner upon the request of the participant or beneficiary. At a minimum, such information

shall include the information specified in paragraph (2) and shall be made available to such participant or beneficiary through a self-service tool that meets the requirements of paragraph (3) or, at the option of such participant or beneficiary, through a paper disclosure or phone or other electronic disclosure (as selected by such participant or beneficiary and provided at no cost to such participant or beneficiary) that meets such requirements as the Secretary may specify.

“(2) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information specified in this paragraph is, with respect to an item or service for which benefits are available under a group health plan furnished by a health care provider to a participant or beneficiary of such plan, the following:

“(A) If such provider is a participating provider with respect to such item or service, the in-network rate (as defined in subsection (c)) for such item or service.

“(B) If such provider is not a participating provider with respect to such item or service, the maximum allowed amount or other dollar amount that such plan or coverage will recognize as payment for such item or service, along with a notice that such participant or beneficiary may be liable for additional charges.

“(C) The estimated amount of cost sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) that the participant or beneficiary will incur for such item or service (which, in the case such item or service is to be furnished by a provider described in subparagraph (B), shall be calculated using the maximum allowed amount or other dollar amount described in such subparagraph).

“(D) The amount the participant or beneficiary has already accumulated with respect to any deductible or out of pocket maximum under the plan (broken down, in the case separate deductibles or maximums apply to separate participants and beneficiaries enrolled in the plan, by such separate deductibles or maximums, in addition to any cumulative deductible or maximum).

“(E) In the case such plan imposes any frequency or volume limitations with respect to such item or service (excluding medical necessity determinations), the amount that such participant or beneficiary has accrued towards such limitation with respect to such item or service.

“(F) Any prior authorization, concurrent review, step therapy, fail first, or similar requirements applicable to coverage of such item or service under such plan.

“(G) Any shared savings (such as any credit, payment, or other benefit provided by such plan) available to the participant or beneficiary with respect to such item or service furnished by such provider known at the time such request is made.

“(3) SELF-SERVICE TOOL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a self-service tool established by a group health plan meets the requirements of this paragraph if such tool—

“(A) is based on an Internet website (or successor technology specified by the Secretary);

“(B) provides for real-time responses to requests described in paragraph (1);

“(C) is updated in a manner such that information provided through such tool is timely and accurate at the time such request is made;

“(D) allows such a request to be made with respect to an item or service furnished by—

“(i) a specific provider that is a participating provider with respect to such item or service; or

“(ii) all providers that are participating providers with respect to such item or service;

“(E) provides that such a request may be made with respect to an item or service

through use of the billing code for such item or service or through use of a descriptive term for such item or service; and

“(F) meets any other requirement determined appropriate by the Secretary to ensure the accessibility and usability of information provided through such tool.

The Secretary may require such tool, as a condition of complying with subparagraph (E), to link multiple billing codes to a single descriptive term if the Secretary determines that the billing codes to be so linked correspond to similar items and services.

“(b) RATE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, each group health plan (other than a grandfathered health plan (as defined in section 1251(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)) shall, for each month, not later than the tenth day of such month, make available to the public the rate and payment information described in paragraph (2) in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(2) RATE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the rate and payment information described in this paragraph is, with respect to a group health plan, the following:

“(A) With respect to each item or service (other than a drug) for which benefits are available under such plan, the in-network rate (expressed as a dollar amount) in effect as of the date on which such information is made public with each provider that is a participating provider with respect to such item or service.

“(B) With respect to each drug (identified by national drug code) for which benefits are available under such plan—

“(i) the in-network rate (expressed as a dollar amount) in effect as of the first day of the month in which such information is made public with each provider that is a participating provider with respect to such drug; and

“(ii) the average amount paid by such plan (net of rebates, discounts, and price concessions) for such drug dispensed or administered during the 90-day period beginning 180 days before such date of publication to each provider that was a participating provider with respect to such drug, broken down by each such provider, other than such an amount paid to a provider that, during such period, submitted fewer than 20 claims for such drug to such plan.

“(C) With respect to each item or service for which benefits are available under such plan, the amount billed, and the amount allowed by the plan, for each such item or service furnished during the 90-day period specified in subparagraph (B) by a provider that was not a participating provider with respect to such item or service, broken down by each such provider.

“(3) MANNER OF PUBLICATION.—Rate and payment information required to be made available under this subsection shall be so made available in dollar amounts through separate machine-readable files (and any successor technology, such as application program interface technology, determined appropriate by the Secretary) corresponding to the information described in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2) that meet such requirements as specified by the Secretary through subregulatory guidance. Such requirements shall ensure that such files are limited to an appropriate size, do not include disclosure of unnecessary duplicative information contained in other files made available under this subsection, are made available in a widely available format through a publicly available website that allows for information contained in such files to be compared across group health plans and group or individual health

insurance coverage, and are accessible to individuals at no cost and without the need to establish a user account or provide other credentials.

“(4) USER INSTRUCTIONS.—Each group health plan shall make available to the public instructions written in plain language explaining how individuals may search for information described in paragraph (2) in files submitted in accordance with paragraph (3). The Secretary shall develop and publish through subregulatory guidance a template that such a plan may use in developing instructions for purposes of the preceding sentence.

“(5) SUMMARY.—For each plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2026, each group health plan shall make public a data file, in a manner that ensures that such file may be easily downloaded and read by standard spreadsheet software and that meets such requirements as established by the Secretary, containing a summary of all rate and payment information made public by such plan with respect to such plan during such plan year. Such file shall include the following:

“(A) The mean, median, and interquartile range of the in-network rate, and the amount allowed for an item or service when not furnished by a participating provider, in effect as of the first day of such plan year for each item or service (identified by payer identifier approved or used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) for which benefits are available under the plan, broken down by the type of provider furnishing the item or service and by the geographic area in which such item or service is furnished.

“(B) Trends in payment rates for such items and services over such plan year, including an identification of instances in which such rates have increased, decreased, or remained the same.

“(C) The name of such plan, a description of the type of network of participating providers used by such plan, and a description of whether such plan is self-insured or fully-insured.

“(D) For each item or service which is paid as part of a bundled rate—

“(i) a description of the formulae, pricing methodologies, or other information used to calculate the payment rate for such bundle; and

“(ii) a list of the items and services included in such bundle.

“(E) The percentage of items and services that are paid for on a fee-for-service basis and the percentage of items and services that are paid for as part of a bundled rate, capitated payment rate, or other alternative payment model.

“(6) ATTESTATION.—Each group health plan shall post, along with rate and payment information made public by such plan, an attestation that such information is complete and accurate.

“(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—A group health plan shall take reasonable steps (as specified by the Secretary) to ensure that information provided in response to a request described in subsection (a), and rate and payment information made public under subsection (b), is provided in plain, easily understandable language and that interpretation, translations, and assistive services are provided to those with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) PARTICIPATING PROVIDER.—The term ‘participating provider’ means, with respect to an item or service and a group health plan, a physician or other health care provider who is acting within the scope of practice of that provider’s license or certification under applicable State law and who has a



contractual relationship with the plan, respectively, for furnishing such item or service under the plan, and includes facilities, respectively.

“(2) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ includes a health care facility.

“(3) IN-NETWORK RATE.—The term ‘in-network rate’ means, with respect to a group health plan and an item or service furnished by a provider that is a participating provider with respect to such plan and item or service, the contracted rate (reflected as a dollar amount) in effect between such plan and such provider for such item or service, regardless of whether such rate is calculated based on a set amount, a fee schedule, or an amount derived from another amount, or a formula, or other method.”

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 9819 of the table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 9819. Transparency in coverage.”

(2) PHSA.—Section 2799A-4 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-114) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 2799A-4. TRANSPARENCY IN COVERAGE.**

“(a) COST-SHARING TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall permit an individual enrolled under such plan or coverage to learn the amount of cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) under the individual’s plan or coverage that the individual would be responsible for paying with respect to the furnishing of a specific item or service by a provider in a timely manner upon the request of the individual. At a minimum, such information shall include the information specified in paragraph (2) and shall be made available to such individual through a self-service tool that meets the requirements of paragraph (3) or, at the option of such individual, through a paper disclosure or phone or other electronic disclosure (as selected by such individual and provided at no cost to such individual) that meets such requirements as the Secretary may specify.

“(2) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information specified in this paragraph is, with respect to an item or service for which benefits are available under a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage furnished by a health care provider to an individual enrolled under such plan or coverage, the following:

“(A) If such provider is a participating provider with respect to such item or service, the in-network rate (as defined in subsection (c)) for such item or service.

“(B) If such provider is not a participating provider with respect to such item or service, the maximum allowed amount or other dollar amount that such plan or coverage will recognize as payment for such item or service, along with a notice that such individual may be liable for additional charges.

“(C) The estimated amount of cost sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) that the individual will incur for such item or service (which, in the case such item or service is to be furnished by a provider described in subparagraph (B), shall be calculated using the maximum allowed amount or other dollar amount described in such subparagraph).

“(D) The amount the individual has already accumulated with respect to any deductible or out of pocket maximum under the plan or coverage (broken down, in the case separate deductibles or maximums

apply to separate individuals enrolled in the plan or coverage, by such separate deductibles or maximums, in addition to any cumulative deductible or maximum).

“(E) In the case such plan imposes any frequency or volume limitations with respect to such item or service (excluding medical necessity determinations), the amount that such individual has accrued towards such limitation with respect to such item or service.

“(F) Any prior authorization, concurrent review, step therapy, fail first, or similar requirements applicable to coverage of such item or service under such plan or coverage.

“(G) Any shared savings (such as any credit, payment, or other benefit provided by such plan or issuer) available to the individual with respect to such item or service furnished by such provider known at the time such request is made.

“(3) SELF-SERVICE TOOL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a self-service tool established by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage meets the requirements of this paragraph if such tool—

“(A) is based on an internet website (or successor technology specified by the Secretary);

“(B) provides for real-time responses to requests described in paragraph (1);

“(C) is updated in a manner such that information provided through such tool is timely and accurate at the time such request is made;

“(D) allows such a request to be made with respect to an item or service furnished by—

“(i) a specific provider that is a participating provider with respect to such item or service; or

“(ii) all providers that are participating providers with respect to such item or service;

“(E) provides that such a request may be made with respect to an item or service through use of the billing code for such item or service or through use of a descriptive term for such item or service; and

“(F) meets any other requirement determined appropriate by the Secretary to ensure the accessibility and usability of information provided through such tool.

The Secretary may require such tool, as a condition of complying with subparagraph (E), to link multiple billing codes to a single descriptive term if the Secretary determines that the billing codes to be so linked correspond to similar items and services.

“(b) RATE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage (other than a grandfathered health plan (as defined in section 1251(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)) shall, for each month, not later than the tenth day of such month, make available to the public the rate and payment information described in paragraph (2) in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(2) RATE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the rate and payment information described in this paragraph is, with respect to a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage, the following:

“(A) With respect to each item or service (other than a drug) for which benefits are available under such plan or coverage, the in-network rate (expressed as a dollar amount) in effect as of the date on which such information is made public with each provider that is a participating provider with respect to such item or service.

“(B) With respect to each drug (identified by national drug code) for which benefits are available under such plan or coverage—

“(i) the in-network rate (expressed as a dollar amount) in effect as of the first day of the month in which such information is made public with each provider that is a participating provider with respect to such drug; and

“(ii) the average amount paid by such plan (net of rebates, discounts, and price concessions) for such drug dispensed or administered during the 90-day period beginning 180 days before such date of publication to each provider that was a participating provider with respect to such drug, broken down by each such provider, other than such an amount paid to a provider that, during such period, submitted fewer than 20 claims for such drug to such plan or coverage.

“(C) With respect to each item or service for which benefits are available under such plan or coverage, the amount billed, and the amount allowed by the plan, for each such item or service furnished during the 90-day period specified in subparagraph (B) by a provider that was not a participating provider with respect to such item or service, broken down by each such provider.

“(3) MANNER OF PUBLICATION.—Rate and payment information required to be made available under this subsection shall be so made available in dollar amounts through separate machine-readable files (and any successor technology, such as application program interface technology, determined appropriate by the Secretary) corresponding to the information described in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2) that meet such requirements as specified by the Secretary through subregulatory guidance. Such requirements shall ensure that such files are limited to an appropriate size, do not include disclosure of unnecessary duplicative information contained in other files made available under this subsection, are made available in a widely-available format through a publicly-available website that allows for information contained in such files to be compared across group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage, and are accessible to individuals at no cost and without the need to establish a user account or provide other credentials.

“(4) USER INSTRUCTIONS.—Each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall make available to the public instructions written in plain language explaining how individuals may search for information described in paragraph (2) in files submitted in accordance with paragraph (3). The Secretary shall develop and publish through subregulatory guidance a template that such a plan may use in developing instructions for purposes of the preceding sentence.

“(5) SUMMARY.—For each plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2026, each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall make public a data file, in a manner that ensures that such file may be easily downloaded and read by standard spreadsheet software and that meets such requirements as established by the Secretary, containing a summary of all rate and payment information made public by such plan or issuer with respect to such plan or coverage during such plan year. Such file shall include the following:

“(A) The mean, median, and interquartile range of the in-network rate, and the amount allowed for an item or service when not furnished by a participating provider, in effect as of the first day of such plan year for each item or service (identified by payer

identifier approved or used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) for which benefits are available under the plan or coverage, broken down by the type of provider furnishing the item or service and by the geographic area in which such item or service is furnished.

“(B) Trends in payment rates for such items and services over such plan year, including an identification of instances in which such rates have increased, decreased, or remained the same.

“(C) The name of such plan, a description of the type of network of participating providers used by such plan or coverage, and, in the case of a group health plan, a description of whether such plan is self-insured or fully-insured.

“(D) For each item or service which is paid as part of a bundled rate—

“(i) a description of the formulae, pricing methodologies, or other information used to calculate the payment rate for such bundle; and

“(ii) a list of the items and services included in such bundle.

“(E) The percentage of items and services that are paid for on a fee-for-service basis and the percentage of items and services that are paid for as part of a bundled rate, capitated payment rate, or other alternative payment model.

“(6) ATTESTATION.—Each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall post, along with rate and payment information made public by such plan or issuer, an attestation that such information is complete and accurate.

“(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall take reasonable steps (as specified by the Secretary) to ensure that information provided in response to a request described in subsection (a), and rate and payment information made public under subsection (b), is provided in plain, easily understandable language and that interpretation, translations, and assistive services are provided to those with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) PARTICIPATING PROVIDER.—The term ‘participating provider’ means, with respect to an item or service and a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage, a physician or other health care provider who is acting within the scope of practice of that provider’s license or certification under applicable State law and who has a contractual relationship with the plan or issuer, respectively, for furnishing such item or service under the plan or coverage, and includes facilities, respectively.

“(2) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ includes a health care facility.

“(3) IN-NETWORK RATE.—The term ‘in-network rate’ means, with respect to a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage and an item or service furnished by a provider that is a participating provider with respect to such plan or coverage and item or service, the contracted rate (reflected as a dollar amount) in effect between such plan or coverage and such provider for such item or service, regardless of whether such rate is calculated based on a set amount, a fee schedule, or an amount derived from another amount, or a formula, or other method.”.

(3) ERISA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 719 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185h) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 719. TRANSPARENCY IN COVERAGE.

“(a) COST-SHARING TRANSPARENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall permit a participant or beneficiary to learn the amount of cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) under the participant or beneficiary’s plan or coverage that the participant or beneficiary would be responsible for paying with respect to the furnishing of a specific item or service by a provider in a timely manner upon the request of the participant or beneficiary. At a minimum, such information shall include the information specified in paragraph (2) and shall be made available to such participant or beneficiary through a self-service tool that meets the requirements of paragraph (3) or, at the option of such participant or beneficiary, through a paper disclosure or phone or other electronic disclosure (as selected by such participant or beneficiary and provided at no cost to such participant or beneficiary) that meets such requirements as the Secretary may specify.

“(2) SPECIFIED INFORMATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information specified in this paragraph is, with respect to an item or service for which benefits are available under a group health plan or group health insurance coverage furnished by a health care provider to a participant or beneficiary of such plan or coverage, the following:

“(A) If such provider is a participating provider with respect to such item or service, the in-network rate (as defined in subsection (c)) for such item or service.

“(B) If such provider is not a participating provider with respect to such item or service, the maximum allowed amount or other dollar amount that such plan or coverage will recognize as payment for such item or service, along with a notice that such participant or beneficiary may be liable for additional charges.

“(C) The estimated amount of cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) that the participant or beneficiary will incur for such item or service (which, in the case such item or service is to be furnished by a provider described in subparagraph (B), shall be calculated using the maximum allowed amount or other dollar amount described in such subparagraph).

“(D) The amount the participant or beneficiary has already accumulated with respect to any deductible or out of pocket maximum under the plan or coverage (broken down, in the case separate deductibles or maximums apply to separate participants and beneficiaries enrolled in the plan or coverage, by such separate deductibles or maximums, in addition to any cumulative deductible or maximum).

“(E) In the case such plan imposes any frequency or volume limitations with respect to such item or service (excluding medical necessity determinations), the amount that such participant or beneficiary has accrued towards such limitation with respect to such item or service.

“(F) Any prior authorization, concurrent review, step therapy, fail first, or similar requirements applicable to coverage of such item or service under such plan or coverage.

“(G) Any shared savings (such as any credit, payment, or other benefit provided by such plan or issuer) available to the participant or beneficiary with respect to such item or service furnished by such provider known at the time such request is made.

“(3) SELF-SERVICE TOOL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a self-service tool established by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance cov-

erage meets the requirements of this paragraph if such tool—

“(A) is based on an internet website (or successor technology specified by the Secretary);

“(B) provides for real-time responses to requests described in paragraph (1);

“(C) is updated in a manner such that information provided through such tool is timely and accurate at the time such request is made;

“(D) allows such a request to be made with respect to an item or service furnished by—

“(i) a specific provider that is a participating provider with respect to such item or service; or

“(ii) all providers that are participating providers with respect to such item or service;

“(E) provides that such a request may be made with respect to an item or service through use of the billing code for such item or service or through use of a descriptive term for such item or service; and

“(F) meets any other requirement determined appropriate by the Secretary to ensure the accessibility and usability of information provided through such tool.

The Secretary may require such tool, as a condition of complying with subparagraph (E), to link multiple billing codes to a single descriptive term if the Secretary determines that the billing codes to be so linked correspond to similar items and services.

“(b) RATE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage (other than a grandfathered health plan (as defined in section 1251(e) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act)) shall, for each month, not later than the tenth day of such month, make available to the public the rate and payment information described in paragraph (2) in accordance with paragraph (3).

“(2) RATE AND PAYMENT INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the rate and payment information described in this paragraph is, with respect to a group health plan or group health insurance coverage, the following:

“(A) With respect to each item or service (other than a drug) for which benefits are available under such plan or coverage, the in-network rate (expressed as a dollar amount) in effect as of the date on which such information is made public with each provider that is a participating provider with respect to such item or service.

“(B) With respect to each drug (identified by national drug code) for which benefits are available under such plan or coverage—

“(i) the in-network rate (expressed as a dollar amount) in effect as of the first day of the month in which such information is made public with each provider that is a participating provider with respect to such drug; and

“(ii) the average amount paid by such plan (net of rebates, discounts, and price concessions) for such drug dispensed or administered during the 90-day period beginning 180 days before such date of publication to each provider that was a participating provider with respect to such drug, broken down by each such provider, other than such an amount paid to a provider that, during such period, submitted fewer than 20 claims for such drug to such plan or coverage.

“(C) With respect to each item or service for which benefits are available under such plan or coverage, the amount billed, and the amount allowed by the plan, for each such item or service furnished during the 90-day period specified in subparagraph (B) by a provider that was not a participating provider

with respect to such item or service, broken down by each such provider.

“(3) MANNER OF PUBLICATION.—Rate and payment information required to be made available under this subsection shall be so made available in dollar amounts through separate machine-readable files (and any successor technology, such as application program interface technology, determined appropriate by the Secretary) corresponding to the information described in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2) that meet such requirements as specified by the Secretary through subregulatory guidance. Such requirements shall ensure that such files are limited to an appropriate size, do not include disclosure of unnecessary duplicative information contained in other files made available under this subsection, are made available in a widely available format through a publicly available website that allows for information contained in such files to be compared across group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage, and are accessible to individuals at no cost and without the need to establish a user account or provide other credentials.

“(4) USER INSTRUCTIONS.—Each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall make available to the public instructions written in plain language explaining how individuals may search for information described in paragraph (2) in files submitted in accordance with paragraph (3). The Secretary shall develop and publish through subregulatory guidance a template that such a plan may use in developing instructions for purposes of the preceding sentence.

“(5) SUMMARY.—For each plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2026, each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall make public a data file, in a manner that ensures that such file may be easily downloaded and read by standard spreadsheet software and that meets such requirements as established by the Secretary, containing a summary of all rate and payment information made public by such plan or issuer with respect to such plan or coverage during such plan year. Such file shall include the following:

“(A) The mean, median, and interquartile range of the in-network rate, and the amount allowed for an item or service when not furnished by a participating provider, in effect as of the first day of such plan year for each item or service (identified by payer identifier approved or used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) for which benefits are available under the plan or coverage, broken down by the type of provider furnishing the item or service and by the geographic area in which such item or service is furnished.

“(B) Trends in payment rates for such items and services over such plan year, including an identification of instances in which such rates have increased, decreased, or remained the same.

“(C) The name of such plan, a description of the type of network of participating providers used by such plan or coverage, and, in the case of a group health plan, a description of whether such plan is self-insured or fully-insured.

“(D) For each item or service which is paid as part of a bundled rate—

“(i) a description of the formulae, pricing methodologies, or other information used to calculate the payment rate for such bundle; and

“(ii) a list of the items and services included in such bundle.

“(E) The percentage of items and services that are paid for on a fee-for-service basis

and the percentage of items and services that are paid for as part of a bundled rate, capitated payment rate, or other alternative payment model.

“(6) ATTESTATION.—Each group health plan and health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall post, along with rate and payment information made public by such plan or issuer, an attestation that such information is complete and accurate.

“(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—A group health plan and a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall take reasonable steps (as specified by the Secretary) to ensure that information provided in response to a request described in subsection (a), and rate and payment information made public under subsection (b), is provided in plain, easily understandable language and that interpretation, translations, and assistive services are provided to those with limited English proficiency and those with disabilities.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) PARTICIPATING PROVIDER.—The term ‘participating provider’ means, with respect to an item or service and a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage, a physician or other health care provider who is acting within the scope of practice of that provider’s license or certification under applicable State law and who has a contractual relationship with the plan or issuer, respectively, for furnishing such item or service under the plan or coverage, and includes facilities, respectively.

“(2) PROVIDER.—The term ‘provider’ includes a health care facility.

“(3) IN-NETWORK RATE.—The term ‘in-network rate’ means, with respect to a group health plan or group health insurance coverage and an item or service furnished by a provider that is a participating provider with respect to such plan or coverage and item or service, the contracted rate (reflected as a dollar amount) in effect between such plan or coverage and such provider for such item or service, regardless of whether such rate is calculated based on a set amount, a fee schedule, or an amount derived from another amount, or a formula, or other method.”

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by striking the item relating to section 719 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 719. Transparency in coverage.”

(b) APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in consultation with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, and stakeholders, submit to the House Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, and the Senate Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions a report on the use of standards-based application programming interfaces (in this subsection referred to as “APIs”) to facilitate access to health care price transparency information and the interoperability of other medical information. Such report shall include an evaluation of the capacity of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury to regulate and implement standards related to APIs and recommendations for improving such capacity. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A description of current use, and proposed use, of APIs under Federal rules to fa-

ilitate interoperability, including information related to capacity constraints within the agencies, barriers to adoption, privacy and security, administrative burdens and efficiencies, care coordination, and levels of compliance.

(2) A description of the feasibility of agency participation in the development of APIs to enable application access to price transparency data under the amendments made by subsection (a).

(3) A specification of the timeline for which such data standards can be required to make such data accessible via an API.

(4) An analysis of the benefits and challenges of implementing standards-based APIs for price transparency data, including the ability for consumers to access rate and payment information and the amount of cost-sharing (including deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance) under the consumer’s plan through third-party internet-based tools and applications.

(5) An analysis of the impact that APIs which provide real-time access to pricing and cost-sharing information may have in increasing the amount of services shoppable for individuals, such as by standardizing more health care spend via episode bundles.

(6) An analysis of which health care items and services may be useful under API, such as those for which prices change with the greatest frequency.

(7) An analysis of the cost of API standards implementation on issuers, employers, and other private-sector entities.

(8) An analysis of the ability of State regulators to enforce API standards and the costs to the Federal Government and States to regulate and enforce API standards.

(9) An analysis of the interaction with API standards and Federal health information privacy standards.

(c) PROVIDER TOOL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall, in consultation with stakeholders, conduct a study and submit to the House Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, and the Senate Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions a report on the usefulness and feasibility of the establishment of a provider tool by a group health plan, or a health insurance issuer offering group and individual health insurance coverage, in facilitating the provision of information made available pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a). Such report shall include the following:

(A) A description of the feasibility of establishing a requirement for the various types of plans and coverage to offer such a provider tool, including any challenges to establishing a provider tool using the same technology platform as the self-service tool described in such amendments.

(B) An evaluation on the usefulness of a provider tool to aid patient-decision making and how such tool would coordinate with other information available to a patient and their provider under other Federal requirements in place or under consideration.

(C) An evaluation of whether the information provided by such tool would be duplicative of the advanced explanation of benefits required under Federal law or any other existing requirement.

(D) A description of the usability and expected utilization of such tool among providers, including among different provider types.

(E) An analysis of the impact of a provider tool in value-based care arrangements.

(F) An analysis on the potential impact of the provider tool on—

- (i) patients' out-of-pocket spending;
- (ii) plan design, including impacts on cost-sharing requirements;
- (iii) care coordination and quality;
- (iv) plan premiums;
- (v) overall health care spending and utilization; and
- (vi) health care access in rural areas.

(G) An analysis of the feasibility of a provider tool to include additional functionality to facilitate and improve the administration of the requirements on providers to submit notifications to such plan or coverage under section 2799B-6 of the Public Health Service Act and the requirements on such plan or coverage to provide an advanced explanation of benefits to individuals under section 2799A-1(f) of such Act.

(H) An analysis of which health care items and services, would be most useful for patients utilizing a provider tool.

(I) An analysis of rulemaking required to ensure such a tool complies with federal health information privacy standards.

(J) An analysis of the burden and cost of the creation of a provider tool by plans and coverage on providers, issuers, employers, and other private-sector entities.

(K) An analysis of the ability of state regulators to enforce provider tool standards and the costs to the Department and states to regulate and enforce provider tool standards.

(2) DEFINITION.—The term “provider tool” means a tool designed to facilitate the provision of information made available pursuant to the amendments made by subsection (a) and established by a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group and individual health insurance coverage that allows providers to access the information such plan or coverage must provide through the self-service tool described in such amendments to an individual with whom the provider is actively treating at the time of such request, upon the request of the provider, and with the consent of such individual.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) COMPLIANCE.—Not later than January 1, 2027, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing—

(A) an analysis of compliance with the amendments made by this section;

(B) an analysis of enforcement of such amendments by the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury;

(C) recommendations relating to improving such enforcement; and

(D) recommendations relating to improving public disclosure, and public awareness, of information required to be made available by group health plans and health insurance issuers pursuant to such amendments.

(2) PRICES.—Not later than January 1, 2028, and biennially thereafter, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury shall jointly submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of differences in negotiated prices (and any trends in such prices) in the private market between—

(A) rural and urban areas;

(B) the individual, small group, and large group markets;

(C) consolidated and nonconsolidated health care provider areas (as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services);

(D) nonprofit and for-profit hospitals;

(E) nonprofit and for-profit insurers; and

(F) insurers serving local or regional areas and insurers serving multistate or national areas.

(e) QUALITY REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of including data relating to the quality of health care items and services with the price transparency information required to be made available under the amendments made by subsection (a). Such report shall include recommendations for legislative and regulatory actions to identify appropriate metrics for assessing and comparing quality of care.

(f) CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF RULES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS.—Nothing in the amendments made by subsection (a) may be construed as affecting the applicability of the rule entitled “Transparency in Coverage” published by the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Health and Human Services on November 12, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 72158), for any plan year beginning before January 1, 2026.

**SEC. 106. PHARMACY BENEFITS PRICE TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) PHSA.—Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg et seq.) is amended—

(1) in part D (42 U.S.C. 300gg–111 et seq.), by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 2799A-11. OVERSIGHT OF PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER SERVICES.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity or subsidiary providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, shall not enter into a contract with a drug manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, subcontractor, rebate aggregator, or any other third party that limits (or delays beyond the applicable reporting period described in subsection (b)(1)) the disclosure of information to group health plans in such a manner that prevents such plan, issuer, or entity from making the reports described in subsection (b).

“(b) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to plan years beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, not less frequently than every 6 months (or at the request of a group health plan, not less frequently than quarterly, but under the same conditions, terms, and cost of the semiannual report under this subsection), a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, shall submit to the group health plan a report in accordance with this section. Each such report shall be made available to such group health plan in a machine-readable format and shall include the information described in paragraph (2).

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to drugs covered by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage during each reporting period—

“(A) in the case of such a plan offered by a specified large employer (or such coverage offered in connection with such a plan offered by a specified large employer)—

“(i) a list of drugs for which a claim was filed and, with respect to each such drug on such list—

“(I) the brand name, chemical entity, and National Drug Code;

“(II) the type of dispensing channel used to furnish such drug, including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy;

“(III) with respect to each drug dispensed under each type of dispensing channel (including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy)—

“(aa) whether such drug is a brand name drug or a generic drug, and—

“(AA) in the case of a brand name drug, the wholesale acquisition cost, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

“(BB) in the case of a generic drug, the average wholesale price, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

“(bb) the total number of—

“(AA) prescription claims (including original prescriptions and refills);

“(BB) participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees for whom a claim for such drug was filed;

“(CC) dosage units per fill of such drug; and

“(DD) days supply of such drug per fill;

“(IV) the net price per course of treatment or single fill, such as a 30-day supply or 90-day supply to the plan or coverage after manufacturer rebates, fees, and other remuneration or adjustments;

“(V) the total amount of out-of-pocket spending by participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees on such drug, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles;

“(VI) the total net spending by the plan or coverage during the reporting period;

“(VII) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or coverage from any entity in drug manufacturer rebates, fees, alternative discounts, and all other remuneration received from an entity or any third party (including group purchasing organizations) other than the plan sponsor;

“(VIII) the total amount received, or expected to be received by the plan or issuer, from drug manufacturers in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration—

“(aa) that has been paid, or is to be paid, by drug manufacturers for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

“(bb) that is related to utilization rebates for such drug; and

“(IX) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copay assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan or coverage for such drug;

“(ii) for each category or class of drugs for which a claim was filed, a breakdown of the total gross spending on drugs in such category or class before rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from drug manufacturers, and the net spending after such rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from drug manufacturers, including—

“(I) the number of participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees who filled a prescription for a drug in such category or class, including the National Drug Code for each such drug;

“(II) if applicable, a description of the formulary tiers and utilization mechanisms (such as prior authorization or step therapy) employed for drugs in that category or class; and

“(III) the total out-of-pocket spending under the plan or coverage by participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles;

“(iii) in the case of a drug for which gross spending by such plan, coverage, or entity

exceeded \$10,000 during the reporting period—

“(I) a list of all other drugs in the same therapeutic category or class; and

“(II) the rationale for the formulary placement of such drug in that therapeutic category or class, if applicable; and

“(iv) in the case such plan or coverage (or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or coverage) has an affiliated pharmacy or pharmacy under common ownership—

“(I) the percentage of total prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacies to individuals enrolled in such plan or coverage;

“(II) a list of all drugs dispensed by such pharmacies to individuals enrolled in such plan or coverage, and, with respect to each drug dispensed—

“(aa) the amount charged, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, or per 90-day supply (as applicable) to the plan or issuer, and to participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan or coverage;

“(bb) the median amount charged to such plan or issuer, and the interquartile range of the costs, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, including amounts paid by the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, when the same drug is dispensed by other pharmacies that are not affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity and that are included in the pharmacy network of such plan or coverage;

“(cc) the lowest cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply, for each such drug, including amounts charged to the plan and participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, that is available from any pharmacy included in the network of such plan or coverage; and

“(dd) the net acquisition cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, if such drug is subject to a maximum price discount;

“(B) in the case of a plan or coverage not described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the total net spending by the plan or coverage for all drugs covered by such plan or coverage during such reporting period;

“(ii) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or coverage from any entity in drug manufacturer rebates, fees, alternative discounts, and all other remuneration received from an entity or any third party (including group purchasing organizations) other than the plan sponsor for all such drugs; and

“(iii) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copay assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan or coverage for such drugs;

“(C) amounts paid directly or indirectly in rebates, fees, or any other type of compensation (as defined in section 408(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act) to brokers, consultants, advisors, or any other individual or firm, for the referral of the group health plan's or health insurance issuer's business to an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services, including the identity of the recipient of such amounts;

“(D) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees in such plan or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services under such plan or coverage, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail

and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives directly or indirectly funded by such entity; and

“(E) total gross spending on all drugs during the reporting period.

“(3) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage and entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a group health plan shall provide information under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the privacy, security, and breach notification regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Clinical Health Act and consistent with the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act) and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy, security, and breach notification regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage that submits a report under paragraph (1) shall ensure that such report contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—A group health plan shall comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and a plan sponsor shall act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act).

“(4) DISCLOSURE AND REDISCLOSURE.—

“(A) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A group health plan receiving a report under paragraph (1) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the report was received or to that entity's business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 CFR parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E).

“(B) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or coverage, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information contained in a report described in paragraph (1), except that such plan, issuer, or entity may not restrict disclosure of such report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, or the Comptroller General of the United States.

“(C) LIMITED FORM OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall define through rulemaking a limited form of the report under paragraph (1) required with respect to group health plans where the plan sponsors of such plans are drug manufacturers, drug wholesalers, or other direct participants in the drug supply chain, in order to prevent anti-competitive behavior.

“(5) REPORT TO GAO.—A group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or coverage, shall

submit to the Comptroller General of the United States each of the first 4 reports submitted to a group health plan under paragraph (1) and other such reports as requested, in accordance with the privacy requirements under paragraph (3), the disclosure and redisclosure standards under paragraph (4), the standards specified pursuant to paragraph (6), and such other information that the Comptroller General determines necessary to carry out the study under section 106(d) of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

“(6) STANDARD FORMAT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall specify through rulemaking standards for group health plans, health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage, and entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plans or coverage, required to submit reports under paragraph (1) to submit such reports in a standard format.

“(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enforce this section.

“(2) FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.—A health insurance issuer or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or coverage that violates sub-section (a) or fails to provide the information required under subsection (b) shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty in the amount of \$10,000 for each day during which such violation continues or such information is not disclosed or reported.

“(3) FALSE INFORMATION.—A health insurance issuer or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or coverage that knowingly provides false information under this section shall be subject to a civil money penalty in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for each item of false information. Such civil money penalty shall be in addition to other penalties as may be prescribed by law.

“(4) PROCEDURE.—The provisions of section 1128A of the Social Security Act, other than subsections (a) and (b) and the first sentence of subsection (c)(1) of such section shall apply to civil monetary penalties under this subsection in the same manner as such provisions apply to a penalty or proceeding under such section.

“(5) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive penalties under paragraph (2), or extend the period of time for compliance with a requirement of this section, for an entity in violation of this section that has made a good-faith effort to comply with the requirements in this section.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a group health plan, health insurance issuer, or entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or coverage, to restrict disclosure to, or otherwise limit the access of, the Department of Health and Human Services to a report described in subsection (b)(1) or information related to compliance with subsection (a) or (b) by entities subject to such subsection.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term ‘specified large employer’ means, in connection with a group health plan with respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least 50 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the plan year.

“(2) WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST.—The term ‘wholesale acquisition cost’ has the meaning given such term in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act.”; and

(2) in section 2723 (42 U.S.C. 300gg-22)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “(other than subsections (a) and (b) of section 2799A-11)” after “part D”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “(other than subsections (a) and (b) of section 2799A-11)” after “part D”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “(other than subsections (a) and (b) of section 2799A-11)” after “part D”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “(other than subsections (a) and (b) of section 2799A-11)” after “part D”; and

(iii) in paragraph (2)(C)(ii), by inserting “(other than subsections (a) and (b) of section 2799A-11)” after “part D”.

(b) ERISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in subpart B of part 7 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.), by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 726. OVERSIGHT OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER SERVICES.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, a group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity or subsidiary providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, shall not enter into a contract with a drug manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, subcontractor, rebate aggregator, or any other third party that limits (or delays beyond the applicable reporting period described in subsection (b)(1)) the disclosure of information to group health plans in such a manner that prevents such plan, issuer, or entity from making the reports described in subsection (b).

“(b) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to plan years beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, not less frequently than every 6 months (or at the request of a group health plan, not less frequently than quarterly, but under the same conditions, terms, and cost of the semiannual report under this subsection), a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or issuer, shall submit to the group health plan a report in accordance with this section. Each such report shall be made available to such group health plan in a machine-readable format and shall include the information described in paragraph (2).

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to drugs covered by a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage during each reporting period—

“(A) in the case of such a plan offered by a specified large employer (or such coverage offered in connection with such a plan offered by a specified large employer)—

“(i) a list of drugs for which a claim was filed and, with respect to each such drug on such list—

“(I) the brand name, chemical entity, and National Drug Code;

“(II) the type of dispensing channel used to furnish such drug, including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy;

“(III) with respect to each drug dispensed under each type of dispensing channel (including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy)—

“(aa) whether such drug is a brand name drug or a generic drug, and—

“(AA) in the case of a brand name drug, the wholesale acquisition cost, listed as cost

per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

“(BB) in the case of a generic drug, the average wholesale price, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

“(bb) the total number of—

“(AA) prescription claims (including original prescriptions and refills);

“(BB) participants and beneficiaries for whom a claim for such drug was filed;

“(CC) dosage units per fill of such drug; and

“(DD) days supply of such drug per fill;

“(IV) the net price per course of treatment or single fill, such as a 30-day supply or 90-day supply to the plan or coverage after manufacturer rebates, fees, and other remuneration or adjustments;

“(V) the total amount of out-of-pocket spending by participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees on such drug, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles;

“(VI) the total net spending by the plan or coverage during the reporting period;

“(VII) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or coverage from any entity in drug manufacturer rebates, fees, alternative discounts, and all other remuneration received from an entity or any third party (including group purchasing organizations) other than the plan sponsor;

“(VIII) the total amount received, or expected to be received by the plan or issuer, from drug manufacturers in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration—

“(aa) that has been paid, or is to be paid, by drug manufacturers for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

“(bb) that is related to utilization rebates for such drug; and

“(IX) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copay assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan or coverage for such drug;

“(ii) for each category or class of drugs for which a claim was filed, a breakdown of the total gross spending on drugs in such category or class before rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from drug manufacturers, and the net spending after such rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from drug manufacturers, including—

“(I) the number of participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees who filled a prescription for a drug in such category or class, including the National Drug Code for each such drug;

“(II) if applicable, a description of the formulary tiers and utilization mechanisms (such as prior authorization or step therapy) employed for drugs in that category or class; and

“(III) the total out-of-pocket spending under the plan or coverage by participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles;

“(iii) in the case of a drug for which gross spending by such plan, coverage, or entity exceeded \$10,000 during the reporting period—

“(I) a list of all other drugs in the same therapeutic category or class; and

“(II) the rationale for the formulary placement of such drug in that therapeutic category or class, if applicable; and

“(iv) in the case such plan or coverage (or an entity providing pharmacy benefits man-

agement services on behalf of such plan or coverage) has an affiliated pharmacy or pharmacy under common ownership—

“(I) the percentage of total prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacies to individuals enrolled in such plan or coverage;

“(II) a list of all drugs dispensed by such pharmacies to individuals enrolled in such plan or coverage, and, with respect to each drug dispensed—

“(aa) the amount charged, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, or per 90-day supply (as applicable) to the plan or issuer, and to participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan or coverage;

“(bb) the median amount charged to such plan or issuer, and the interquartile range of the costs, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, including amounts paid by the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, when the same drug is dispensed by other pharmacies that are not affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity and that are included in the pharmacy network of such plan or coverage;

“(cc) the lowest cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply, for each such drug, including amounts charged to the plan and participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, that is available from any pharmacy included in the network of such plan or coverage; and

“(dd) the net acquisition cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, if such drug is subject to a maximum price discount;

“(B) in the case of a plan or coverage not described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the total net spending by the plan or coverage for all drugs covered by such plan or coverage during such reporting period;

“(ii) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan or coverage from any entity in drug manufacturer rebates, fees, alternative discounts, and all other remuneration received from an entity or any third party (including group purchasing organizations) other than the plan sponsor for all such drugs; and

“(iii) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copay assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan or coverage for such drugs;

“(C) amounts paid directly or indirectly in rebates, fees, or any other type of compensation (as defined in section 408(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA)) to brokers, consultants, advisors, or any other individual or firm, for the referral of the group health plan's or health insurance issuer's business to an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services, including the identity of the recipient of such amounts;

“(D) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees in such plan or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services under such plan or coverage, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives directly or indirectly funded by such entity; and

“(E) total gross spending on all drugs during the reporting period.

“(3) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage and entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a group health

plan shall provide information under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the privacy, security, and breach notification regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Clinical Health Act and consistent with the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act) and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy, security, and breach notification regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage that submits a report under paragraph (1) shall ensure that such report contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—A group health plan shall comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and a plan sponsor shall act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act).

“(4) DISCLOSURE AND REDISCLOSURE.—

“(A) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A group health plan receiving a report under paragraph (1) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the report was received or to that entity’s business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 CFR parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E).

“(B) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or coverage, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information contained in a report described in paragraph (1), except that such plan, issuer, or entity may not restrict disclosure of such report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, or the Comptroller General of the United States.

“(C) LIMITED FORM OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall define through rulemaking a limited form of the report under paragraph (1) required with respect to group health plans where the plan sponsors of such plans are drug manufacturers, drug wholesalers, or other direct participants in the drug supply chain, in order to prevent anti-competitive behavior.

“(5) REPORT TO GAO.—A group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or coverage, shall submit to the Comptroller General of the United States each of the first 4 reports submitted to a group health plan under paragraph (1) and other such reports as requested, in accordance with the privacy requirements under paragraph (3), the disclosure and redisclosure standards under paragraph (4), the standards specified pursuant to paragraph (6), and such other information that the Comptroller General determines

necessary to carry out the study under section 106(d) of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

“(6) STANDARD FORMAT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall specify through rulemaking standards for group health plans, health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage, and entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plans or coverage, required to submit reports under paragraph (1) to submit such reports in a standard format.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a group health plan, health insurance issuer, or entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or coverage, to restrict disclosure to, or otherwise limit the access of, the Secretary of Labor to a report described in subsection (b)(1) or information related to compliance with subsection (a) or (b) by entities subject to such subsection.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term ‘specified large employer’ means, in connection with a group health plan with respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least 50 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the plan year.

“(2) WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST.—The term ‘wholesale acquisition cost’ has the meaning given such term in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act.”.

(B) in section 502 (29 U.S.C. 1132)—

(i) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “under subsection (c)(9)” and inserting “under paragraphs (9) and (13) of subsection (c)”;

and

(ii) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) SECRETARIAL ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY RELATING TO OVERSIGHT OF PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER SERVICES.—

“(A) FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.—The Secretary may impose a penalty against any health insurance issuer or entity providing pharmacy benefits management services that violates section 726(a) or fails to provide information required under section 726(b) in the amount of \$10,000 for each day during which such violation continues or such information is not disclosed or reported.

“(B) FALSE INFORMATION.—The Secretary may impose a penalty against a health insurance issuer or entity providing pharmacy benefits management services that knowingly provides false information under section 726 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for each item of false information. Such penalty shall be in addition to other penalties as may be prescribed by law.

“(C) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive penalties under subparagraph (A), or extend the period of time for compliance with a requirement of section 726, for an entity in violation of such section that has made a good-faith effort to comply with such section.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 725 the following new item:

“Sec. 726. Oversight of pharmacy benefits manager services.”.

(c) IRC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 9826. OVERSIGHT OF PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER SERVICES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, a group health plan, or an entity or subsidiary providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan, shall not enter into a contract with a drug manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, subcontractor, rebate aggregator, or any other third party that limits (or delays beyond the applicable reporting period described in subsection (b)(1)) the disclosure of information to group health plans in such a manner that prevents such plan or entity from making the reports described in subsection (b).

“(b) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to plan years beginning on or after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, not less frequently than every 6 months (or at the request of a group health plan, not less frequently than quarterly, but under the same conditions, terms, and cost of the semiannual report under this subsection), a group health plan, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan, shall submit to the group health plan a report in accordance with this section. Each such report shall be made available to such group health plan in a machine-readable format and shall include the information described in paragraph (2).

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this paragraph is, with respect to drugs covered by a group health plan during each reporting period—

“(A) in the case of such a plan offered by a specified large employer—

“(i) a list of drugs for which a claim was filed and, with respect to each such drug on such list—

“(I) the brand name, chemical entity, and National Drug Code;

“(II) the type of dispensing channel used to furnish such drug, including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy;

“(III) with respect to each drug dispensed under each type of dispensing channel (including retail, mail order, or specialty pharmacy)—

“(aa) whether such drug is a brand name drug or a generic drug, and—

“(AA) in the case of a brand name drug, the wholesale acquisition cost, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

“(BB) in the case of a generic drug, the average wholesale price, listed as cost per days supply and cost per dosage unit, on the date such drug was dispensed; and

“(bb) the total number of—

“(AA) prescription claims (including original prescriptions and refills);

“(BB) participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees for whom a claim for such drug was filed;

“(CC) dosage units per fill of such drug; and

“(DD) days supply of such drug per fill;

“(IV) the net price per course of treatment or single fill, such as a 30-day supply or 90-day supply to the plan after manufacturer rebates, fees, and other remuneration or adjustments;

“(V) the total amount of out-of-pocket spending by participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees on such drug, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles;

“(VI) the total net spending by the plan during the reporting period;

“(VII) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan from any

entity in drug manufacturer rebates, fees, alternative discounts, and all other remuneration received from an entity or any third party (including group purchasing organizations) other than the plan sponsor;

“(VIII) the total amount received, or expected to be received by the plan, from drug manufacturers in rebates, fees, alternative discounts, or other remuneration—

“(aa) that has been paid, or is to be paid, by drug manufacturers for claims incurred during the reporting period; and

“(bb) that is related to utilization rebates for such drug; and

“(IX) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copay assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan for such drug;

“(ii) for each category or class of drugs for which a claim was filed, a breakdown of the total gross spending on drugs in such category or class before rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from drug manufacturers, and the net spending after such rebates, price concessions, alternative discounts, or other remuneration from drug manufacturers, including—

“(I) the number of participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees who filled a prescription for a drug in such category or class, including the National Drug Code for each such drug;

“(II) if applicable, a description of the formulary tiers and utilization mechanisms (such as prior authorization or step therapy) employed for drugs in that category or class;

“(III) the total out-of-pocket spending under the plan by participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, including spending through copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles; and

“(iii) in the case of a drug for which gross spending by such plan or entity exceeded \$10,000 during the reporting period—

“(I) a list of all other drugs in the same therapeutic category or class; and

“(II) the rationale for the formulary placement of such drug in that therapeutic category or class, if applicable; and

“(iv) in the case such plan (or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan) that has an affiliated pharmacy or pharmacy under common ownership—

“(I) the percentage of total prescriptions dispensed by such pharmacies to individuals enrolled in such plan;

“(II) a list of all drugs dispensed by such pharmacies to individuals enrolled in such plan, and, with respect to each drug dispensed—

“(aa) the amount charged, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, or per 90-day supply (as applicable) to the plan, and to participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan;

“(bb) the median amount charged to such plan, and the interquartile range of the costs, per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, including amounts paid by the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, when the same drug is dispensed by other pharmacies that are not affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity and that are included in the pharmacy network of such plan;

“(cc) the lowest cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply and per 90-day supply, for each such drug, including amounts charged to the plan and participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees, that is available from any pharmacy included in the network of such plan; and

“(dd) the net acquisition cost per dosage unit, per 30-day supply, and per 90-day supply, if such drug is subject to a maximum price discount;

“(B) in the case of a plan not described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the total net spending by the plan for all drugs covered by such plan during such reporting period;

“(ii) the total amount received, or expected to be received, by the plan from any entity in drug manufacturer rebates, fees, alternative discounts, and all other remuneration received from an entity or any third party (including group purchasing organizations) other than the plan sponsor for all such drugs; and

“(iii) to the extent feasible, information on the total amount of remuneration, including copayment assistance dollars paid, copayment cards applied, or other discounts provided by each drug manufacturer (or entity administering copay assistance on behalf of such drug manufacturer) to the participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees enrolled in such plan for such drugs;

“(C) amounts paid directly or indirectly in rebates, fees, or any other type of compensation (as defined in section 408(b)(2)(B)(ii)(dd)(AA) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act) to brokers, consultants, advisors, or any other individual or firm, for the referral of the group health plan's business to an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services, including the identity of the recipient of such amounts;

“(D) an explanation of any benefit design parameters that encourage or require participants, beneficiaries, and enrollees in such plan to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are affiliated with or under common ownership with the entity providing pharmacy benefit management services under such plan, including mandatory mail and specialty home delivery programs, retail and mail auto-refill programs, and cost-sharing assistance incentives directly or indirectly funded by such entity; and

“(E) total gross spending on all drugs during the reporting period.

“(3) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a group health plan shall provide information under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the privacy, security, and breach notification regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Clinical Health Act and consistent with the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act) and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy, security, and breach notification regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

“(B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of a group health plan that submits a report under paragraph (1) shall ensure that such report contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—A group health plan shall comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation) and a plan sponsor shall act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regula-

tions (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act).

“(4) DISCLOSURE AND REDISCLOSURE.—

“(A) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A group health plan receiving a report under paragraph (1) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the report was received or to that entity's business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 CFR parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E).

“(B) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such a plan or coverage, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information contained in a report described in paragraph (1), except that such plan, issuer, or entity may not restrict disclosure of such report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, or the Comptroller General of the United States.

“(C) LIMITED FORM OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall define through rulemaking a limited form of the report under paragraph (1) required with respect to group health plans where the plan sponsors of such plans are drug manufacturers, drug wholesalers, or other direct participants in the drug supply chain, in order to prevent anti-competitive behavior.

“(5) REPORT TO GAO.—A group health plan, or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan, shall submit to the Comptroller General of the United States each of the first 4 reports submitted to a group health plan under paragraph (1) and other such reports as requested, in accordance with the privacy requirements under paragraph (3), the disclosure and redisclosure standards under paragraph (4), the standards specified pursuant to paragraph (6), and such other information that the Comptroller General determines necessary to carry out the study under section 106(d) of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

“(6) STANDARD FORMAT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall specify through rulemaking standards for group health plans, and entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plans, required to submit reports under paragraph (1) to submit such reports in a standard format.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit a group health plan or entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan, to restrict disclosure to, or otherwise limit the access of, the Secretary of Health and Human Services to a report described in subsection (b)(1) or information related to compliance with subsections (a) or (b) by entities subject to such subsection.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SPECIFIED LARGE EMPLOYER.—The term ‘specified large employer’ means, in connection with a group health plan with respect to a calendar year and a plan year, an employer who employed an average of at least 50 employees on business days during the preceding calendar year and who employs at least 1 employee on the first day of the plan year.

“(2) WHOLESALE ACQUISITION COST.—The term ‘wholesale acquisition cost’ has the meaning given such term in section 1847A(c)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act.”.



(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item: “Sec. 9826. Oversight of pharmacy benefits manager services.”.

(d) GAO REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON PHARMACY NETWORK DESIGN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on—

(i) pharmacy networks that have contracted with group health plans, health insurance issuers offering group health insurance coverage, or entities providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plans or issuers, including networks with pharmacies that are under common ownership (in whole or part) with such plans, issuers, or entities (including entities that provide pharmacy benefits administrative services on behalf of such plans or issuers);

(ii) pharmacy network design parameters that encourage individuals enrolled in such plans or coverage to fill prescriptions at mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that are wholly or partially owned by a plan, issuer, or entity;

(iii) whether such plans and issuers have options to elect different network pricing arrangements in the marketplace with entities that provide pharmacy benefits management services and the prevalence of electing such different network pricing arrangements;

(iv) with respect to pharmacy networks that include pharmacies under common ownership described in clause (i)—

(I) whether such networks are designed to encourage individuals enrolled in a group health plan or health insurance coverage to use such pharmacies over other network pharmacies for specific services or drugs, and if so, the reasons the networks give for encouraging use of such pharmacies; and

(II) whether such pharmacies are used by enrollees disproportionately more in the aggregate or for specific services or drugs compared to other network pharmacies;

(v) the degree to which mail order, specialty, or retail pharmacies that dispense prescription drugs to an enrollee in a plan or coverage that are under common ownership (in whole or part) with plans, issuers, or entities providing pharmacy benefits management services or pharmacy benefits administrative services on behalf of such plan or coverage receive reimbursement that is greater than the median price charged to the plan or issuer when the same drug is dispensed to enrollees in the plan or coverage by other pharmacies included in the pharmacy network of that plan, issuer, or entity that are not wholly or partially owned by the plan or issuer, or entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or issuer.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall ensure that the report under subparagraph (A) does not contain information that would identify a specific group health plan or health insurance issuer (or an entity providing pharmacy benefits management services on behalf of such plan or issuer), or otherwise contain commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the terms “group health plan”, “health insurance coverage”, and “health insurance issuer” have the meanings given such terms in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91).

(2) REPORT ON COPAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Not later than 18 months after the

date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on what is known about the role of copay assistance programs and the impact of such programs on commercial health insurance, stop loss, and drug prices. Such report shall include to the extent feasible—

(A) a description of copay assistance programs, including—

(i) the types of programs available and the methods of providing copay assistance through such programs, including cash discounts, copay cards, or drugs provided to an individual at no cost;

(ii) how such programs are funded;

(iii) the types of entities that own, operate, or otherwise conduct such programs, the types of information such entities collect, and the direct and indirect contractual relationships between the entities in the drug supply chain that interact with such programs, such as a drug manufacturer, pharmacy, wholesaler, switch, rebate aggregator, pharmacy benefit manager, and other entities in the drug supply chain;

(iv) the effect of such programs on patient out-of-pocket spending, including for stop-loss insurance, and drug utilization, including drug adherence; and

(v) patient eligibility criteria for such programs; and

(B) an analysis of—

(i) the sources of funding for such programs; and

(ii) the effects of such programs on Federal health care programs and the individuals enrolled in such Federal health care programs.

**SEC. 107. REPORTS ON HEALTH CARE TRANSPARENCY TOOLS AND DATA.**

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2024, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees (as defined in subsection (d)) an initial report that—

(1) identifies and describes health care transparency tools and Federal health care reporting requirements (as described in subsection (d)) that are in effect as of the date of the submission of such initial report, including the frequency of reports with respect to each such requirement and whether any such requirements are duplicative;

(2) reviews how such reporting requirements are enforced;

(3) analyzes whether the public availability of health care transparency tools, and the publication of data pursuant to such reporting requirements, has—

(A) been utilized and valued by consumers, including reasons for such utilization (or lack thereof); and

(B) assisted health insurance plan sponsors and fiduciaries improve benefits, lower health care costs for plan participants, and meet fiduciary requirements;

(4) includes recommendations to the Committees, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the Treasury to—

(A) improve the efficiency, accuracy, and usability of health care transparency tools;

(B) streamline Federal health care reporting requirements to eliminate duplicative requirements and reduce the burden on entities required to submit reports pursuant to such provisions;

(C) improve the accuracy and efficiency of such reports while maintaining the integrity and usability of the data provided by such reports;

(D) address any gaps in data provided by such reports; and

(E) ensure that the data and information reported is comparable and usable to consumers, including patients, plan sponsors, and policy makers.

(b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2028, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees a report that includes—

(1) the information provided in the initial report, along with any updates to such information; and

(2) any new information with respect to health care transparency tools that have been released following the submission of such initial report, or new reporting requirements in effect as of the date of the submission of the final report.

(c) REPORT ON EXPANDING PRICE TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than December 31, 2025, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, health care provider groups, and patient advocacy groups, shall submit to the Committees a report that includes recommendations to expand price transparency reporting requirements to additional care settings, with an emphasis on settings where shoppable services (as defined in subsection (d)) are furnished.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMITTEES.—The term “Committees” means the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(2) FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The term “Federal health care reporting requirements” includes regulatory and statutory requirements with respect to the reporting and publication of health care price, cost access, and quality data, including requirements established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260), this Act, and other reporting and publication requirements with respect to transparency in health care as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(3) SHOPPABLE SERVICE.—The term “shoppable service” means a service that can be scheduled by a health care consumer in advance and includes all ancillary items and services customarily furnished as part of such service.

**SEC. 108. REPORT ON INTEGRATION IN MEDICARE.**

(a) REQUIRED MA AND PDP REPORTING.—

(1) MA PLANS.—Section 1857(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–27(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OWNERSHIP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For plan year 2025 and for every third plan year thereafter, each applicable MA organization offering an MA plan under this part during such plan year shall submit to the Secretary, at a time and in a manner specified by the Secretary—

“(i) the taxpayer identification number for each health care provider that was a specified health care provider with respect to such organization during such year;

“(ii) the total amount of incentive-based payments made to, and the total amount of shared losses recoupments collected from, such specified health care providers during such plan year; and

“(iii) the total amount of incentive-based payments made to, and the total amount of shared losses recoupments collected from, providers of services and suppliers not described in clause (ii) during such plan year.

“(B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

“(i) APPLICABLE MA ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘applicable MA organization’ means,

with respect to a plan year, an MA organization with at least 25,000 individuals enrolled under Medicare Advantage plans offered by such organization during such plan year.

“(ii) SPECIFIED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term ‘specified health care provider’ means, with respect to an applicable MA organization and a plan year, a provider of services or supplier with respect to which such organization (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in section 1124(a)(3)) in such organization) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined).”

(2) PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.—Section 1860D–12(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–112(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO PHARMACY OWNERSHIP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For plan year 2025 and for every third plan year thereafter, each PDP sponsor offering a prescription drug plan under this part during such plan year shall submit to the Secretary, at a time and in a manner specified by the Secretary, the taxpayer identification number and National Provider Identifier for each pharmacy that was a specified pharmacy with respect to such sponsor during such year.

“(B) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘specified pharmacy’ means, with respect to an PDP sponsor offering a prescription drug plan and a plan year, a pharmacy with respect to which—

“(i) such sponsor (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in section 1124(a)(3)) in such sponsor) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined); or

“(ii) a pharmacy benefit manager offering services under such plan (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined) in such sponsor) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined).”

(b) MEDPAC REPORTS.—Part E of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x et seq.), as amended by section 101, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 1899D. REPORTS ON VERTICAL INTEGRATION UNDER MEDICARE.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 15, 2029, and every 3 years thereafter, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the state of vertical integration in the health care sector during the applicable year with respect to entities participating in the Medicare program, including health care providers, pharmacies, prescription drug plan sponsors, Medicare Advantage organizations, and pharmacy benefit managers. Such report shall include—

“(1) with respect to Medicare Advantage organizations, the evaluation described in subsection (b);

“(2) with respect to prescription drug plans, pharmacy benefit managers, and pharmacies, the comparisons and evaluations described in subsection (c);

“(3) with respect to Medicare Advantage plans under which benefits are available for physician-administered drugs, the information described in subsection (d);

“(4) the identifications described in subsection (e); and

“(5) an analysis of the impact of such integration on health care access, price, quality, and outcomes.

“(b) MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ORGANIZATIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), the evaluation described in this subsection is, with respect to Medicare Advantage organizations and an applicable year, an evaluation, taking into account patient acuity and

the types of areas serviced by such organization, of—

“(1) the average number of qualifying diagnoses made during such year with respect to enrollees of a Medicare Advantage plan offered by such organization who, during such year, received a health risk assessment from a specified health care provider;

“(2) the average risk score for such enrollees who received such an assessment during such year;

“(3) any relationship between such risk scores for such enrollees receiving such an assessment from such a provider during such year and incentive payments made to such providers;

“(4) the average risk score for enrollees of such plan who received any item or service from a specified health care provider during such year;

“(5) any relationship between the risk scores of enrollees under such plan and whether the enrollees have received any item or service from a specified provider; and

“(6) any relationship between the risk scores of enrollees under such plan that have received any item or service from a specified provider and incentive payments made under the plan to specified providers.

“(c) PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2), the comparisons and evaluations described in this subsection are, with respect to prescription drug plans and an applicable year, the following:

“(1) For each covered part D drug for which benefits are available under such a plan, a comparison of the average negotiated rate in effect with specified pharmacies with such rates in effect for in-network pharmacies that are not specified pharmacies.

“(2) Comparisons of the following:

“(A) The total amount paid by pharmacy benefit managers to specified pharmacies for covered part D drugs and the total amount so paid to pharmacies that are not specified pharmacies for such drugs.

“(B) The total amount paid by such sponsors to specified pharmacy benefit managers as reimbursement for covered part D drugs and the total amount so paid to pharmacy benefit managers that are not specified pharmacy benefit managers as such reimbursement.

“(C) Fees paid under by plan to specified pharmacy benefit managers compared to such fees paid to pharmacy benefit managers that are not specified pharmacy benefit managers.

“(3) An evaluation of the total amount of direct and indirect remuneration for covered part D drugs passed through to prescription drug plan sponsors and the total amount retained by pharmacy benefit managers (including entities under contract with such a manager).

“(4) To the extent that the available data permits, an evaluation of fees charged by rebate aggregators that are affiliated with plan sponsors.

“(d) PHYSICIAN-ADMINISTERED DRUGS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(3), the information described in this subsection is, with respect to physician-administered drugs for which benefits are available under a Medicare Advantage plan during an applicable year, the following:

“(1) With respect to each such plan, an identification of each drug for which benefits were available under such plan only when administered by a health care provider that acquired such drug from an affiliated pharmacy.

“(2) An evaluation of the difference between the total number of drugs administered by a health care provider that were acquired from affiliated pharmacies compared to the number of such drugs so administered that were acquired from pharmacies other

than affiliated pharmacies, and an evaluation of the difference in payments for such drugs so administered when acquired from a specified pharmacy and when acquired from a pharmacy that is not a specified pharmacy.

“(3) An evaluation of the dollar value of all such drugs that were not so administered because of a delay attributable to an affiliated pharmacy compared to the dollar value of all such drugs that were not so administered because of a delay attributable to pharmacy that is not an affiliated pharmacy.

“(4) The number of enrollees administered such a drug that was acquired from an affiliated pharmacy.

“(5) The number of enrollees furnished such a drug that was acquired from a pharmacy that is not an affiliated pharmacy.

“(e) IDENTIFICATIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a)(4), the identifications described in this subsection are, with respect to an applicable year, identifications of each health care entity participating under the Medicare program with respect to which another health care entity so participating is a person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in section 1124(a)(3)).

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AFFILIATED PHARMACY.—The term ‘affiliated pharmacy’ means, with respect to a Medicare Advantage plan offered by a Medicare Advantage organization, a pharmacy with respect to which such organization (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in section 1124(a)(3)) in such organization) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined).

“(2) APPLICABLE YEAR.—The term ‘applicable year’ means, with respect to a report submitted under subsection (a), the first calendar year beginning at least 4 years prior to the date of the submission of such report.

“(3) COVERED PART D DRUG.—The term ‘covered part D drug’ has the meaning given such term in section 1860D–2(e).

“(4) DIRECT AND INDIRECT REMUNERATION.—The term ‘direct and indirect remuneration’ has the meaning given such term in section 423.308 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

“(5) QUALIFYING DIAGNOSIS.—The term ‘qualifying diagnosis’ means, with respect to an enrollee of a Medicare Advantage plan, a diagnosis that is taken into account in calculating a risk score for such enrollee under the risk adjustment methodology established by the Secretary pursuant to section 1853(a)(3).

“(6) RISK SCORE.—The term ‘risk score’ means, with respect to an enrollee of a Medicare Advantage plan, the score calculated for such individual using the methodology described in paragraph (5).

“(7) PHYSICIAN-ADMINISTERED DRUG.—The term ‘physician-administered drug’ means a drug furnished to an individual that, had such individual been enrolled under part B and not enrolled under part C, would have been payable under section 1842(o).

“(8) SPECIFIED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term ‘specified health care provider’ means, with respect to a Medicare Advantage plan offered by a Medicare Advantage organization, a health care provider with respect to which such organization (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in section 1124(a)(3)) in such organization) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined).

“(9) SPECIFIED PHARMACY.—The term ‘specified pharmacy’ means, with respect to a prescription drug plan offered by a prescription drug plan sponsor, a pharmacy with respect to which—

“(A) such sponsor (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in

section 1124(a)(3)) in such sponsor) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined); or

“(B) a pharmacy benefit manager offering services under such plan (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined) in such sponsor) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined).”

“(10) SPECIFIED PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER.—The term ‘specified pharmacy benefit manager’ means, with respect to a prescription drug plan offered by a prescription drug plan sponsor, a pharmacy benefit manager with respect to which such sponsor (or any person with an ownership or control interest (as defined in section 1124(a)(3)) in such sponsor) is a person with an ownership or control interest (as so defined).”

#### SEC. 109. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly convene an advisory committee (in this section referred to as the “committee”) consisting of 9 members to advise the Secretaries on how to improve the usefulness, accessibility, and usability of information made available in accordance with the amendments made by sections 105 and 106, and by section 204 of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260), streamline the reporting of such information, and ensure that—

(1) such information is accurate, accessible, and is delivered in a form and manner consistent with the requirements of such section;

(2) the form and manner in which such information is delivered is routinely updated in accordance with widely-used practices in order to ensure accessibility; and

(3) such information is available for audit (including by making recommendations relating to how Federal and State actors may conduct such audits).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretaries shall jointly appoint members representing end-users of the information described in subsection (a). Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by appointment consistent with this subsection not later than 3 months after the vacancy arises.

(c) TERMINATION.—The committee shall terminate on January 1, 2028.

(d) NONAPPLICAITON OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the committee.

#### SEC. 110. REPORT ON IMPACT OF MEDICARE REGULATIONS ON PROVIDER AND PAYER CONSOLIDATION.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF CERTAIN MEDICARE REGULATIONS ON PROVIDER AND PAYER CONSOLIDATION; PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROVIDER AND PAYER CONSOLIDATION FOR CERTAIN PROPOSED RULES.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall submit to Congress a report on the impact in the aggregate on provider and payer consolidation with respect to regulations for parts A, B, C, and D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) implemented in the calendar year immediately prior to such report. Such report shall include regulations that—

(A) implement a change to an applicable payment system, a rate schedule, or another payment system under part A, B, C, or D of such title; or

(B) result in a significant rule effecting provider or payer consolidation.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT ON IMPACT TO PROVIDER AND PAYER CONSOLIDATION.—Beginning for 2025, as part of any notice and comment rule-

making process that will result in a significant rule effecting provider or payer consolidation with respect to a proposed rule for parts A, B, C, and D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.), the Secretary shall seek public comment on the projected impact of such proposed rule on provider and payer consolidation in the aggregate.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) PROVIDER AND PAYER CONSOLIDATION.—The term “provider and payer consolidation” includes the vertical or horizontal integration among providers of services (as defined in subsection (u) of section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x)), suppliers (as defined in subsection (d) of such section), accountable care organizations under section 1899 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395jjj), Medicare Advantage organizations, PDP sponsors, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmacies, and integrated delivery systems.

(B) APPLICABLE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—The term “applicable payment system” includes—

(i) with respect to outpatient hospital services, the prospective payment system for covered OPD services established under section 1833(t) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l); and

(ii) with respect to physicians’ services, the physician fee schedules established under section 1848 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4).

(b) CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTS ON PROVIDER AND PAYER CONSOLIDATION WITH RESPECT TO CMI MODELS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1115A(b)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(b)(4)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking at the end “and”;

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

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

“(iii) the extent to which, and how, the model has effected and could effect provider and payer consolidation, which includes the vertical or horizontal integration among providers of services (as defined in subsection (u) of section 1861), suppliers (as defined in subsection (d) of such section), and accountable care organizations under section 1899.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to models tested on or after January 1, 2025.

#### SEC. 111. IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes described in subsection (b), there are appropriated, in addition to amounts otherwise available, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Treasury, \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain available through fiscal year 2029.

(b) PERMITTED PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this subsection are the following purposes, insofar as such purposes are to carry out the provisions of, including the amendments made by, this title:

(1) Preparing, drafting, and issuing proposed and final regulations or interim regulations.

(2) Preparing, drafting, and issuing guidance and public information.

(3) Preparing, drafting, and publishing reports.

(4) Enforcement of such provisions.

(5) Reporting, collection, and analysis of data.

(6) Other administrative duties necessary for implementation of such provisions.

(c) TRANSPARENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS.—Each Secretary described in subsection (a) shall annually submit, no later

than September 1st of each year, to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, on Ways and Means, on Education and Workforce, and on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and on the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and on Appropriations of the Senate a report on funds expended pursuant to funds appropriated under this section.

#### TITLE II—REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR PATIENTS

##### SEC. 201. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN GENERIC DRUG APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505(j)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H)(i) Upon request (in controlled correspondence or an analogous process) by a person that has submitted or intends to submit an abbreviated application under this subsection for a drug that is required by regulation to contain one or more of the same inactive ingredients in the same concentrations as the listed drug referred to, or for which the Secretary determines there is a scientific justification for an approach that is in vitro in whole or in part to be used to demonstrate bioequivalence for a drug if such a drug contains one or more of the same inactive ingredients in the same concentrations as the listed drug, the Secretary shall inform the person whether such drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the same as the listed drug. The Secretary may also provide such information to such a person on the Secretary’s own initiative during the review of an abbreviated application under this subsection for such drug.

“(ii) Notwithstanding section 301(j), if the Secretary determines that such drug is not qualitatively or quantitatively the same as the listed drug, the Secretary shall identify and disclose to the person—

“(I) the ingredient or ingredients that cause such drug not to be qualitatively or quantitatively the same as the listed drug; and

“(II) for any ingredient for which there is an identified quantitative deviation, the amount of such deviation.

“(iii) If the Secretary determines that such drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the same as the listed drug, the Secretary shall not change or rescind such determination after the submission of an abbreviated application for such drug under this subsection unless—

“(I) the formulation of the listed drug has been changed and the Secretary has determined that the prior listed drug formulation was withdrawn for reasons of safety or effectiveness; or

“(II) the Secretary makes a written determination that the prior determination must be changed because an error has been identified.

“(iv) If the Secretary makes a written determination described in clause (iii)(II), the Secretary shall provide notice and a copy of the written determination to the person making the request under clause (i).

“(v) The disclosures required by this subparagraph are disclosures authorized by law, including for purposes of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.”

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue draft guidance, or update guidance, describing how the Secretary will determine whether a drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the same as the listed drug (as such terms are used in section 505(j)(3)(H) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a)), including with respect to assessing pH adjusters.

(2) PROCESS.—In issuing guidance under this subsection, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(A) publish draft guidance;

(B) provide a period of at least 60 days for comment on the draft guidance; and

(C) after considering any comments received and not later than one year after the close of the comment period on the draft guidance, publish final guidance.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 505(j)(3)(H) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as added by subsection (a), applies beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, irrespective of the date on which the guidance required by subsection (b) is finalized.

**SEC. 202. IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY AND PREVENTING THE USE OF ABUSIVE SPREAD PRICING AND RELATED PRACTICES IN MEDICAID.**

(a) SPREAD PRICING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1927(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) PHARMACY PRICE REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A contract between the State and a pharmacy benefit manager (in this paragraph referred to as a ‘PBM’), or a contract between the State and a designated entity (as defined in subparagraph (C)) that includes provisions making the designated entity responsible for the administration of medical assistance consisting of covered outpatient drugs for individuals enrolled with the designated entity, shall require that payment for such drugs and related administrative services (as applicable), including payments made by a PBM on behalf of the State or designated entity, is based on a pharmacy price reimbursement model under which—

“(i) any payment made by the designated entity or the PBM (as applicable) for such a drug—

“(I) is limited to—

“(aa) ingredient cost; and

“(bb) a professional dispensing fee that is not less than the professional dispensing fee that the State plan or waiver would pay if the plan or waiver was making the payment directly;

“(II) is passed through in its entirety by the designated entity or PBM to the pharmacy or provider that dispenses the drug and is not retroactively denied or reduced except as permitted or required under Federal or State law or regulation; and

“(III) is made in a manner that is consistent with sections 447.502, 447.512, 447.514, and 447.518 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation) as if such requirements applied directly to the designated entity or the PBM, except that any payment by the designated entity or the PBM for the ingredient cost of such a drug purchased by a covered entity (as defined in subsection (a)(5)(B)) may exceed the actual acquisition cost (as defined in section 447.502 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) for such drug if—

“(aa) such drug was subject to an agreement under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act;

“(bb) such payment for such cost of such drug does not exceed the maximum payment that would have been made by the designated entity or the PBM for the ingredient cost of such drug had such drug not been purchased by such a covered entity; and

“(cc) such covered entity reports to the Secretary, on an annual basis (in a form and manner specified by the Secretary) and with respect to payments for such costs of such drugs so purchased by such covered entity that are in excess of the actual acquisition costs for such drugs, the aggregate amount of such excess;

“(ii) payment to the designated entity or the PBM (as applicable) for administrative services performed by the designated entity or PBM is limited to an administrative fee that reflects the fair market value of providing such services;

“(iii) the designated entity or the PBM (as applicable) makes available to the State, and the Secretary upon request, all costs and payments related to covered outpatient drugs and accompanying administrative services incurred, received, or made by the designated entity or the PBM, including ingredient costs, professional dispensing fees, administrative fees, post-sale and post-invoice fees, discounts, or related adjustments such as direct and indirect remuneration fees, and any and all other remuneration; and

“(iv) any form of spread pricing whereby any amount charged or claimed by the designated entity or the PBM (as applicable) is in excess of the amount paid to the pharmacies by the designated entity or the PBM, including any post-sale or post-invoice fees, discounts, or related adjustments such as direct and indirect remuneration fees or assessments (after allowing for a fair market administrative fee as described in clause (ii)), is not allowable for purposes of claiming Federal matching payments under this title.

“(B) MAKING CERTAIN INFORMATION AVAILABLE.—The Secretary shall publish, not less frequently than on an annual basis, information received by the Secretary pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i)(III)(cc). Such information shall be so published in an electronic and searchable format, such as through the 340B Office of Pharmacy Affairs Information System (or a successor system).

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) DESIGNATED ENTITY.—The term ‘designated entity’ means a managed care entity or other specified entity.

“(ii) MANAGED CARE ENTITY; OTHER SPECIFIED ENTITY.—The terms ‘managed care entity’ and ‘other specified entity’ have the meaning given such terms in section 1903(m)(9)(D).”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1903(m) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(xiii)—

(i) by striking “and (III)” and inserting “(II)”;

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and (IV) with respect to covered outpatient drugs and related administrative services (as applicable) provided by the entity (or by a pharmacy benefit manager on behalf of the entity under a contract or other arrangement with the entity), that payment for such drugs and related administrative services is based on a pharmacy price reimbursement model described in section 1927(e)(6)(A)”;

(iii) by moving the margin 2 ems to the left; and

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

“(10) No payment shall be made under this title to a State with respect to expenditures incurred by it for payment for services provided by an other specified entity (as defined in paragraph (9)(D)) unless the contract between the State and the entity for the provision of such services provides, with respect to covered outpatient drugs and related administrative services (as applicable) provided by the entity (or by a pharmacy benefit manager on behalf of the entity under a contract or other arrangement with the entity), that payment for such drugs and related administrative services is based on a pharmacy price reimbursement model described in section 1927(e)(6)(A).”

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection apply to contracts between States and pharmacy benefit managers and designated entities (as defined in section 1927(e)(6) of the Social Security Act, as added by paragraph (1)) that have an effective date beginning on or after the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ENSURING ACCURATE PAYMENTS TO PHARMACIES UNDER MEDICAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1927(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (1)(A)(i) and all that precedes it through “(1)” and inserting the following:

“(1) DETERMINING PHARMACY ACTUAL ACQUISITION COSTS.—The Secretary shall conduct a survey of retail community pharmacy drug prices to determine the national average drug acquisition cost as follows:

“(A) USE OF VENDOR.—The Secretary may contract services for—

“(i) with respect to retail community pharmacies, the determination of retail survey prices of the national average drug acquisition cost for covered outpatient drugs based on a monthly survey of such pharmacies; and”

(B) by adding at the end of paragraph (1) the following:

“(F) SURVEY REPORTING.—A State shall require that any retail community pharmacy in the State that receives any payment, reimbursement, administrative fee, discount, or rebate related to the dispensing of covered outpatient drugs to individuals receiving benefits under this title, regardless of whether such payment, reimbursement, administrative fee, discount, or rebate is received from the State or a designated entity (as defined in subsection (e)(6)(C)) directly or from a pharmacy benefit manager that has a contract with the State or a designated entity, shall respond to surveys of retail prices conducted under this subsection.

“(G) SURVEY INFORMATION.—Information on national drug acquisition prices obtained under this paragraph shall be made publicly available in a timely manner following the collection of such information and shall include at least the following:

“(i) The monthly response rate to the survey including a list of pharmacies not in compliance with subparagraph (F).

“(ii) The sampling frame and number of pharmacies sampled monthly.

“(iii) Information on price concessions to the pharmacy, including discounts, rebates, and other price concessions, to the extent that such information may be publicly released and is available during the survey period.

“(H) REPORT ON SPECIALTY PHARMACIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date that this subparagraph takes effect, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report examining specialty drug coverage and reimbursement under this title, including—

“(i) a description of how State Medicaid programs define specialty drugs and specialty pharmacies;

“(ii) the amount State Medicaid programs pay for specialty drugs;

“(iii) how States and designated entities (as defined in subsection (e)(6)(C)) determine payment for specialty drugs;

“(iv) the settings in which specialty drugs are dispensed to individuals receiving benefits under this title (such as retail community pharmacies or specialty pharmacies);

“(v) the extent to which specialty drugs (as defined by the respective States) are captured in the national average drug acquisition cost survey (or through another process);

“(vi) examples of specialty drug dispensing fees to support the services associated with dispensing such specialty drugs; and

“(vii) recommendations as to whether specialty pharmacies should be included in the survey of retail prices to ensure national average drug acquisition costs capture drugs sold at specialty pharmacies, and how such specialty pharmacies should be defined.

“(I) ENFORCEMENT.—At the discretion of the Secretary, the Secretary (acting through the Inspector General and in collaboration with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) may enforce non-compliance with this paragraph by a pharmacy through the establishment of penalties until compliance with this paragraph has been completed.”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “(including payment rates under managed care organization as defined in section 1932(a)(1)(B)(i) and PIHPs and PAHPs as defined in section 1903(m)(9)(D)(iii)(I) and (II), respectively)” after “under this title”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, and the basis for such dispensing fees” before the semicolon at the end.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the first day of the first quarter that begins on or after the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 203. PARITY IN MEDICARE PAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES FURNISHED OFF-CAMPUS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(t)(16) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)(16)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(H) PARITY IN FEE SCHEDULE AMOUNT FOR CERTAIN SERVICES FURNISHED BY AN OFF-CAMPUS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A PROVIDER.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (iii), in the case of specified OPD services (as defined in clause (v)) that are furnished during 2025 or a subsequent year by an off-campus outpatient department of a provider (as defined in clause (iv)) (or, in the case of an off-campus outpatient department of a provider that is a hospital described in section 1886(d)(1)(B)(v), or is located in a rural area or a health professional shortage area, such services that are furnished during 2026 or a subsequent year), there shall be substituted for the amount otherwise determined under this subsection for such service and year an amount equal to the payment amount that would have been payable under the applicable payment system under this part (other than under this subsection) had such services been furnished by such a department subject to such payment system pursuant to paragraph (2)(C).

“(ii) NOT BUDGET NEUTRAL IMPLEMENTATION.—In making any budget neutrality adjustments under this subsection for 2025 or a subsequent year, the Secretary shall not take into account the reduced expenditures that result from the application of this subparagraph.

“(iii) TRANSITION.—The Secretary shall provide for a 4-year phase-in of the application of clause (i), with clause (i) being fully applicable for specified OPD services beginning with 2028 (or in the case of an off-campus outpatient department of a provider that is a hospital described in section 1886(d)(1)(B)(v), or is located in a rural area or a health professional shortage area, beginning with 2029).

“(iv) OFF-CAMPUS DEPARTMENT OF A PROVIDER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘off-campus outpatient department of a provider’ means a department of a provider (as defined in section 413.65(a)(2) of

title 42, Code of Federal Regulations) that is not located—

“(I) on the campus (as such term is defined in such section) of such provider; or

“(II) within the distance (described in such definition of campus) from a remote location of a hospital facility (as defined in such section).

“(v) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subparagraph:

“(I) DESIGNATED AMBULATORY PAYMENT CLASSIFICATION GROUP.—The term ‘designated ambulatory payment classification group’ means an ambulatory payment classification group for drug administration services.

“(II) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’ has the meaning given such term in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

“(III) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has the meaning given such term in section 1886(d)(2)(D).

“(IV) SPECIFIED OPD SERVICES.—The term ‘specified OPD services’ means covered OPD services assigned to a designated ambulatory payment classification group.”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1833(t)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) the determination of any payment amount under paragraph (16)(H), including the transition under clause (iii) of such paragraph.”.

**SEC. 204. REQUIRING A SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND AN ATTESTATION FOR EACH OFF-CAMPUS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A PROVIDER.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(23) USE OF UNIQUE HEALTH IDENTIFIERS; ATTESTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No payment may be made under this subsection (or under an applicable payment system pursuant to paragraph (21)) for items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2026, by an off-campus outpatient department of a provider (as defined in subparagraph (C)) unless—

“(i) such department has obtained, and such items and services are billed under, a standard unique health identifier for health care providers (as described in section 1173(b)) that is separate from such identifier for such provider; and

“(ii) such provider has submitted to the Secretary, during the 2-year period ending on the date such items and services are so furnished, an attestation that such department is compliant with the requirements described in section 413.65 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

“(B) PROCESS FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall, through notice and comment rule-making, establish a process for each provider with an off-campus outpatient department of a provider to submit an attestation pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii), and for the Secretary to review each such attestation and determine, through site visits, remote audits, or other means (as determined appropriate by the Secretary), whether such department is compliant with the requirements described in such subparagraph.

“(C) OFF-CAMPUS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A PROVIDER DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘off-campus outpatient department of a provider’ means a department of a provider (as defined in section 413.65 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation) that is not located—

“(i) on the campus (as defined in such section) of such provider; or

“(ii) within the distance (described in such definition of campus) from a remote location of a hospital facility (as defined in such section).”.

(b) HHS OIG ANALYSIS.—Not later than January 1, 2030, the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress—

(1) an analysis of the process established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct the reviews and determinations described in section 1833(t)(23)(B) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(2) recommendations based on such analysis, as the Inspector General determines appropriate.

**TITLE III—SUPPORTING PATIENTS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, AND HOSPITALS**

**SEC. 301. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.**

(a) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) ADDITION TO CAPPED AMOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025.—Paragraph (2) of section 340H(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ADDITION.—Notwithstanding any provision of this section, for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the Secretary may use any amounts made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section (including amounts recouped under subsection (f)) to make payments described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (1)(B), in addition to the total amount of funds appropriated under subsection (g).”.

(2) RECONCILIATION.—Section 340H(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Secretary shall determine” and inserting the following:

“(1) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary shall determine”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report specifying—

“(A) the total amount of funds recouped under paragraph (1);

“(B) the rationale for the funds being recouped; and

“(C) in the case of the reports for each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the total amount of funds recouped under paragraph (1) that were used pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(C) to adjust total payment amounts above the total amounts appropriated under subsection (g).”.

(3) FUNDING.—Section 340H(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)) is amended—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary, not to exceed—

“(A) \$230,000,000, for the period of fiscal years 2011 through 2015;

“(B) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017;

“(C) \$126,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023;

“(D) \$16,635,616 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on November 17, 2023;

“(E) \$21,834,247 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024;

“(F) \$136,530,137 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024;

“(G) \$175,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

“(H) \$225,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and

“(I) \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028, 2029, and 2030.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) AVAILABILITY.—The amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.”.

(b) EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1)(F) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)(F)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” before “\$690,410,959”; and

(2) by inserting “, \$3,183,561,644 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, \$4,400,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$1,109,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025” before the semicolon at the end.

(c) EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at the end;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) \$255,726,028 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$88,219,178 for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025.”.

(d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report assessing the effectiveness of the National Health Service Corps at attracting health care professionals to HPSAs, including by—

(A) assessing the metrics used by the Health Resources and Services Administration in evaluating the program;

(B) comparing the retention rates of NHSC participants in the HPSAs where they completed their period of obligated service to the retention rate of non-NHSC participants in the corresponding HPSAs;

(C) comparing the retention rates of NHSC participants in the HPSAs where they completed their period of obligated service to the retention rates of NHSC participants in HPSAs other than those where they completed their period of obligated service;

(D) identifying factors that influence a NHSC participant's decision to practice in a HPSA other than the HPSA where they completed their period of obligated service;

(E) identifying factors other than participation in the National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs that attract health care professionals to a HPSA;

(F) assessing the impact the National Health Service Corps has on wages for health care professionals in a HPSA; and

(G) comparing the distribution of NHSC participants across HPSAs, including a comparison of rural versus non-rural HPSAs.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(A) The term “HPSA” means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

(B) The term “NHSC participant” means a National Health Service Corps member participating in the National Health Service Corps Scholarship or Loan Repayment Program.

(e) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 117–328 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (4) of section 3014(h) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 2321(d) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act” and inserting “section 2321(d) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act, and section 301(e) of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act”.

#### SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–2(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) \$124,383,562 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, to remain available until expended;

“(G) \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended; and

“(H) \$42,849,315 for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

(b) EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–3(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) \$124,383,562 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024, to remain available until expended;

“(G) \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended; and

“(H) \$42,849,315 for the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, to remain available until expended.”.

#### SEC. 303. DELAYING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE PAYMENT CUTS.

Section 1923(f)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–4(f)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking “For the period beginning January 20, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and for each of fiscal years 2025” and inserting “For each of fiscal years 2026”; and

(B) by striking “or period” each place such term appears; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “for the period beginning January 20, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and for each of fiscal years 2025” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2026”.

#### SEC. 304. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w–1(b)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “\$6,357,117,810” and inserting “\$0”.

## TITLE IV—INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH DATA AND LOWERING HIDDEN FEES

### SEC. 401. INCREASING PLAN FIDUCIARIES' ACCESS TO HEALTH DATA.

(a) PLAN FIDUCIARY ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 408(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) No contract or arrangement for services between a group health plan and any other entity, including a health care provider (including a health care facility), network or association of providers, service provider offering access to a network of providers, third-party administrator, or pharmacy benefit manager, is reasonable within the meaning of this paragraph unless such contract or arrangement—

“(i) allows the responsible plan fiduciary (as defined in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I)(ee)) to audit or review all de-identified claims and encounter information or data described in section 724(a)(1)(B) to—

“(I) ensure that such entity complies with the terms of the plan and any applicable law; and

“(II) determine the reasonableness of compensation received by such entity; and

“(ii) does not—

“(I) unreasonably limit the number of audits permitted during a given period of time;

“(II) limit the number of de-identified claims and encounter information or data that the responsible plan fiduciary may access during an audit;

“(III) limit the disclosure of pricing terms for value-based payment arrangements or capitated payment arrangements, including—

“(aa) payment calculations and formulas;

“(bb) quality measures;

“(cc) contract terms;

“(dd) payment amounts;

“(ee) measurement periods for all incentives; and

“(ff) other payment methodologies used by an entity, including a health care provider (including a health care facility), network or association of providers, service provider offering access to a network of providers, third-party administrator, or pharmacy benefit manager;

“(IV) limit the disclosure of overpayments and overpayment recovery terms;

“(V) limit the right of the responsible plan fiduciary to select an auditor;

“(VI) otherwise limit or unduly delay by greater than 60 calendar days after the date of request the responsible plan fiduciary from auditing all de-identified claims and encounter information or data; or

“(VII) permit the entity to charge a fee beyond the reasonable direct costs to provide the required information and otherwise comply and assist with an audit request.”.

(2) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 502 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1132) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) In the case of an agreement between a group health plan and a health care provider (including a health care facility), network or association of providers, service provider offering access to a network of providers, third-party administrator, or pharmacy benefit manager, that violates the provisions of section 724, the Secretary may assess a civil penalty against such provider, network or association, service provider offering access to a network of providers, third-party administrator, pharmacy benefit manager, or other service provider in the

amount of \$10,000 for each day during which such violation continues. Such penalty shall be in addition to other penalties as may be prescribed by law.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (6) of section 502(a) of such Act is amended by striking “or (9)” and inserting “(9), or (13)”.

(3) EXISTING PROVISIONS VOID.—Section 410 of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Any provision in an agreement or instrument shall be void as against public policy if such provision—

“(1) unduly delays or limits a plan fiduciary from accessing the de-identified claims and encounter information or data described in section 724(a)(1)(B); or

“(2) violates the requirements of section 408(b)(2)(C).”.

(b) UPDATED ATTESTATION FOR PRICE AND QUALITY INFORMATION.—Section 724(a)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (29 U.S.C. 1185m(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) ATTESTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the plan fiduciary of a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall annually submit to the Secretary an attestation that such plan or issuer of such coverage is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection. Such attestation shall also include a statement verifying that—

“(i) the information or data described under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) is available upon request and provided to the plan fiduciary, the plan administrator, or the issuer in a timely manner; and

“(ii) there are no terms in the agreement under such paragraph (1) that directly or indirectly restrict or unduly delay a plan fiduciary, the plan administrator, or the issuer from auditing, reviewing, or otherwise accessing such information, except as permitted under section 408(b)(2)(C).

“(B) LIMITATION ON SUBMISSION.—Subject to clause (ii), a group health plan or issuer offering group health insurance coverage may not enter into an agreement with a third-party administrator or other service provider to submit the attestation required under subparagraph (A).

“(C) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a group health plan or issuer offering group health insurance coverage that is unable to obtain the information or data needed to submit the attestation required under subparagraph (A), such plan or issuer may submit a written statement in lieu of such attestation that includes—

“(i) an explanation of why such plan or issuer was unsuccessful in obtaining such information or data, including whether such plan or issuer was limited or prevented from auditing, reviewing, or otherwise accessing such information or data;

“(ii) a description of the efforts made by the plan fiduciary to remove any gag clause provisions from the agreement under paragraph (1); and

“(iii) a description of any response by the third-party administrator or other service provider with respect to efforts to comply with the attestation requirement under subparagraph (A).”.

(c) REPORT ON PLAN ASSETS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the status of de-identified claims and encounter information or data described in section 724(a)(1)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C.

1185m), including information on the following:

(1) Whether changes to regulations or guidance would permit such information or data to be deemed a group health plan asset (as defined under section 3(42) of such Act).

(2) Whether restrictions on the ability of a plan fiduciary to access such information or data violates a requirement of current law.

(3) The existing regulatory authority of the Secretary to clarify whether such information or data is the property of a group health plan, rather than a service provider.

(4) Legislative recommendations to establish that such information or data related to a plan belongs to a group health plan and is handled in the best interests of plan participants and beneficiaries.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to a plan beginning with the first plan year that begins on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 402. HIDDEN FEES DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION OF FEE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS TO COVERED SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

(1) SERVICES.—Clause (ii)(I)(bb) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended—

(A) in subitem (AA) by striking “Brokerage services,” and inserting “Services (including brokerage services),”; and

(B) in subitem (BB)—

(i) by striking “Consulting,” and inserting “Other services,”; and

(ii) by inserting “any of the following:” before “plan design”.

(2) DISCLOSURES.—Clause (iii)(III) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “, either in the aggregate or by service,” and inserting “by service”.

(b) STRENGTHENING DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS AND THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATORS FOR GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—

(1) CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER SERVICES CONSIDERED AS INDIRECT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended—

(i) by striking “requirements of this clause” and inserting “requirements of this subparagraph”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of applying section 406(a)(1)(C) with respect to a transaction described under this subparagraph, a contract or arrangement for services between a covered plan and a health insurance issuer providing health insurance coverage in connection with the covered plan in which the health insurance issuer contracts, in connection with such plan, with a service provider for pharmacy benefit management services shall be considered to constitute an indirect furnishing of goods, services, or facilities between the plan and the service provider acting as the party in interest.”.

(B) HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE DEFINED.—Clause (ii)(I)(aa) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end “and the terms ‘health insurance coverage’ and ‘health insurance issuer’ have the meanings given such terms in section 733(b)”.

(C) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Clause (ii)(I)(aa) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of

1974 (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is further amended by inserting “in” after “defined”.

(2) SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (iii) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(VII) With respect to a contract or arrangement with the covered plan in connection with the provision of pharmacy benefit management services, as part of the description required under subclauses (III) and (IV)—

“(aa) all compensation described in clause (ii)(I)(dd)(AA), including fees, rebates, alternative discounts, co-payment offsets, and other remuneration expected to be received by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor from a pharmaceutical manufacturer, distributor, rebate aggregator, accumulator, and maximizer, group purchasing organization, or any other third party;

“(bb) the amount and form of any rebates, discounts, or price concessions, including the amount expected to be passed through to the plan sponsor or the participants and beneficiaries under the covered plan;

“(cc) all compensation expected to be received by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor as a result of paying a lower amount for the drug than the amount charged as a copayment, coinsurance amount, or deductible;

“(dd) all compensation expected to be received by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor as a result of paying pharmacies less than what is charged the health plan, plan sponsor, or participants and beneficiaries under the covered plan; and

“(ee) all compensation expected to be received by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor from drug manufacturers and any other third party in exchange for—

“(AA) administering, invoicing, allocating, or collecting rebates related to the covered plan;

“(BB) providing business services and activities, including providing access to drug utilization data;

“(CC) keeping a percentage of the list price of a drug; or

“(DD) any other reason related to the role of a covered service provider as a conduit between the drug manufacturers or any other third party and the covered plan.”.

(B) ANNUAL DISCLOSURE.—Clause (v) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(III) A covered service provider, with respect to a contract or arrangement with the covered plan in connection with providing pharmacy benefit management services, shall disclose, on an annual basis not later than 60 days after the beginning of the current plan year, to a responsible plan fiduciary, in writing, the following with respect to the twelve months preceding the current plan year:

“(aa) All direct compensation described in subclause (III) of clause (iii) and indirect compensation described in subclause (IV) of clause (iii) received by the covered service provider (including such compensation described in subclause (VII) of clause (iii)).

“(bb) The total gross spending by the covered plan on drugs (excluding rebates, discounts, or other price concessions).

“(cc) The total net spending by the covered plan on drugs.

“(dd) The total gross spending at all pharmacies wholly or partially owned by the covered service provider or any entity affiliated with the covered service provider, including

mail-order, specialty and retail pharmacies, with a breakdown by individual pharmacy location.

“(ee) The aggregate amount of clawback from such pharmacies, including mail-order, specialty, and retail pharmacies.

“(AA) categorical explanations (grouped by the reason for clawback, such as contractual true-up provisions, overpayments, or non-covered medication dispensed, and including information on the amount in each category that was passed through to the covered plan and to participants and beneficiaries of the covered plan); or

“(BB) individual explanations for such clawbacks.

“(ff) Total aggregate amounts of fees collected by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor in connection with the provision of pharmacy benefit management services to the covered plan.

“(gg) Any other information specified by the Secretary through regulations or guidance that may be necessary for a responsible plan fiduciary to consider the merits of the contract or arrangement with the covered service provider and any conflicts of interest that may exist.”.

(C) PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEFINED.—Clause (ii)(I) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(gg) The term ‘pharmacy benefit management services’ includes any services provided by a covered service provider to a covered plan with respect to the administration of prescription drug benefits under the covered plan, including—

“(AA) processing and payment of claims;

“(BB) design of pharmacy networks;

“(CC) negotiation, aggregation, and distribution of rebates, discounts, and other price concessions;

“(DD) formulary design and maintenance;

“(EE) operation of pharmacies (whether retail, mail order, specialty drug, or otherwise);

“(FF) recordkeeping;

“(GG) utilization review;

“(HH) adjudication of claims; and

“(II) any other services specified by the Secretary through guidance or rulemaking.”.

(D) CLAWBACK DEFINED.—Clause (ii)(I) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)), as amended by subparagraph (C), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(hh) The term ‘clawback’ means amounts collected by a provider of pharmacy benefit management services from a pharmacy for copayments collected from a participant or beneficiary in excess of the contracted rate.”.

(3) SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR GROUP HEALTH PLANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (iii) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)), as amended by paragraph (2)(A), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(VIII) With respect to a contract or arrangement with the covered plan in connection with the provision of third party administration services for group health plans, as part of the description required under subclauses (III) and (IV)—

“(aa) the amount and form of any rebates, discounts, savings fees, refunds, or amounts received from providers and facilities, including the amounts that will be retained by the covered service provider as a fee;

“(bb) the amount and form of fees expected to be received from other service providers in relation to the covered plan, including the

amounts that will be retained by the covered service provider as a fee; and

“(cc) the amount and form of expected recoveries by the covered service provider, including the amounts that will be retained by the covered service provider as a fee (disaggregated by category), as a result of—

“(AA) overpayments;

“(BB) erroneous payments;

“(CC) uncashed checks or incomplete payments;

“(DD) billing errors;

“(EE) subrogation;

“(FF) fraud; or

“(GG) any other reason on behalf of the covered plan.”.

(B) ANNUAL DISCLOSURE.—Clause (v) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)), as amended by paragraph (2)(B), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) A covered service provider, with respect to a contract or arrangement with the covered plan in connection with providing third party administration services for group health plans, shall disclose, on an annual basis not later than 60 days after the beginning of the current plan year, to a responsible plan fiduciary, in writing, the following with respect to the twelve months preceding the current plan year:

“(aa) All direct compensation described in subclause (III) of clause (iii).

“(bb) All indirect compensation described in subclause (IV) of clause (iii) received by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor (including such compensation described in subclause (VIII) of clause (iii)).

“(cc) The aggregate amount for which the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor received indirect compensation and the estimated amount of cost-sharing incurred by plan participants and beneficiaries as a result.

“(dd) The total gross spending by the covered plan on all costs and fees arising under or paid under the administrative services agreement with the covered service provider (not including any amounts described in items (aa) through (cc) of clause (iii)(VIII)).

“(ee) The total net spending by the covered plan on all costs and fees arising under or paid under the administrative services agreement with the covered service provider.

“(ff) The aggregate fees collected by the covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor.

“(gg) Any other information specified by the Secretary through regulations or guidance that may be necessary for a responsible plan fiduciary to consider the merits of the contract or arrangement with the covered service provider and any conflicts of interest that may exist.”.

(C) THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR GROUP HEALTH PLANS DEFINED.—Clause (ii)(I) of section 408(b)(2)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)(B)), as amended by paragraph (2)(C), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) The term ‘third party administration services for group health plans’ includes any services provided by a covered service provider, an affiliate, or a subcontractor to a covered plan with respect to the administration of health benefits under the covered plan, including—

“(AA) the processing, repricing, and payment of claims;

“(BB) design, creation, and maintenance of provider networks;

“(CC) negotiation of discounts off gross rates;

“(DD) benefit and plan design;

“(EE) negotiation of payment rates;

“(FF) recordkeeping;

“(GG) utilization review;

“(HH) adjudication of claims;

“(II) regulatory compliance; and

“(JJ) any other services set forth in an administrative services agreement or similar agreement or specified by the Secretary through rulemaking.”.

(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section shall be construed to imply that a practice in relation to which a covered service provider is required to provide information as a result of such amendments is permissible under Federal law.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—No contract or arrangement entered into prior to January 1, 2025, shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (b).

(c) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 408(b)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1108(b)(2)), as amended by section 401, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—Covered service providers shall provide information under subparagraph (B) in a manner consistent with the privacy, security, and breach notification regulations promulgated under section 13402(a) of the Health Information Technology for Clinical Health Act (42 U.S.C. 17932(a)), and consistent with the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act) and shall restrict the use and disclosure of such information according to such privacy, security, and breach notification regulations and such HIPAA privacy regulations.

“(E) DISCLOSURE AND REDISCLURE.—

“(i) LIMITATION TO BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.—A responsible plan fiduciary receiving information disclosed under subparagraph (B) may disclose such information only to the entity from which the information was received, the group health plan for which the information pertains, or to that entity’s business associates as defined in section 160.103 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations) or as permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 CFR parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E).

“(ii) CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage, or a covered service provider, from placing reasonable restrictions on the public disclosure of the information described in this subparagraph, except that such plan, issuer, or entity may not restrict disclosure of such information to the Department of Labor.

“(F) ADDITIONAL PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Covered service providers shall ensure that information provided under subparagraph (B) contains only summary health information, as defined in section 164.504(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(ii) RESTRICTIONS.—A group health plan must comply with section 164.504(f) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations and a responsible plan administrator who is a plan sponsor must act in accordance with the terms of the agreement described in such section.

“(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to modify the requirements for the creation, receipt, maintenance, or transmission of protected health information under the HIPAA privacy regulations (as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act).”.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall issue notice and comment rulemaking as necessary to implement the provisions of this section. The Secretary shall ensure that such rulemaking—



(1) accounts for the varied compensation practices of covered service providers (as defined under section 408(b)(2)(B); and

(2) establishes standards for the disclosure of expected compensation by such covered service providers.

**SEC. 403. PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE INFORMATION REQUIREMENT.**

(a) PHSA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part D of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by section 106, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 2799A-12. INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage shall—

“(1) not restrict, directly or indirectly, any pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug to an enrollee in the plan or coverage from informing (or penalize such pharmacy for informing) an enrollee of any differential between the enrollee’s out-of-pocket cost under the plan or coverage with respect to acquisition of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for acquisition of the drug without using any group health plan or health insurance coverage; and

“(2) ensure that any entity that provides pharmacy benefits management services under a contract with any such health plan or health insurance coverage does not, with respect to such plan or coverage, restrict, directly or indirectly, a pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug from informing (or penalize such pharmacy for informing) an enrollee of any differential between the enrollee’s out-of-pocket cost under such plan or coverage with respect to acquisition of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for acquisition of the drug without using any group health plan or health insurance coverage.

“(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘out-of-pocket cost’, with respect to acquisition of a drug, means the amount to be paid by the enrollee under the plan or coverage, including any cost-sharing (including any deductible, copayment, or coinsurance) and, as determined by the Secretary, any other expenditure.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2729 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-29) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) SUNSET.—The preceding provisions of this section shall not apply beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection.”.

(b) ERISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part 7 of Subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185 et seq.), as amended by section 106, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 727. INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan or a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage shall—

“(1) not restrict, directly or indirectly, any pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug to a participant or beneficiary in the plan or coverage from informing (or penalize such pharmacy for informing) a participant or beneficiary of any differential between the participant’s or beneficiary’s out-of-pocket cost under the plan or coverage with respect to acquisition of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for acquisition of the drug without using any group health plan or health insurance coverage; and

“(2) ensure that any entity that provides pharmacy benefits management services under a contract with any such health plan or health insurance coverage does not, with

respect to such plan or coverage, restrict, directly or indirectly, a pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug from informing (or penalize such pharmacy for informing) a participant or beneficiary of any differential between the participant’s or beneficiary’s out-of-pocket cost under such plan or coverage with respect to acquisition of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for acquisition of the drug without using any group health plan or health insurance coverage.

“(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘out-of-pocket cost’, with respect to acquisition of a drug, means the amount to be paid by the participant or beneficiary under the plan or coverage, including any cost-sharing (including any deductible, copayment, or coinsurance) and, as determined by the Secretary, any other expenditure.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 106, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 726 the following new item:

“Sec. 727. Information on prescription drugs.”.

(c) IRC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 106, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 9827. INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A group health plan shall—

“(1) not restrict, directly or indirectly, any pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug to a participant or beneficiary in the plan from informing (or penalize such pharmacy for informing) a participant or beneficiary of any differential between the participant’s or beneficiary’s out-of-pocket cost under the plan with respect to acquisition of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for acquisition of the drug without using any group health plan or health insurance coverage; and

“(2) ensure that any entity that provides pharmacy benefits management services under a contract with any such plan does not, with respect to such plan or coverage, restrict, directly or indirectly, a pharmacy that dispenses a prescription drug from informing (or penalize such pharmacy for informing) a participant or beneficiary of any differential between the participant’s or beneficiary’s out-of-pocket cost under the plan with respect to acquisition of the drug and the amount an individual would pay for acquisition of the drug without using any group health plan or health insurance coverage.

“(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘out-of-pocket cost’, with respect to acquisition of a drug, means the amount to be paid by the participant or beneficiary under the plan, including any cost-sharing (including any deductible, copayment, or coinsurance) and, as determined by the Secretary, any other expenditure.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 100 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 106, is further amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 9827. Information on prescription drugs.”.

**SEC. 404. IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes described in subsection (b), and in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes there are appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,

to the Secretary of Labor \$35,000,000, for fiscal year 2024, to remain available through fiscal year 2029.

(b) PERMITTED PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this subsection are limited to the following purposes, insofar as such purposes are to carry out the provisions of, including the amendments made by, title I and IV:

(1) Preparing, drafting, and issuing proposed and final regulations or interim regulations.

(2) Preparing, drafting, and issuing guidance and public information.

(3) Preparing, drafting, and publishing reports.

(4) Enforcement of such provisions.

(5) Reporting, collection, and analysis of data.

(6) Other administrative duties necessary for implementation of such provisions.

(c) TRANSPARENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS.—The Secretary of Labor shall annually submit, no later than September 1st of each year, to the Committees on Education and Workforce and on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and on Appropriations of the Senate a report on funds expended pursuant to funds appropriated under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAL-LONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Lower Cost, More Transparency Act. We all know that healthcare is too expensive, and the system is far too complicated. In the Committee on Energy and Commerce, we have heard countless stories about real patients who were victims of an opaque system and were on the hook for staggering amounts of money for seeing a doctor, going to a hospital, or getting medicine.

We heard about a patient who tried to shop for her care and was billed thousands of dollars more than what she was quoted. We heard about a patient who was overcharged \$11,000 by a hospital for services she didn’t receive. We heard moving testimony from cancer patient advocates about policies we can enact right now to lower their drug costs.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act includes these and other policies that would directly help all these patients. It lowers costs for Americans through increased healthcare price transparency. It ensures that senior citizens on Medicare never pay more for a drug because of where it is administered, and it makes drug prices transparent to help patients and employers

get the best deals possible on medicines.

Over 90 percent of Americans support increased price transparency in healthcare. By passing this bill, we will be delivering results people are counting on. Further, CBO confirms that the bill would save taxpayers more than \$700 million over the next decade.

I thank Chairman JASON SMITH, Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX, and Ranking Member FRANK PALLONE for their leadership. I thank Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE for working with us to bring this bill to the floor today.

Also, a special thank you to Ranking Member PALLONE's team, notably Tiffany Guarascio, Waverly Gordon, Una Lee, and Saha Khaterzai for working with us to find this bipartisan agreement.

Finally, I thank my own staff, especially Grace Graham, Corey Ensslin, and Kristin Flukey for their tireless efforts that will make a meaningful difference for patients all across this Nation.

In sum, this bill is a legislative opportunity, bipartisan, regular order, and fully paid for. It advances foundational healthcare reforms for patients, lowers healthcare costs, and reduces the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act. This bipartisan bill does exactly what it says it does: It delivers lower healthcare costs for the American people and brings much-needed transparency to our Nation's healthcare system.

Access to affordable healthcare remains a major challenge for many American families. More than 40 percent of adults say they have either delayed or forgone medical care because of high costs. Prices for healthcare services also vary widely. Consumers often have difficulty obtaining price information to begin with. Another problem is that the information can be misleading or inaccurate, making it difficult for consumers to compare prices across healthcare providers before receiving care. Too many patients are forced to wait until after they receive care and receive their medical bill to see what they actually owe.

H.R. 5378 brings some much-needed transparency to the healthcare system by codifying and strengthening important price transparency protections. It is a victory for everyone who has ever struggled to navigate and understand the cost of a healthcare procedure or a prescription drug at the pharmacy counter. These measures will empower consumers and employers with data on the prices hospitals charge and the rates insurers pay so that they can compare prices and save money.

It also increases transparency of how pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs,

affect drug prices at the pharmacy counter. This will also help increase competition and lower healthcare costs for Americans. We have added new language in the bill to enhance the privacy protections for consumers' health information and to ensure that the full protection of the HIPAA privacy rule is applicable.

I also want to mention, Mr. Speaker, the bill reduces costs for patients by ensuring Medicare beneficiaries are not paying more for the exact same drug because it was administered in a hospital outpatient department instead of a physician's office. It will also build on Democrats' work to rein in the soaring cost of prescription drugs by requiring the FDA to provide more information to generic drug manufacturers during the development process. This will help speed up the path to market and increase competition sooner to lower drug prices faster. All of these provisions in this bill will help make healthcare and prescription drugs more affordable for the American people.

I also want to mention, Mr. Speaker, that H.R. 5378 will also make healthcare more accessible to American families thanks to critical investments in our Nation's public health programs that serve low-income and uninsured patients. The bill includes increased funding for community health centers at \$4.4 billion per year, an unprecedented 10 percent increase over current funding levels.

Community health centers are a critical source of primary healthcare for more than 30 million patients, 1 in every 11 Americans. These centers deliver high-quality, affordable healthcare to some of our most vulnerable communities, and this increased funding will allow these centers to continue providing this critical care.

The bill increases funding for the National Health Service Corps, which places doctors in high-need communities. It also includes an unprecedented 7 years of funding, more than double the funding under current law, for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program to support the training of primary care physicians in community-based settings. This program helps address doctor shortages in underserved areas as graduates of the program are likely to practice close to their training sites and to care for underserved patients. This long-term funding will help bring more certainty to the program to ensure that teaching health centers can plan and recruit for their residency programs.

Finally, the bill also reauthorizes and increases funding for both the Special Diabetes Program and Special Diabetes Program for Indians. These programs provide critical investments in diabetes research and care.

I will also mention that H.R. 5378 eliminates looming cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospitals to support these high-need hospitals that provide care for large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients.

The increased funding for each of these public health and workforce programs is essential to ensuring access to care for our constituents across the country. All of this funding is fully offset with policies that will further strengthen our healthcare system and help reduce costs for American families.

Mr. Speaker, when a version of this bill came before the Committee on Energy and Commerce, it passed unanimously with bipartisan support. Chair RODGERS and I have been working on this bill all year, and I commend her for her ongoing commitment to get it across the finish line. It is an important bill that delivers meaningful results.

I will also take an opportunity to thank some of the staff who have worked on this. From my committee staff, I thank Tiffany Guarascio, Waverly Gordon, Una Lee, Saha Khaterzai, Rick Van Buren, Stephen Holland, and Lydia Abma. From the Republican staff, I thank Nate Hodson, Sarah Burke, Grace Graham, and Corey Ensslin.

Floor action today simply would not have been possible without months of long-term commitment by the staff on both sides of the aisle to get this done. I think you can tell that I really think this is probably one of the most important bills that will come out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce this session. It is truly bipartisan, which is another thing I think is very important right now.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill to lower healthcare costs for the American people and to make healthcare more accessible.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to engage in a colloquy with Ranking Member PALLONE.

This bill codifies and strengthens healthcare price transparency requirements. Congress asserting itself to declare price transparency the law of the land is critical, but Congress can't account for every specificity and eventuality that is needed to ensure price transparency policies established by the Trump and Biden administrations are set in stone. We have to allow implementing agencies discretion to update regulations that reflect changes in terminology and technology over time.

For example, with respect to health insurance price transparency, it is the intent of this House that this law shall be implemented to ensure that health plans report the prices that they have negotiated with the hospitals, other providers, and drug manufacturers to allow patients and employers purchasing coverage to use these data to drive down healthcare prices through open competition.

Under existing regulations, health plans and insurers must disclose very specific price information for all

healthcare items and services. This bill codifies the authority holding up those regulations to ensure that such robust data continues to be disclosed. These data include all billing codes and modifiers, using industry-standard, government-recognized, commonly used code sets used by all medical providers to define specific healthcare items and services. We ensure the data are accurate by requiring providers' ID codes, place of service codes, and health plan identifiers assigned to the group health plan and insurer, all critical information that makes price disclosures comparable across different health plans.

It is our intent that the requirements for transparency in coverage should be as comprehensive as possible, without limitations. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I concur with my colleagues and partners in crafting this important bipartisan piece of legislation that is intended to codify and improve upon the robust requirements that exist in the regulations that have been implemented by both the Trump and Biden administrations. With this bill, we seek to bring true health price transparency to lower costs for patients, employers, and unions purchasing health coverage.

This bill is a floor, not a ceiling, and I intend that the implementing agencies will use the discretion left to them to ensure that health plans and insurers disclose the detailed price information and necessary data on reimbursement rates for healthcare items and services. We intend to follow this colloquy with a bipartisan letter to the agencies reiterating our expectations in greater detail.

In addition, in further colloquy with Chair RODGERS, I address a technical change that needs to be made to the bill in negotiations with the Senate. In the new version of the bill, we have limited the drug price data flowing to small employers in order to strengthen health privacy protections for their employees. However, I want to make clear that we did not intend to exclude multiemployer, public sector, or retiree-only and union health plans under this new provision, and we are committed to fixing this issue before the bill becomes law. Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT also agrees with this perspective.

I ask Chair RODGERS if she would concur with me that we make sure this issue is addressed in our negotiation with the Senate and before the bill becomes law.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for his ongoing leadership, and I agree it is critical that the legislation meets our intent when it comes to ensuring that the PBMs must be transparent with multiemployer, public sector, and retiree-only health plans along with all other employer health plans. I do concur that we will address

this issue in negotiations with the Senate, and I look forward to working to make sure this bill becomes law.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

□ 1615

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this transparency bill lacks transparency on two of the major problems that are impacting soaring healthcare costs. The only reason to reject transparency for, first, private equity and, second, Medicare Advantage is that they have got more to hide and apparently more lobbying power.

A growing private equity takeover of healthcare has already undermined care in nursing homes and now threatens hospitals and medical specialty practices across the United States with higher prices, higher cost to taxpayers, and less quality.

A Senate committee has just launched a major investigation into the impact of private equity on hospital costs and lower quality care.

Having failed to save taxpayers a dime that was promised—of the many millions that was promised—Medicare Advantage costs \$1,500 per person each year over the cost of traditional Medicare. That is billions in wasted taxpayer dollars.

The best way to fund much-needed services at community health centers and to expand and improve and strengthen Medicare with services such as dental, hearing, and vision is to take it right out of Medicare Advantage.

This bill, I believe, should be rejected until these issues are addressed by permitting the very amendments that we offered in the House Ways and Means Committee that rejected them, as usual, to address private equity and Medicare Advantage.

Mr. Speaker, with all respect to the bipartisan efforts and hard work in the Energy and Commerce Committee, I believe there is a better way to finance needs, and a very important need, to address the issues of transparency on Medicare Advantage and private equity. Therefore, I oppose the bill.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the chairwoman of the Education and the Workforce Committee. I appreciate her partnership on this legislation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the American healthcare system is a complex, expensive maze fueled by heavyhanded regulation, consolidation, and lack of transparency. Growth in health spending is rising at unsustainable rates, forcing insurance premiums and out-of-pocket costs higher and remaining too expensive for working families.

The bill before us is a bipartisan solution to help lower costs by pulling the curtain back on healthcare and re-

vealing anticompetitive industry practices that are stifling the free market.

Included in this bill is the Hidden Fee Disclosure Act, authored by Representatives JOE COURTNEY and ERIN HOUGHIN, which requires pharmacy benefit managers, PBMs, and third-party administrators to disclose hidden compensation to plan sponsors.

The Health DATA Act, authored by Representative LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER, is also included in this legislation. It prohibits gag clauses between health plans and third-party entities, which restricts a plan sponsor's access to its own data.

Additionally, the bill includes the Transparency in Coverage Act, authored by Representative BOB GOOD. It builds on the general principles of transparency and accountability enshrined in the No Surprises Act by requiring health plans to disclose their prices publicly.

Patients have been left in the dark. Because of opaque rules and industry practices, patients are often left paying higher costs. This is why we are taking action and shining a light on these issues. Increasing transparency has been proven to root out waste successfully and save healthcare dollars.

Bottom line, we want to provide workers and their families with more options at lower prices. The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act does just that while also reducing the deficit by \$800 million.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Representative DOGGETT, for his hard work on the important issues that he raised and that have been raised today. I should mention that he is the ranking member of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, so he is very familiar with these issues.

I know he thinks that certain things should have been added to this bill, but I want to stress that I think we have to support this bill based on the important policies that we have in the bill. It is not always easy to get consensus between Democrats and Republicans. This is one of those rare examples, unfortunately, where we have come to a consensus, which our committee often does. That is why I do stress the important policies that are in it.

I think the legislation is a victory for the American people. It addresses a lot of obvious failings in our health system. The bill brings some much-needed price transparency to the healthcare system and will help lower healthcare costs for patients.

Americans have been struggling for years to obtain accurate price information before going in for a healthcare procedure. It is difficult for patients to know how much a hospital or their insurance company will charge them for the care that they receive.

All this information should be readily available to the public. This bill requires hospitals and insurance companies to list prices in an easy to understand format for patients.

The bill also prevents hospital outpatient facilities from unfairly overcharging seniors. This policy will save Medicare beneficiaries \$1.4 billion in lower premiums.

The bill helps further rein in the cost of prescription drugs by cracking down on price gouging by pharmacy benefit managers and requires the PBMs to be transparent about their price information.

This is going to help lower healthcare costs for both employers and patients and bring needed oversight to the PBM industry.

In addition to these patient protection provisions, the legislation includes a historic \$15 billion in investments in safety net and workforce programs and programs to address physician shortages around the country.

The legislation essentially lowers healthcare costs for the American people and makes healthcare more accessible to American families. I think this delivers meaningful results to the American people on a bipartisan basis.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), the chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

Over the past several years, I have heard from countless Kentuckians about the challenges they face and the pain they are feeling due to rising healthcare costs. This bipartisan, landmark legislation marks the first step in driving transformational change across our healthcare system.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act incorporates transparency requirements in nearly every aspect of the healthcare system. We are building on the Trump-era price transparency rules for hospitals and insurance plans. We are requiring pharmacy benefit managers to disclose prices and fees to lower costs for patients and employers. We are even requiring transparency for clinical labs.

We have countless testimonials and data to show that transparency lowers costs. Recently, a multinational equipment manufacturer fired their PBM and started managing their own prescription drug benefits for its employees because they finally understood what they were being charged.

The most important part about this bill is that, for once, it is not a top-down, Washington-knows-best approach to the cost of healthcare.

The American people have given Congress this mandate, with over 95 percent of surveyed voters supporting healthcare price transparency to re-

duce healthcare costs, according to a 2022 KFF poll.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act directly lowers costs that seniors are paying out of pocket for certain drugs like cancer drugs and other medicines administered in doctors' offices that are owned by hospitals.

Seniors receiving Medicare should not be paying more for a drug based solely off the location of where they receive the drug. We are fixing this.

I should note that we are able to get major policy changes in this legislation while making sure the bill saves the American people money, an estimated \$700 million. This is an objective that Congress very rarely prioritizes.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair RODGERS for her vision and steadfast leadership on this bill. I will proudly be casting a "yes" vote on H.R. 5378, and I urge my House colleagues to do the same.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. If the chair needs time for people who will support the bill, I will yield to them.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act empowers patients and will lower healthcare costs for millions of Americans.

This bipartisan bill has been a collaborative effort, and I thank my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee for their partnership.

American families have struggled for far too long to afford the cost of their healthcare. What is worse is they have been unable to anticipate those costs because our current system makes it nearly impossible to figure out the actual price for almost any type of treatment, medicine, drug, or procedure.

The legislation before us would ensure timely and accurate details about the cost of care, treatments, and services are available and accessible before a patient goes into the doctor's office or hospital.

Hospitals, insurance companies, labs, imaging providers, and others would be required to publicly disclose their prices, creating incentives to lower prices across the board. This bill would increase access to care by combating healthcare consolidation, which reduces options and drives up costs.

It also would take an important step to address the soaring costs of prescription drugs by requiring health insurers and PBM middlemen to disclose negotiated drug rebates and discounts. It would ease the financial burden on our seniors, widen access to more affordable generic drugs, and arm employers with vital drug price information.

This bill would make important investments in training programs for

new doctors to help address the healthcare workforce shortage and further invest in hospitals that serve high Medicaid populations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to deliver a healthcare system that is more accessible and affordable for the American people.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a subcommittee chair.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

I hear from my constituents on a regular basis that the cost of healthcare is too high, and it remains a burden for everyday Americans who are struggling to get by.

This bipartisan package led by Chair RODGERS, who I appreciate so much, finally looks to turn the tide of these high costs by injecting much-needed transparency and accountability into our healthcare system. This includes updating CMS' price transparency rules so they actually work effectively for patients. It ensures we better understand and reduce consolidation among hospitals, insurers, and PBMs alike.

This also includes my bill with Representative DEGETTE to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for 2 years with increased funding, all while reducing the deficit by \$750 million.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this transformative package.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), the vice chair of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

This bill, which was a product of thorough bipartisan work across three committees, is one of the strongest healthcare bills I can remember voting on since coming to Congress in 2011. Honestly, it really is. I want to say that again: It is one of the strongest healthcare bills I can remember voting on since coming to Congress.

I thank Chair RODGERS, Ranking Member PALLONE, and the members of the other two committees for their hard work on getting this bill to the floor.

At nearly \$13,000 per person, or about 18 percent of the GDP, U.S. national health expenditures far exceed other high-income countries, and they continue to rise at unsustainable rates.

Congress must enact serious reforms that spur competition and show taxpayers where all of these healthcare dollars are going. They are certainly not always going to them.

□ 1630

The problem is not limited to one part of our healthcare system, and so

the solution must also reach across the entire system. This legislation seeks to increase transparency and lower costs related to hospital care, outpatient services, and prescription drugs, among other things. It also reauthorizes community health centers and supports disproportionate share hospitals.

Finally, we cannot get control of our national debt and deficit unless we first have transparency in our healthcare system, one of the largest expenditures that the Federal Government has. This bill is a tremendous step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

As a pharmacist for over four decades, I have seen firsthand how our healthcare system treats patients with unaffordable prices and inaccessible care.

Under the leadership of Chairwoman RODGERS and Health Subcommittee Chairman GUTHRIE, we can do something about it by reining in the PBMs and putting patients before profits.

Included in this bill is my Drug Price Transparency in Medicaid Act which puts an end to the PBM games by prohibiting spread pricing in Medicaid and increasing transparency and fairness to community pharmacies by allowing them to be reimbursed at an appropriate rate for dispensing medications to Medicaid patients.

I am also pleased to see my PBM Accountability Act is also included in this bill.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act is such an important first step towards bringing down prescription drug prices by addressing the root cause: the middlemen who prey on patients for profits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act is part of our commitment to supporting our patients, creating access to affordable medications, and making the healthcare process easier to access for literally all Americans.

Included in this legislation is my bill, the Strengthening Community Care Act, which would reauthorize support for community health centers. These centers are a vital source of care for

over 30 million Americans and nearly 240,000 individuals in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

By reducing barriers like cost, lack of insurance, or distance, community health centers are able to provide high-quality treatment to the patients who need it the most: the patients who are underinsured or not insured at all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, and I will be voting "yes" for this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize the importance of this bill. I think that in terms of the overall effort to increase affordability, to increase access to healthcare, and to make sure that there is competition, if you will, within the hospital industry and within the insurance industry, this bill does all of those things.

It is really amazing, in my opinion, that we are able to do this on a bipartisan basis. It came out of committee, I believe, unanimously. I think it will go far towards increasing affordability, accessibility, and competition, which also lowers prices.

For all those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to urge support for this major bipartisan legislation. It is very important healthcare legislation. We are concerned about consolidation within healthcare and the rising costs within healthcare.

The first way we are going to address that is by demanding transparency. We have to know what the prices actually are so that we can empower patients and we can get some more competition within our healthcare system.

I thank everyone who has worked together. This was a priority we laid out at the very beginning of this Congress. It has been months' worth of work.

A big thank you, again, to the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the other committees, the chairmanship of VIRGINIA FOXX and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, JASON SMITH, for working together. We have all contributed, and we have a better product because of it.

I definitely urge support by my colleagues both Republicans and Democrats. This is one that we need to get on the President's desk with a big vote today.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons health care costs are so high is that consumers and employers often do not have enough information about what they are paying for.

This makes it hard for patients to find affordable, high-quality health care providers. And it prevents employers from spending workers' premium dollars carefully. It also hinders competition, which keeps health care costs in

check. And finally, it limits our ability as policy-makers to improve the health care system.

Americans deserve to know what they are being asked to pay. The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act helps ensure health care costs are driven by those who provide the highest quality services, not those with the most market power.

This bill includes several bipartisan priorities for our Committee Members, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together on this package.

I am especially pleased that it strengthens oversight of the direct and indirect compensation earned by health plan service providers. This includes not only pharmacy benefit managers but also—critically—insurance companies serving as third-party administrators for self-funded plans.

I was also pleased to work with my colleagues to ensure strong privacy protections for workers.

Finally, I appreciate my colleagues' bipartisan commitment to incorporating technical corrections to ensure that the reporting requirements for pharmacy benefit managers apply fully to multiemployer plans, state and local government plans, and retiree-only plans—consistent with the intent of the legislation.

Moving forward, we must continue to promote transparency and competition and take direct action to lower health care costs for workers and their families.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the goal of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act is to allow a wide range of employers, workers, and health plans to benefit from increased transparency of pharmacy benefit managers so they can make more informed, cost-conscious health care decisions.

It has come to our attention that the definition of large employer in this bill, as written, may have inadvertently left out certain types of non-employer plans, such as multiemployer, union, governmental, and retiree plans.

I rise today to affirm that my colleagues and I never intended for this bill to exclude these plans from leveraging the transparency tools included in this bill.

We remain committed to addressing this technical issue as we work with our Senate colleagues to expand transparency in health care following passage of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5378, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4531) to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4531

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act”.

#### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

#### TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH

Sec. 101. Prenatal and postnatal health.

Sec. 102. Monitoring and education regarding infections associated with illicit drug use and other risk factors.

Sec. 103. Preventing overdoses of controlled substances.

Sec. 104. Residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women.

Sec. 105. Youth prevention and recovery.

Sec. 106. First responder training.

Sec. 107. Building communities of recovery.

Sec. 108. National Peer-Run Training and Technical Assistance Center for Addiction Recovery Support.

Sec. 109. Comprehensive opioid recovery centers.

Sec. 110. Grants to address the problems of persons who experience violence related stress.

Sec. 111. Mental and behavioral health education and training grants.

Sec. 112. Loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce.

Sec. 113. Pilot program for public health laboratories to detect fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

Sec. 114. Monitoring and reporting of child, youth, and adult trauma.

Sec. 115. Task force to develop best practices for trauma-informed identification, referral, and support.

Sec. 116. Treatment, recovery, and workforce support grants.

Sec. 117. Grant program for State and Tribal response to opioid use disorders.

Sec. 118. References to opioid overdose reversal agents in HHS grant programs.

Sec. 119. Addressing other concurrent substance use disorders through grant program for State and Tribal response to opioid use disorders.

Sec. 120. Providing for a study on the effects of remote monitoring on individuals who are prescribed opioids.

#### TITLE II—CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Sec. 201. Delivery of certain substances by a pharmacy to an administering practitioner.

Sec. 202. Reviewing the scheduling of approved products containing a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone.

Sec. 203. Combating illicit xylazine.

Sec. 204. Technical corrections.

Sec. 205. Required training for prescribers of controlled substances.

#### TITLE III—MEDICAID

Sec. 301. Extending requirement for State Medicaid plans to provide coverage for medication-assisted treatment.

Sec. 302. Expanding required reports on T-MSIS substance use disorder data to include mental health condition data.

Sec. 303. Monitoring prescribing of antipsychotic medications.

Sec. 304. Lifting the IMD exclusion for substance use disorder.

Sec. 305. Prohibition on termination of enrollment due to incarceration.

Sec. 306. State option relating to inmates who are pregnant women pending disposition of charges.

Sec. 307. Permitting access to medical assistance under the Medicaid program for foster youth.

#### TITLE IV—OFFSETS

Sec. 401. Promoting value in Medicaid managed care.

#### TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH

##### SEC. 101. PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL HEALTH.

Section 317L(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-13(d)) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$4,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 102. MONITORING AND EDUCATION REGARDING INFECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ILLICIT DRUG USE AND OTHER RISK FACTORS.

Section 317N of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-15) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “SURVEILLANCE AND” and inserting “MONITORING AND”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 103. PREVENTING OVERDOSES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

(a) EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION GRANTS.—Section 392A(a)(2)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1(a)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting after “new and emerging public health crises” the following: “, such as the fentanyl crisis,”.

(b) USE OF GRANTS BY STATES, LOCALITIES, AND INDIAN TRIBES TO CONDUCT WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE.—Section 392A(a)(3)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting “, including through the use of wastewater surveillance to identify trends associated with controlled substance use if it is determined by appropriate evidence that wastewater surveillance is an effective way to survey controlled substance use within a community” before the semicolon.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 392A(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1(e)) is amended by striking “\$496,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$505,579,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 104. RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN.

Section 508(s) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-1(s)) is amended by striking “\$29,931,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$38,931,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 105. YOUTH PREVENTION AND RECOVERY.

Section 7102(c)(9) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-7a(c)(9)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 106. FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING.

Section 546(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-1(h)) is amending by

striking “\$36,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$56,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 107. BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF RECOVERY.

Section 547(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-2(f)) is amended by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 108. NATIONAL PEER-RUN TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY SUPPORT.

Section 547A(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-2a(e)) is amended by striking “\$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 109. COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID RECOVERY CENTERS.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 552(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-7(j)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

(b) DOCUMENTATION FOR EVIDENCE OF CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Section 552(d) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-7(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) DOCUMENTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Evidence required to be provided under paragraph (1) may be provided through a letter of intent from partner agencies or other relevant documentation (as defined by the Secretary).

“(B) PARTNER AGENCY DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘partner agency’ means a non-governmental organization or other public or private entity—

“(i) the primary purpose of which is the delivery of mental health or substance use disorder treatment services; and

“(ii) with which the applicant coordinates to provide the full continuum of treatment services (as specified in subsection (g)(1)(B)) that the applicant is unable to offer on site.”.

(c) CENTER ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT THROUGH THIRD PARTIES.—Section 552(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-7(g)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “Each Center shall” and all that follows through “subsection (f):” and inserting the following: “Each Center shall, at a minimum, carry out the activities specified in this subsection directly, through referral, or through contractual arrangements. If a Center elects to carry out such activities through contractual arrangements, the Secretary may issue guidance on best practices to ensure that the Center is capable of carrying out such activities, including carrying out such activities through technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models described in subsection (f) and coordinating the full continuum of treatment services specified in subparagraph (B). Such activities include the following:”.

##### SEC. 110. GRANTS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF PERSONS WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE RELATED STRESS.

Section 582(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh-1(j)) is amended by striking “\$63,887,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$93,887,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 111. MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS.

Section 756(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294e-1(f)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2023 through 2027” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

##### SEC. 112. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT WORKFORCE.

Section 781(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295h(j)) is amended by striking

“\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 113. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES TO DETECT FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS.**

(a) DETECTION ACTIVITIES.—Section 7011(b) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–10 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) public, private, and academic entities with expertise in detection and testing activities, such as wastewater surveillance, with respect to synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and its analogues.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7011(d) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–10(d)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 114. MONITORING AND REPORTING OF CHILD, YOUTH, AND ADULT TRAUMA.**

Section 7131(e) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 242t(e)) is amended by striking “\$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$9,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 115. TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED IDENTIFICATION, REFERRAL, AND SUPPORT.**

Section 7132 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

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

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) additional reports and updates to existing reports, as necessary.”; and

(2) by amending subsection (i) to read as follows:

“(i) SUNSET.—The task force shall sunset on September 30, 2026.”.

**SEC. 116. TREATMENT, RECOVERY, AND WORKFORCE SUPPORT GRANTS.**

Section 7183 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “each” before “for a period”; and

(2) by amending subsection (c)(2) to read as follows:

“(2) RATES.—The rates described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) The amount by which the average rate of drug overdose deaths in the State, adjusted for age, for the period of 5 calendar years for which there is available data, immediately preceding the grant cycle (which shall be the period of calendar years 2018 through 2022 for the first grant cycle following the enactment of the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act) is above the average national overdose mortality rate, as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for the same period.

“(B) The amount by which the average rate of unemployment for the State, based on data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the period of 5 calendar years for which there is available data, including if necessary provisional data, immediately preceding the grant cycle (which shall be the period of calendar years 2018 through 2022 for the first grant cycle following the enactment

of the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act) is above the national average for the same period.

“(C) The amount by which the average rate of labor force participation in the State, based on data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the period of 5 calendar years for which there is available data, including if necessary provisional data, immediately preceding the grant cycle (which shall be the period of calendar years 2018 through 2022 for the first grant cycle following the enactment of the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act) is below the national average for the same period.”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (3), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(C) by striking “An entity” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.—An entity receiving a grant under this section may use not more than 5 percent of the funds for providing transportation for individuals to participate in an activity supported by a grant under this section, which transportation shall be to or from a place of work or a place where the individual is receiving vocational education or job training services or receiving services directly linked to treatment of or recovery from a substance use disorder.

“(3) NO OTHER AUTHORIZED USES.—An entity receiving a grant under this section may not use the funds for any activity other than the activities listed in paragraphs (1) and (2).”;

(4) in subsection (i)(2), by inserting “, which shall include the employment and earnings outcomes as described in subclauses (I) and (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)(i))” after “subsection (g)”;

(5) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “for each grant cycle” after “grant period”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “the preliminary report” and inserting “each preliminary report”; and

(II) by inserting “for the grant cycle” after “final report”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(g)(3)” and inserting “(g)(1)(C)”; and

(6) in subsection (k), by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 117. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATE AND TRIBAL RESPONSE TO OPIOID USE DISORDERS.**

Section 1003(b)(4)(A) of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–3a(b)(4)(A)) is amended after “which may include drugs or devices approved, cleared, or otherwise legally marketed under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act” by inserting “or fentanyl or xylazine test strips”.

**SEC. 118. REFERENCES TO OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL AGENTS IN HHS GRANT PROGRAMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that, as appropriate, whenever the Department of Health and Human Services issues a regulation or guidance for any grant program addressing opioid misuse and use disorders, any reference to an opioid overdose reversal drug (such as a reference to naloxone) is inclusive

of any opioid overdose reversal drug that has been approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) for emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose.

(b) EXISTING REFERENCES.—

(1) UPDATE.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall update all references described in paragraph (2) to be inclusive of any opioid overdose reversal drug that has been approved or otherwise authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration.

(2) REFERENCES.—A reference described in this paragraph is any reference to an opioid overdose reversal drug (such as naloxone) in any regulation or guidance of the Department of Health and Human Services that—

(A) was issued before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) is included in—

(i) the grant program for State and Tribal response to opioid use disorders under section 1003 of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–3 note) (commonly referred to as “State Opioid Response Grants” and “Tribal Opioid Response Grants”); or

(ii) the grant program for priority substance use disorder prevention needs of regional and national significance under section 516 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–22).

**SEC. 119. ADDRESSING OTHER CONCURRENT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS THROUGH GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATE AND TRIBAL RESPONSE TO OPIOID USE DISORDERS.**

(a) ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—Section 1003(b) of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–3 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) OTHER CONCURRENT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.—The Secretary may authorize the recipient of a grant under this subsection, in addition to using the grant for activities described in paragraph (4) with respect to opioid misuse and use disorders and stimulant misuse and use disorders, to use the grant for similar activities with respect to other concurrent substance use disorders.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 1003(f) of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–3 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), strike “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), strike the period at the end and insert a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) the amount of funds each State that received a grant under subsection (b) received for the 12-month grant cycle covered by the report;

“(5) the amount of grant funds each such State spent for such grant cycle, disaggregated by the uses for which such funds were spent, including each allowable use under paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (b);

“(6) how many such States for such grant cycle did not spend all of the grant funds before such grant cycle expired;

“(7) how many such States for such grant cycle requested no-cost extensions to extend the grant cycle; and

“(8) challenges for such States to spend all of the funds allocated and the reason for such challenges, including to what extent reporting requirements or other requirements placed an increased burden on the ability of such States to spend all of the funds.”.

(c) OTHER CONCURRENT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS DEFINED.—Section 1003(h) of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–3 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5); and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (3), as redesignated, the following:

“(2) OTHER CONCURRENT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.—The term ‘other concurrent substance use disorders’ means—

“(A) alcohol use disorders co-occurring with opioid misuse and use disorders as a primary disorder; or

“(B) alcohol use disorders co-occurring with stimulant misuse and use disorders as a primary disorder.”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to change the allocation of funds among grantees pursuant to the minimum allocations and formula methodology under section 1003 of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee-3 note).

**SEC. 120. PROVIDING FOR A STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF REMOTE MONITORING ON INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the use of remote monitoring with respect to individuals who are prescribed opioids.

(b) REPORT.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include to the extent information is available and reliable—

(1) an assessment of scientific evidence related to the efficacy, individual outcomes, and potential cost savings associated with remote monitoring for individuals who are prescribed opioids compared to such individuals who are not so monitored;

(2) an assessment of the current prevalence of remote monitoring for individuals who are prescribed opioids, including the use of such monitoring for such individuals in other countries; and

(3) information, including recommendations as appropriate, to improve availability, access, and coverage for remote monitoring for individuals who are prescribed opioids, including through changes to Federal health care programs (as defined in section 1128B of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-7b)).

**TITLE II—CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

**SEC. 201. DELIVERY OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES BY A PHARMACY TO AN ADMINISTERING PRACTITIONER.**

Paragraph (2) of section 309A(a) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 829a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) the controlled substance is a drug in schedule III, IV, or V that is, pursuant to the approval or licensure of such drug under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or section 351 of the Public Health Service Act, to be administered by, or under the supervision of, the prescribing practitioner;”.

**SEC. 202. REVIEWING THE SCHEDULING OF APPROVED PRODUCTS CONTAINING A COMBINATION OF BUPRENORPHINE AND NALOXONE.**

(a) SECRETARY OF HHS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, consistent with the requirements and procedures set forth in sections 201 and 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 811; 812)—

(1) review the relevant data pertaining to the scheduling of products containing a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone that have been approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355); and

(2) if appropriate, request that the Attorney General initiate rulemaking proceedings to revise the schedules accordingly with respect to such products.

(b) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall review any request made by the Secretary of Health and Human Services

under subsection (a)(2) and determine whether to initiate proceedings to revise the schedules in accordance with the criteria set forth in sections 201 and 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 811; 812).

**SEC. 203. COMBATING ILLICIT XYLAZINE.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘xylazine’ has the meaning given the term in paragraph (60) of section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by paragraph (2).

(2) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(A) by redesignating the second paragraph (57) (relating to serious drug felony) and paragraph (58) as paragraphs (58) and (59), respectively;

(B) by moving the margin of paragraph (57) 2 ems to the left;

(C) by moving the margins of paragraphs (58) and (59), as redesignated, 2 ems to the left; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(60)(A) The term ‘xylazine’ means the substance xylazine as well as its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible.

“(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (E), such term does not include a substance described in subparagraph (A) to the extent—

“(i) such substance is an animal drug that has been approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 512 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and such substance’s use or intended use conforms to the approved application, including the manufacturing, importation, holding, or distribution for such use; or

“(ii) such substance is used or intended for use in animals other than humans as permitted under section 512(a)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

“(C) If any person prescribes, dispenses, distributes, manufactures, or imports xylazine for human use, such person shall be considered to have prescribed, dispensed, distributed, manufactured, or imported xylazine not subject to an exclusion under subparagraph (B).”.

(b) PLACEMENT OF XYLAZINE ON SCHEDULE III.—Schedule III in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) Xylazine.”.

(c) ARCOS TRACKING.—Section 307(i) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 827(i)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “or xylazine” after “gamma hydroxybutyric acid”; and

(B) by inserting “or 512” after “section 505”; and

(C) by inserting “respectively,” after “the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act,”; and

(2) in paragraph (6), by inserting “or xylazine” after “gamma hydroxybutyric acid”.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON XYLAZINE.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall submit to Congress a report on the prevalence of illicit use of xylazine in the United States and the impacts of such use, including—

(A) where the drug is being diverted;

(B) where the drug is originating;

(C) whether any analogues to such drug present a substantial risk of abuse;

(D) whether and to what extent the illicit supply of xylazine derives from the licit supply chain; and

(E) recommendations for Congress with respect to whether xylazine should be transferred to another schedule under section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812).

(2) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall submit to Congress a report updating Congress on the prevalence of xylazine trafficking, misuse, and proliferation in the United States, including—

(A) the status and results of research on the impact xylazine has on human health; and

(B) the effects of the classification of xylazine under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) on the prevalence of xylazine trafficking, misuse, and proliferation in the United States.

(3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States documents, statistical data, and other information necessary to carry out paragraphs (1) and (2). Upon receipt of a request from the Attorney General for such documents, data, and information, the head of the department or agency shall, in accordance with applicable procedures for the appropriate handling of classified information, promptly provide reasonable access to such documents, data, and information.

(4) VIEWS OF EXPERTS FROM NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—In developing the reports under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General, acting through the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration and in coordination with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall consult with, and take into consideration the views of, experts from appropriate non-Federal entities, including such experts from—

(A) the scientific and medical research community;

(B) the State and local law enforcement community; and

(C) community-based organizations.

**SEC. 204. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

Effective as if included in the enactment of Public Law 117-328—

(1) section 1252(a) of division FF of Public Law 117-328 is amended, in the matter being inserted into section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act, by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(2) section 1262 of division FF of Public Law 117-328 is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(ii) in the matter being stricken by subsection (a)(2), by striking “(g)(1)” and inserting “(h)(1)”;

(iii) in the matter being inserted by subsection (a)(2), by striking “(g) Practitioners” and inserting “(h) Practitioners”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (1), by striking “303(g)(1)” and inserting “303(h)(1)”;

(ii) in the matter being inserted by paragraph (1), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(iii) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (2)(A), by striking “303(g)(2)” and inserting “303(h)(2)”;

(iv) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (3), by striking “303(g)(2)(B)” and inserting “303(h)(2)(B)”;



(v) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (5), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(vi) in the matter being stricken by paragraph (6), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(3) section 1263(b) of division FF of Public Law 117–328 is amended—

(A) by striking “303(g)(2)” and inserting “303(h)(2)”;

(B) by striking “(21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2))” and inserting “(21 U.S.C. 823(h)(2))”.

**SEC. 205. REQUIRED TRAINING FOR PRESCRIBERS OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**

Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (1) (added by section 1263 of division FF of Public Law 117–328) as subsection (m); and

(2) in subsection (m), as redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iv)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking “or the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR)” and inserting “the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR), the American Podiatric Medical Association, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME), or the Academy of General Dentistry”;

(ii) by redesignating subclauses (II), (III), and (IV) as subclauses (III), (IV), and (V), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

“(II) the American Academy of Family Physicians or any organization whose continuing medical education activity has been approved or accredited by the American Academy of Family Physicians;”;

(iv) in subclause (V), as redesignated, by striking “any organization approved by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the ACCME, or the CCEPR” and inserting “any organization approved by the ACCME or the CCEPR”;

(B) in paragraph (1)(A)(v)—

(i) by inserting “podiatric medicine,” after “allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine,”; and

(ii) by striking “allopathic or osteopathic medicine curriculum” and inserting “allopathic, osteopathic, or podiatric medicine curriculum”;

(C) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking “or any other organization approved or accredited by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education” and inserting “the American Podiatric Medical Association, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME), the American Pharmacists Association, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, the American Optometric Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Family Physicians, or any other organization approved or accredited by the American Academy of Family Physicians or the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education”;

(D) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking “from an accredited physician assistant school or accredited school of advanced practice nursing” and inserting “from an accredited physician assistant school, an accredited school of advanced practice nursing, or an accredited school of pharmacy”.

**TITLE III—MEDICAID**

**SEC. 301. EXTENDING REQUIREMENT FOR STATE MEDICAID PLANS TO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(29), by striking “for the period beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2025,” and inserting “beginning on October 1, 2020,”; and

(2) in subsection (ee)(2), by striking “for the period specified in such paragraph, if before the beginning of such period the State certifies to the satisfaction of the Secretary” and inserting “if such State certifies, not less than every 5 years and to the satisfaction of the Secretary.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1006(b)(4)(A) of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “, and before October 1, 2025”.

**SEC. 302. EXPANDING REQUIRED REPORTS ON TMSIS SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER DATA TO INCLUDE MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION DATA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1015(a) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER DATA BOOK” and inserting “BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DATA BOOK”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including as updated in accordance with paragraph (3),” after “paragraph (1)”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, mental health condition, or a mental health condition co-occurring with substance use disorder” after “substance use disorder”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and mental health treatment services” after “substance use disorder treatment services”;

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting “, mental health condition, or a mental health condition co-occurring with a substance use disorder diagnosis” after “substance use disorder diagnosis”; and

(ii) by inserting “or mental health treatment services, respectively,” after “substance use disorder treatment services”;

(E) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “, mental health condition, or a mental health condition co-occurring with substance use disorder” after “substance use disorder diagnosis”;

(F) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “or mental health treatment” after “substance use disorder treatment”;

(G) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “, individuals with a mental health condition who receive mental health treatment services, and individuals with a co-occurring mental health condition and substance use disorder who receive substance use disorder treatment services and mental health treatment services,” after “substance use disorder treatment services”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “through 2024”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply beginning with respect to the first update made pursuant to section 1015(a)(3) of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note) after the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 303. MONITORING PRESCRIBING OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS.**

Section 1902(o)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(o)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “BY CHILDREN”;

(2) by inserting “, and beginning on the date that is 24 months after the date of enactment of Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act, individuals over the age of 18, individuals receiving home and community-based services (as defined in section 9817(a)(2)(B) of Public Law 117–2), and individuals residing in institutional care set-

tings (including nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and other such institutional care settings) enrolled,” after “children enrolled”;

(3) by striking “not more than the age of 18 years” and inserting “subject to the program”.

**SEC. 304. LIFTING THE IMD EXCLUSION FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.**

(a) MAKING PERMANENT STATE PLAN AMENDMENT OPTION TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE PATIENTS IN CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS FOR MENTAL DISEASES.—Section 1915(l)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(1)) is amended by striking “With respect to calendar quarters beginning during the period beginning October 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2023,” and inserting “With respect to calendar quarters beginning on or after October 1, 2019,”.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REVISION.—Section 1915(l)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “other than under this title”; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking “or, if higher,” and all that follows through “in accordance with this subsection”; and

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

“(D) APPLICATION OF MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIREMENTS TO CERTAIN STATES.—In the case of a State with a State plan amendment in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, for the 1-year period beginning on such date, the provisions of subparagraph (A) shall be applied as if the amendments to such subparagraph made by the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act had never been made.”.

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1915(l)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(4)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “through (D)” and inserting “through (F)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “have in place evidence-based, substance use disorder-specific individual placement criteria and utilization management approach to ensure placement of such individual in an appropriate level of care and shall” after “State shall”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) REVIEW PROCESS.—The State shall have in place a process to review the compliance of eligible institutions for mental diseases with evidence-based, substance use disorder-specific program standards for eligible individuals specified by the State.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall apply with respect to medical assistance furnished in calendar quarters beginning on or after October 1, 2025.

(2) ONE-TIME ASSESSMENT.—Section 1915(l)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(l)(4)), as amended by paragraph (1), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall, not later than 12 months after the approval of a State plan amendment described in this subsection (or, in the case such State has such an amendment approved as of the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, not later than 12 months after such date), commence an assessment of—

“(I) the availability of treatment for individuals enrolled under a State plan under this title (or waiver of such plan) in each

level of care described in subparagraph (C); and

“(II) the availability of medication-assisted treatment and medically supervised withdrawal management services for such individuals.

“(ii) REQUIRED COMPLETION.—The State compete an assessment described in clause (i) not later than 12 months after the date the State commences such assessment.”.

(3) CLARIFICATION OF LEVELS OF CARE.—Section 1915(1)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(86)(A)), as amended by section 5122(a)(2) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), is further amended—

**SEC. 305. PROHIBITION ON TERMINATION OF ENROLLMENT DUE TO INCARCERATION.**

(a) MEDICAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a)(84)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(86)(A)), as amended by section 5122(a)(2) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), is further amended—

(A) by striking “under the State plan” and inserting “under the State plan (or waiver of such plan)”;

(B) by striking “who is an eligible juvenile (as defined in subsection (nn)(2))”;

(C) by striking “because the juvenile” and inserting “because the individual”;

(D) by striking “during the period the juvenile” and inserting “during the period the individual”;

(E) by inserting “such an individual who is an eligible juvenile (as defined in subsection (nn)(2)) or a woman during pregnancy (and during the 60-day beginning on the last day of pregnancy) and” after “or in the case of”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by—

(A) subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (1) shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

(b) CHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2102(d)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397bb(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “or pregnancy-related” after “child health”;

(B) by inserting “or targeted low-income pregnant woman” after “targeted low-income child”;

(C) by inserting “or pregnant woman” after “because the child”;

(D) by inserting “or pregnant woman” after “during the period the child”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply beginning January 1, 2025.

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 1902(nn)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395a(a)(nn)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “State plan” and inserting “State plan (or waiver of such plan)”.

**SEC. 306. STATE OPTION RELATING TO INMATES WHO ARE PREGNANT WOMEN PENDING DISPOSITION OF CHARGES.**

(a) STATE OPTION.—

(1) MEDICAID.—The subdivision (A) of section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) following paragraph (31) of such section, as amended by section 5122 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), is further amended by inserting “or a woman during pregnancy (and during the 60-day beginning on the last day of pregnancy)” after “(as defined in section 1902(nn)(2))”.

(2) CHIP.—Section 2110(b)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(b)(10)), as amended by section 5122 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), is further amended—

(A) by inserting “a woman during pregnancy (and during the 60-day beginning on the last day of pregnancy) or” after “At the option of the State,”; and

(B) by striking “during the period that the child” and inserting “during the period that the woman or child”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 5122(a)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) is amended by striking “after” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “after ‘or in the case of an eligible juvenile described in section 1902(a)(84)(D) with respect to the screenings, diagnostic services, referrals, and targeted case management services required under such section’.”.

**SEC. 307. PERMITTING ACCESS TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR FOSTER YOUTH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “In the case of an individual who is under the age of 21 and who is a patient in an institution for mental diseases that is a qualified residential treatment program (as defined in section 472(k)(4)), the exclusion from the definition of medical assistance set forth in the subdivision (B) following the last numbered paragraph of this subsection shall not apply with respect to items and services furnished to such an individual when received outside of such program.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to medical assistance furnished in calendar quarters beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

**TITLE IV—OFFSETS**

**SEC. 401. PROMOTING VALUE IN MEDICAID MANAGED CARE.**

Section 1903(m)(9)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(m)(9)(A)) is amended by striking “(and before fiscal year 2024)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of my bill, H.R. 4531, the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act.

Over the past 2 years, we have lost over 200,000 Americans to drug overdoses and poisonings. This is a step in the wrong direction, as the United States saw decreases in year-over-year drug overdoses between 2018 and 2019.

Tragically, our best efforts to drive down these overdose rates were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which left millions of Americans iso-

lated and shuttered from support systems that helped those struggling with substance use disorder stay on track.

These statistics show the policies and programs we enacted in 2018 were working prior to the pandemic. However, since 2018 we have seen the horrors that illicit fentanyl and other illicit substances, like xylazine, have caused our local communities.

In the past 3 years, over 70 percent of all drug overdoses in the Commonwealth of Kentucky have been the direct result of poisonings from fentanyl or fentanyl-related substances.

Earlier this year, I convened an Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee field hearing in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where we heard firsthand accounts from law enforcement and treatment providers about the harsh realities of the crisis.

We heard the heart-wrenching testimony from Michael Straley, who lost daughter, Leah, a few years ago to fentanyl poisoning, underscoring the daily stresses of families with loved ones battling substance use disorder. That work has helped inform the bill before us today.

We are reauthorizing important programs such as State-level prescription drug monitoring programs, residential treatment for pregnant and postpartum women, and other prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

We are also placing xylazine into schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act, while maintaining access for veterinarians and ranchers to use in animals.

Xylazine is an emerging lethal street drug that is a unique threat as it is not an opioid, and so it does not respond to FDA-approved opioid reversal medications.

That said, H.R. 4531 provides even greater access for treatment providers to use Federal funds to purchase over-the-counter opioid overdose reversal medications, which we know have helped reduce opioid overdose rates in communities across the country.

We are also building on important steps we took in 2018 to help those who rely on the Medicaid program access care.

We are permanently requiring Medicaid programs to provide lifesaving medication-assisted treatment. We are permanently codifying the flexibility for States to waive outdated policies that prevent vulnerable individuals from seeking comprehensive wrap-around and substance use disorder care. We are also assisting foster care youth by ensuring they do not lose their Medicaid services if they are receiving the behavioral care they need at qualified residential treatment programs.

Finally, the legislation before us today promotes access to long-term recovery and support services like workforce training for individuals in recovery.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democratic colleague, Representative

ANN KUSTER, for her help on this important legislation and historical leadership on addressing the opioid crisis.

I also thank all of my colleagues for working with us to ensure the policies of H.R. 4531 are fully offset, which was essential to ensuring this legislation could get to this point.

Again, I thank my colleague from New Hampshire for working with me on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 4531, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 4531, the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act. This bill addresses the ongoing public health emergency posed by the opioid and overdose crisis.

The opioid epidemic is still a tragic reality for millions of Americans and their families every day. Last year, nearly 110,000 Americans died from a drug overdose.

Five years ago, Congress worked to enact the SUPPORT Act, bipartisan legislation to address the opioid epidemic, and that legislation expanded access to treatment, invested in public health, and strengthened prevention efforts.

Today, the nature of the opioid epidemic has changed. Where it was once illicit prescription drugs, now it is illicit fentanyl, its analogues, and xylazine that are claiming the lives of too many people every single day.

H.R. 4531 builds on the success of existing law. It extends the programs that have worked, makes commonsense changes to the programs that need to be updated, and includes new policies designed to combat the new reality of the opioid epidemic.

The bill before us today provides critical training to first responders, supports recovery centers, and helps individuals in recovery lead normal lives. It makes important investments in Medicaid to support the treatment of opioid use disorder.

It requires all State Medicaid programs to cover medication-assisted treatment, expands access to coverage to pregnant women in pretrial detention, and makes it easier for incarcerated individuals to regain their coverage after being released.

I must say, I am disappointed that we were not able to include several bipartisan policies that would ensure greater access to Medicaid for justice-involved populations, and I will continue to work to find a path forward on those provisions.

Nevertheless, that said, the bill before us will make meaningful changes to Federal law that will strengthen our ability to respond to the ongoing opioid epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman RODGERS, Subcommittee Chairman GUTHRIE, and Subcommittee Ranking Member ESHOO for their hard work to advance this important bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), who is the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the SUPPORT Act.

This bill is about offering hope to those in despair: those battling substance use disorder, their families and loved ones, and the healthcare workers and law enforcement officers who need continued support to help save lives.

Since 2020, overdose deaths have surged to more than 100,000 lives lost per year. Today, illicit fentanyl poisonings are now the number one cause of death among adults aged 18 to 49, and my home State of Washington has seen the greatest increase in drug overdose and poisoning deaths nationwide in the past year.

The House took a critical step to help get illicit fentanyl off our streets by passing the HALT Fentanyl Act earlier this year. Now we are moving forward with this legislation to increase support for individuals suffering from substance use disorder and to help make sure they receive the treatment they need.

□ 1645

H.R. 4531, the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act modifies and reauthorizes key programs that expand access to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Specifically, this bill increases treatment options for intensive inpatient care, allows law enforcement to crack down on illicit xylazine distribution, and continues support for at-risk youth, among many other important provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kristin Flukey and Seth Gold from the Energy and Commerce Committee staff for their dedicated work on this legislation. I am hopeful that by reauthorizing programs with proven success and increasing access to treatment, we can address the troubling trend in drug-related deaths, saving lives and restoring hope and healing to those who need it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), ranking member of our Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. I thank my colleagues and friends, Representative GUTHRIE and Representative KUSTER, for their work on the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act.

As you may know, I serve as co-chair of the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus, or better known as the ATR Caucus.

The ATR Caucus is a bipartisan group of over 70 members committed to advancing bipartisan solutions to the country’s multifaceted addiction crisis. Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the caucus, the first in Congress to recognize that addiction, indeed, is a disease.

As a longtime champion for those facing addiction, I am all too familiar with the devastating impact of the disease for individuals, their families, and their communities. This is a loss many of us know too well—the loss of a daughter, a son, a father, a mother, a sister, or brother. The loss of a neighbor dying much too young and leaving behind a grieving family and communities being ripped apart by poison seemingly beyond their control.

Last year, in our Nation, there was an estimated 109,680 overdose deaths. That is 109,680 lives lost.

Let’s think of how many people that is every day needlessly dying and having their lives cut so short. Think of the magnitude of all those impacted by those 109,680 loved ones. For each of those individuals, there is a whole universe of friends, of family, and, of course, communities impacted.

As we consider the SUPPORT Act reauthorization, let me share that clearly there are some good policies we are moving forward. I am glad that we are reauthorizing several programs that have been successful. I am pleased that we are including my Extending Access to Addiction Treatment Act that I was proud to work on with my friend, Representative ARMSTRONG.

As you may know, medication-assisted treatment for addiction significantly reduces the risk of overdose death. However, despite the effectiveness, approximately 87 percent of individuals with opioid use disorder who may benefit from lifesaving medication-assisted treatment simply do not receive it.

My Extending Access to Addiction Treatment Act makes permanent the requirement that Medicaid provide coverage for addiction medication for Americans who need it. I also think we are taking a step in the right direction by requiring States to suspend rather than terminate coverage of Medicaid for justice-involved individuals making it easier to restart those benefits upon release.

We also include a provision to allow pregnant incarcerated individuals who are being detained pretrial to maintain their Medicaid coverage. I fully support the legislation and remind everyone that we have a lot more work to do in order to take the necessary steps to address the deep need of this crisis.

We all know the scale of the devastating disease of addiction. We also know that our justice system is a revolving door for those struggling with addiction and mental health issues. Over one-half of people in State prisons and two-thirds of individuals in jails have substance use disorder, or SUD.

To truly address it, I urge us to take bold action and move forward as soon

as possible with the Reentry Act and the Due Process Continuity of Care Act. By allowing inmates to receive addiction treatment and other services before returning home, my Reentry Act would bring targeted treatment to those at the highest risk of overdose.

The Reentry Act would be a game changer for reducing overdose deaths and suicides by allowing all States to provide prerelease care to Medicaid-eligible individuals up to 30 days prior to release from incarceration.

The Due Process Continuity of Care Act would make certain that pretrial detainees are not kicked off Medicaid prior to even being found guilty of a crime.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, we know the human cost of inaction. To be precise, last year it was 109,680 lives we lost. Is that a cost we are willing to bear?

With that in mind, our work is not done, and I hope we can find the will to truly meet the moment.

This legislation is a good step forward, but it is not the end of the road. Again, this disease of despair requires hope, and we can provide that hope to the individuals who look to us to be the agents of that hope.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his extraordinary work and the chairperson for her extraordinary work on this particular bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 4531, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act.

This bipartisan package reflects dozens of bills to reauthorize and strengthen critical opioid and substance abuse treatment and prevention policies, including four bills I lead with my bipartisan colleagues, such as the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act that I co-lead with Representative PFLUGER and others.

Our bill will provide permanent schedule III penalties for human use of the animal tranquilizer drug xylazine, which is sadly being laced into fentanyl, leading to horrific side effects that is killing our constituents.

This is a public health crisis that our bill urgently addresses, all while preserving legitimate veterinary use for our farming community.

This package also contains my bill, the SWIFT Detection Act, which updates our methods to track fentanyl, identify public health trends, and better target relief using privacy-preserving wastewater surveillance.

Finally, the bill will also remove Medicaid's IMD exclusion to permanently provide coverage of treatment

services for substance use disorder, as well as language from my bipartisan bill with Representative CASTOR of Florida, H.R. 4056, the Ensuring Medicaid Continuity for Children in Foster Care Act, which provides coverage for services for foster youth children staying in qualified residential treatment programs, struggling with serious mental and behavioral health needs.

These are just a few of the many policies that address and provide relief for opioid abuse in our communities around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE and Chairman RODGERS and Representative PALLONE, the ranking member, for their tireless efforts on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4531.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER), member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the SUPPORT Act, comprehensive bipartisan legislation to address the overdose crisis across this country.

In 2022, nearly 110,000 Americans died because of substance use disorder or overdose. No community in this country is immune to this crisis. As we head into the holidays, thousands of families will have an empty seat at their table. We can and must do more to help save lives, expand access to treatment, and address the substance use disorder crisis. That is why passing the SUPPORT Act is so critical.

While I wish this legislation had been passed earlier this year before these programs expired, I am pleased that the House is now taking up this legislation to reauthorize the SUPPORT Act and to ensure that local communities nationwide have the tools to address substance use disorder at the local level.

Tackling the overdose crisis requires an all-of-the-above approach. I hope this legislation can serve as a building block to strengthen our national approach to this crisis and help save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GUTHRIE and his team for his partnership to get this over the finish line. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important legislation and to work with us to address this crisis.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 4531, the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act.

I was exceedingly proud to work on the SUPPORT Act when it was first passed in 2018 in response to the opioid crisis.

The legislation brought about many positive changes, but substance abuse and addiction continue to threaten individuals and communities in every

congressional district across the country and across all socioeconomic classes.

With over 100,000 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. last year alone, we must continue working to increase access to, and availability of, lifesaving treatments and recovery services.

I am particularly happy to be reauthorizing the CORC, or Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers program, which will directly affect my home State of Indiana.

Regrettably, per capita rates of drug overdose deaths in the Hoosier State are higher than the national average. The CORC program helps coordinate the targeted resources available for those who need help overcoming opioid use disorder.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical piece of legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT).

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, every Member here likely knows at least one family in their district whose life has been impacted by someone struggling with addiction.

This comes at a time where companies are also now trying to use the courts to avoid liability and escape having to compensate families for their role in targeting communities and peddling pills all in the name of increasing profits.

Addiction is painful and it is dangerous. It is a dangerous struggle that too many Americans suffer from. Today, this illness is exacerbated by the prevalence of fentanyl. Fentanyl is 50 percent stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Because people can't see, taste, or smell it, those struggling with addiction don't even know when they are putting their life at risk.

To be clear, fentanyl is one of the leading causes of overdose-related deaths today. Now, more than ever, we need to attack this problem from a holistic approach. This is coming from, again, the gentlewoman from the State of Texas. We know that there is not just a one-trick pony on this. We have got to make sure that we address this side of it, as well as our struggles at the border.

Not only do we need more technology at our points of entry to interdict fentanyl, but we will also need to give our constituents the necessary tools to know whether or not they are about to subject themselves to fentanyl. One way to do this is to arm them with fentanyl testing strips.

I am grateful to Representative GOODEN, my Republican co-lead, for supporting my bill, the Test Strip Access Act, to Senators HASSAN and CORNYN for introducing it in the Senate, and to the Energy and Commerce Committee for incorporating it into the SUPPORT reauthorization.

My bill will allow fentanyl and xylazine testing strips to be purchased

under the overdose prevention programs grants. Access to these testing strips can literally mean the difference between life and death.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the SUPPORT Act so we can give our constituents the tools to be safe and ultimately get them the help they desperately need to treat their illness.

□ 1700

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my good friend.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes important programs that bolster prevention, treatment, and recovery services for Americans with substance use disorders and mental illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the opioid and mental health crises are continuing to tear our families and communities apart. In 2022, a record number of our sons' and daughters' lives were taken by opioid overdoses, the majority of which were caused by illicit fentanyl poisoning.

Every day we are losing almost 300 Americans as a result of drug overdoses and poisonings. This is impacting every single one of us in the communities we call home. Fortunately, we have an opportunity here today to pass one of the single largest congressional efforts to address our opioid and mental health crises.

The SUPPORT Act is responsible for increasing access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services for opioid and substance use disorders, including fentanyl.

Another important part of this legislation is making opioid overdose reversal agents, like naloxone, easier to obtain. The SUPPORT Act also includes my Responsible Mental Health Medications Prescribing Act, which standardizes the oversight and reporting of antipsychotic medications prescribed to Medicaid recipients.

This reauthorization ensures that programs supporting our most vulnerable Americans do not lapse and can reach all communities. I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of this bill, which will help save lives and help us fight the opioid crisis.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my good friend.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair GUTHRIE, as well as Chair RODGERS for their work on this bill. I rise in strong support of H.R. 4531, the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act, the SUPPORT Act.

Looking back, it was originally created in 2018 as a significant investment in overdose prevention. There is an urgent need to actually reauthorize the SUPPORT Act, with nearly 110,000 an-

nual overdose deaths in this country last year. This reauthorization ensures that individuals seeking assistance for substance use disorders have access to critical lifesaving treatments, recovery support services, prevention programming, and long-term recovery services.

I draw attention to an emerging public health concern addressed by this legislation, the illicit use of xylazine. Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that has become drug traffickers' preferred substance for cutting fentanyl. Xylazine's current ease of access—as it can just be purchased online for as little as \$6 per kilogram—directly threatens our communities.

DEA Administrator Milgram warned that “Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier.”

To counter this growing threat, the bill proposes scheduling illicit xylazine under schedule III of the Controlled Substances Act, while safeguarding—and this is important—crucial access for veterinary use and the livestock industry.

The fentanyl crisis has already inflicted severe damage on treatment clinics and public health agencies throughout our entire country. Adding another highly toxic substance to the illicit drug supply only intensifies the crisis. Congress must take action against this emerging threat.

I am pleased that the SUPPORT Act builds upon the collaboration of Congressman PANETTA and I with the agricultural and veterinary industries and law enforcement to ensure this legislation cracks down on illicit uses of xylazine while preserving its critical role within agriculture and veterinary medicine.

I urge my colleagues to support the SUPPORT Act. This is not just legislation. It is a response to help save lives within our communities.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time. I may have one more speaker, but they are not here at this time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), my friend.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act, which includes my bipartisan Communities of Recovery Reauthorization Act with the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. PETERSEN).

Communities across this country are struggling with the opioid epidemic. More than 60 million Americans are fighting substance abuse disorders. These are our families, friends, and America's sons and daughters. Tragically, death due to overdoses are skyrocketing, with more than 150 citizens dying every day. That is why we must work together to help pass this bill.

There is no doubt that we must do more to stop the illegal flow of fentanyl and other drugs into our country—fentanyl made in China and arriving on U.S. shores daily.

We can do much to help right here at home. By passing this critical legislation, we will enhance support for community organizations that are on the front line, helping people recover from addiction and return to their communities and families through the use of rehabilitation programs.

This is not a battle that anyone should have to fight alone. I urge my colleagues to lead with compassion and vote for this critical bipartisan piece of legislation and start saving lives today.

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

This is very important in the ongoing efforts of our committee to continue the battle against opiates and other related illicit drugs that are very dangerous. The number of overdoses, unfortunately, continues to be way out of proportion to what it should be. We need to support this bill and other measures that deal with this crisis that continues to plague the American people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chair of the committee, the ranking member, and the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) all working together to solve this problem which every American family is facing or knows of someone or has some relation to someone who is. This touches everybody far and wide, urban and rural, suburbs and small towns. Particularly in my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we have really had families just devastated by this.

We have to close the border. We have to get a handle on what is coming across the border. We have to make sure that we have things in place to prevent people from bringing these to our young people and adults. We are here today, though, to make sure those who have this substance use disorder have access to proper care, the opportunity to not just recover, but to have full and productive lives.

We believe that on both sides of the aisle, and we have worked together for this. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4531, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

5G SPECTRUM AUTHORITY  
LICENSING ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2787) to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to process applications for spectrum licenses from applicants who were successful bidders in an auction before the authority of the Commission to conduct auctions expired on March 9, 2023.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2787

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act” or the “5G SALE Act”.

**SEC. 2. FCC PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR SPECTRUM LICENSES AWARDED BY AUCTION.**

In the case of any applicant for a license or permit for the use of spectrum in the band of frequencies between 2496 megahertz and 2690 megahertz, inclusive, that the Federal Communications Commission selected through a system of competitive bidding conducted under section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) on or before March 9, 2023, and to whom the Commission has not granted the license or permit as of the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission may process the application of the applicant during the 90-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2787, the 5G SALE Act, which will help restore trust in our Nation’s wireless technology ecosystem and enable faster mobile broadband service for millions of Americans nearly overnight.

The 5G SALE Act would deliver on our promise to provide access to our airways for those who successfully won a license at auction before March 9, 2023. These licenses have been locked up since the expiration of the Federal Communications Commission’s auction authority earlier this year.

While I will continue to work with my colleagues on a long-term solution to reauthorize auction authority, today’s legislation is a positive step to ensuring that the FCC can finalize the review and award licenses to companies whose checks have already cleared the Treasury.

The 5G SALE Act will ensure that those relying on advanced mobile broadband services, especially our veterans who access VA telehealth services, will benefit from American investment in these technologies.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2787, the 5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act, or the 5G SALE Act.

Spectrum is one of our country’s most important natural resources. These radio waves are a critical component in building next-generation wireless networks and delivering connectivity to Americans across the country. Without spectrum, our wireless networks would not be able to help millions of Americans study for school, meet with their health provider, connect with family and friends, and place a call to 911 during a time of need. In order to have this kind of connectivity that we have all come to expect, we must ensure that consumers have access to the spectrum that has been made available for commercial wireless use.

S. 2787 achieves these objectives. This legislation gives the FCC the authority for 90 days to process spectrum license applications that are currently pending at the agency from its auction last year of the 2.2 gigahertz band. While I hoped Congress would have extended the SEC spectrum auction authority by now, this legislation is an important step forward in allowing commercial spectrum to be used by consumers, especially those in unserved areas and rural communities.

It is important that we pass this bill today, but even with this action, our work will still not be done. We must find a way forward on a bipartisan, bicameral spectrum agreement that can be sent to the President’s desk for his signature. As Chair RODGERS and I have said for months, it is critical that we reauthorize the FCC spectrum auction authority as soon as possible. I am concerned that this lapse will hinder us on the international stage, especially with the World Radiocommunication Conference taking place right now in Dubai.

I commend Representatives KUSTER and JOYCE for their bipartisan work on the House companion to this bill, H.R. 5677. This important bill helps advance America’s wireless leadership by ensuring that 5G spectrum is deployed quickly so that we can further improve consumers’ wireless service all around the Nation, especially in rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in a bipartisan manner so it can be sent shortly to the President’s desk, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Penn-

sylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend representing the 13th District.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill will grant the FCC temporary authority to issue over 7,500 licenses that have been stalled while the spectrum auction authority has lapsed. To address this issue, I am proud to be the sponsor of the 5G SALE Act, which was unanimously reported out of committee.

It has now been more than a year since Auction 108 was conducted by the FCC for these 2.5 gigahertz band licenses. During the auction, more than \$400 million was raised by 63 bidders. Releasing these licenses will mean greater competition among providers and money funneled into our economy.

The 5G SALE Act would cut through bureaucratic red tape and help get more Americans connected to high-speed coverage than ever before. Especially in rural areas, where I represent, in Pennsylvania’s south central and southwestern area, coverage can be scarce. Congress must work to ensure that students, patients, workers, and farmers all have access to 5G internet.

In places where seeing a medical specialist can mean a 2-hour drive, access to reliable 5G connection can be life-changing for a patient. These connections are invaluable also for our farmers, as they use precision farming to plant crops and harvest.

□ 1715

Access to the internet is vital for our students as they work to do their homework—their homework at home, not in the parking lot outside of a convenience store.

Recently, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology heard from Chair Rosenworcel that the FCC would devote the necessary resources and time to ensure that these licenses would be issued as quickly as possible once this legislation is enacted.

I am grateful for all the work that went into advancing this commonsense legislation to help connect more Americans than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation. Obviously, we would like to see spectrum authority in general be authorized, but this is important on its own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of the bill on a bipartisan basis, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, as the minority has said, we need more spectrum, not less, and we have to win the race for 5G.

We have seen, over time, as I have spoken with people across the country for years, it was like the United States was way ahead in 5G, but as time went by, then all of a sudden, we were just a little bit ahead or maybe we were even. If we are going to win this race, we have to have 5G out there. It is absolutely essential.

During COVID, some of the things that happened have already been mentioned—telehealth services, the business side, education.

For families to stay connected, it is absolutely essential that we have more broadband out there, not less.

We need to keep our promise to those that won these auctions that these airways will be available to them.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2787.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PREEMIE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3226) to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3226

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023”.*

##### SEC. 2. RESEARCH RELATING TO PRETERM LABOR AND DELIVERY AND THE CARE, TREATMENT, AND OUTCOMES OF PRETERM AND LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT INFANTS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3(e) of the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–4f(e)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through 2028”.

(b) *TECHNICAL CORRECTION.*—Effective as if included in the enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–328), section 2 of such Act is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Section 2” and inserting “Section 3”.

##### SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Section 5(a) of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–328) is amended by striking “The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, may establish” and inserting “Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with other departments, as appropriate, shall establish”.

##### SEC. 4. STUDY ON PRETERM BIRTHS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies shall—

(1) not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, convene a committee of experts in maternal health to study premature births in the United States; and

(2) upon completion of the study under paragraph (1)—

(A) approve by consensus a report on the results of such study;

(B) include in such report—

(i) an assessment of each of the topics listed in subsection (b);

(ii) the analysis required by subsection (c); and

(iii) the raw data used to develop such report; and

(C) not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, transmit such report to—

(i) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(ii) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(iii) the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(b) *ASSESSMENT TOPICS.*—The topics listed in this subsection are of each of the following:

(1) The financial costs of premature birth to society, including—

(A) an analysis of stays in neonatal intensive care units and the cost of such stays;

(B) long-term costs of stays in such units to society and the family involved post-discharge; and

(C) health care costs for families post-discharge from such units (such as medications, therapeutic services, co-pays visits and specialty equipment).

(2) The factors that impact pre-term birth rates.

(3) Opportunities for earlier detection of premature birth risk factors, including—

(A) opportunities to improve maternal and infant health; and

(B) opportunities for public health programs to provide support and resources for parents in-hospital, in non-hospital settings, and post-discharge.

(c) *ANALYSIS.*—The analysis required by this subsection is an analysis of—

(1) targeted research strategies to develop effective drugs, treatments, or interventions to bring at-risk pregnancies to term;

(2) State and other programs’ best practices with respect to reducing premature birth rates; and

(3) precision medicine and preventative care approaches starting early in the life course (including during pregnancy) with a focus on behavioral and biological influences on premature birth, child health, and the trajectory of such approaches into adulthood.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today firmly committed to the principle that every life is worth living. That starts with giving babies born prematurely a fighting chance at growing up and living their lives to the fullest.

In 2021, the preterm birth rate increased to 10.5 percent, which was the highest recorded rate since 2007. Last

year, 1 in 10 babies were born prematurely.

Premature babies have a higher risk of infant mortality, developmental delays, and chronic health conditions.

This is why I rise today in support of H.R. 3226, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023, led by Energy and Commerce Committee members Dr. BURGESS and Dr. Miller-Meeks, Health Subcommittee Ranking Member ESHOO, and Representative ROBIN KELLY.

The legislation would reauthorize programs that are critical to Federal research, education, and intervention activities to reduce preterm birth and infant mortality.

The bill would also authorize a study to identify best practices to help detect and prevent preterm births as well as better understand the factors that lead to such births.

This critical legislation will help to reduce preterm births and ensure that babies have effective treatments to give them the best start in life.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3226, the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Representative ESHOO, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, plays a crucial role in improving the care and outcomes for premature babies and their families.

According to the March of Dimes, about 383,000 premature babies were born in the United States last year. These babies oftentimes have more health problems or need to stay in the hospital longer than full-term babies. Some premature babies also face long-term health effects like problems that affect the brain, lungs, hearing, or vision.

Reauthorization of the PREEMIE program will help us to better understand the cause of preterm birth and what more can be done to prevent preterm births.

In 2006, Congress passed the PREEMIE Act, which marked a significant milestone by pioneering a comprehensive public-private national agenda aimed at spurring innovative research initiatives.

In 2013 and then again in 2018, we reauthorized 5-year extensions to the program to continue our country’s commitment to address preterm birth through Federal research, promoting known interventions and successful community outreach programs.

With this legislation today, we will reauthorize key programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. These programs support research and programs on preterm birth, improved tracking of national data, and activities aimed at promoting healthy pregnancies and preventing preterm birth.

H.R. 3226 also provides for the study of the costs, impact of social factors, and gaps in public health programs that lead to prematurity, providing us with more vital information. It also calls for the Department of Health and Human Services to make recommendations to Congress to prevent preterm birth.

Importantly, the legislation establishes an interagency working group at HHS to coordinate all Federal activities and programs related to preterm birth, infant mortality, and other adverse birth outcomes.

Again, I thank Representative ESHOO for her leadership on this legislation. I know that she always takes leadership, particularly on issues that affect the healthcare of children.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation to make a significant impact in the fight against preterm birth complications in all of our districts and communities.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023, which will reauthorize critical programs to expand research and education into premature birth prevention.

Every year, 10 percent of babies are born prematurely, putting them and their mothers at an increased risk of complicated health problems.

In 2022, there were over 380,000 preterm births, and every year, almost 20,000 babies in the United States will die before their first birthday, many of them from complications of premature birth. Unfortunately, Georgia has one of the highest preterm birth rates in the country.

Babies born prematurely shouldn't be at a disadvantage because of a lack of resources. Every single baby born deserves a healthy start and a fair chance at life.

That is why it is so important for us to reauthorize the PREEMIE Act, which will continue lifesaving research to prevent premature births and give mothers and babies healthy starts in both motherhood and life.

The bipartisan effort will reauthorize critical Federal research, education, and intervention activities to reduce preterm birth and infant mortality.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of this bill and support maternal health.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Health.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the full committee for yielding time.

Today, the House is going to vote on my legislation, H.R. 3226, the

PREEMIE Reauthorization Act. I thank the co-leads of this legislation: Representatives Miller-Meeks, Kelly of Illinois, Burgess, Blunt Rochester, and Kiggans for their work on this important effort.

I first introduced the PREEMIE Act in 2005. It is the first and remains the only law to focus solely on the prevention of preterm births.

H.R. 3226 will improve future policy by studying the current gaps in our healthcare system that have kept rates of preterm births high and by crafting recommendations for how to address them.

Every day in the United States, 1 in 10 infants are born prematurely, placing them and their mothers at an increased risk of complicated health problems.

America's prematurity rate is one of the highest in the developed world, and it is the leading cause of newborn death.

Even babies born just a few weeks prematurely can face serious health challenges. We saw a significant 4 percent increase in preterm births in 2021, the highest recorded rate since 2007.

This bill was advanced by the Subcommittee on Health and the full Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously and enjoys bipartisan cosponsorship.

The PREEMIE Act will help prevent newborn death and disability, expand research into the causes of preterm birth, and promote the development, availability, and uses of evidence-based standards of care for pregnant women. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of the bill on a bipartisan basis. Obviously, reauthorizing and expanding this program for preemies is very important for children.

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

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

I think Ms. ESHOO just stepped off the floor, Mr. Speaker, but my good friend from California announced she is not running for reelection. She is the primary sponsor of this bill in the House, and it is an important bill.

All life is important. It is important that we move forward and give everybody an equal chance to live a full, productive, and happy life.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote for this bill.

I appreciate my friend from California, Mr. Speaker, for all of her hard work. We will miss her, but we have another year to continue to work on good things like this.

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

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

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3226, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3224;

H.R. 5378; and

H.R. 6503.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION EXTENSION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3224) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend the authorization of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 707]

YEAS—394

Adams	Arrington	Bean (FL)
Aderholt	Auchincloss	Beatty
Aguilar	Babin	Bentz
Alford	Bacon	Bera
Allen	Baird	Bergman
Allred	Balderson	Beyer
Amo	Balint	Bice
Amodei	Banks	Biggs
Armstrong	Barragán	Bilirakis



Bishop (GA) Fry  
 Bishop (NC) Fulcher  
 Blumenauer Gaetz  
 Blunt Rochester Gallagher  
 Boebert Gallego  
 Bonamici Garamendi  
 Bost Garbarino  
 Bowman Garcia (IL)  
 Boyle (PA) Garcia (TX)  
 Brecheen Garcia, Mike  
 Brown Garcia, Robert  
 Buck Gimenez  
 Bucshon Golden (ME)  
 Budzinski Gonzales, Tony  
 Burchett Gonzalez,  
 Burgess Vicente  
 Burlison Good (VA)  
 Bush Gooden (TX)  
 Calvert Gosar  
 Caraveo Gottheimer  
 Carbajal Granger  
 Cárdenas Graves (LA)  
 Carey Graves (MO)  
 Carl Green (TN)  
 Carson Green, Al (TX)  
 Carter (GA) Greene (GA)  
 Carter (LA) Griffith  
 Carter (TX) Grijalva  
 Casar Grothman  
 Case Guest  
 Casten Guthrie  
 Castor (FL) Hageman  
 Castro (TX) Harder (CA)  
 Chavez-DeRemer Harris  
 Cherfilus-McCormick Harshbarger  
 Chu Hayes  
 Ciscomani Hern  
 Clark (MA) Higgins (LA)  
 Clarke (NY) Hill  
 Cleaver Himes  
 Cline Hinson  
 Cloud Horsford  
 Clyburn Houchin  
 Clyde Houlihan  
 Cole Hoyer  
 Collins Hoyle (OR)  
 Comer Huffman  
 Connolly Huiizenga  
 Correa Hunt  
 Courtney Issa  
 Craig Ivey  
 Crane Jackson (IL)  
 Crawford Jackson (NC)  
 Crockett Jackson (TX)  
 Cuellar Jacobs  
 Curtis James  
 D'Esposito Jayapal  
 Davids (KS) Jeffries  
 Davidson Johnson (GA)  
 Davis (IL) Johnson (OH)  
 Davis (NC) Johnson (SD)  
 Dean (PA) Jordan  
 DeGette Joyce (OH)  
 DeLauro Joyce (PA)  
 DelBene Kamlager-Dove  
 Deluzio Kean (NJ)  
 DeSaulnier Keating  
 DesJarlais Kelly (IL)  
 Diaz-Balart Kelly (MS)  
 Dingell Kelly (PA)  
 Doggett Khanna  
 Donalds Kildee  
 Duarte Kiley  
 Duncan Kilmer  
 Dunn (FL) Kim (CA)  
 Edwards Kim (NJ)  
 Ellzey Krishnamoorthi  
 Escobar Kuster  
 Eshoo Kustoff  
 Espallat LaHood  
 Estes LaLota  
 Evans LaMalfa  
 Ezell Lamborn  
 Fallon Landsman  
 Feenstra Langworthy  
 Ferguson Larsen (WA)  
 Finstad Larson (CT)  
 Fischbach Latta  
 Fitzgerald LaTurner  
 Fitzpatrick Lawler  
 Fleischmann Lee (FL)  
 Fletcher Lee (NV)  
 Flood Lee (PA)  
 Foster Leger Fernandez  
 Foushee Lesko  
 Foxx Letlow  
 Franklin, Scott Levin  
 Frost Lieu

Lofgren  
 Loudermill  
 Gaetz  
 Luetkemeyer  
 Luttrell  
 Lynch  
 Mace  
 Malliotakis  
 Maloy  
 Mann  
 Massie  
 Mast  
 Matsui  
 McBath  
 McCarthy  
 McCaul  
 McClain  
 McClellan  
 McClintock  
 McCollum  
 McCormick  
 McGarvey  
 McGovern  
 McHenry  
 Menendez  
 Meuser  
 Miller (IL)  
 Miller (OH)  
 Miller (WV)  
 Miller-Meeks  
 Mills  
 Molinaro  
 Moolenaar  
 Moore (AL)  
 Moore (UT)  
 Moore (WI)  
 Moran  
 Morelle  
 Mrvan  
 Mullin  
 Murphy  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Neguse  
 Nehls  
 Newhouse  
 Nickel  
 Norcross  
 Norman  
 Nunn (IA)  
 Obernolte  
 Ocasio-Cortez  
 Ogles  
 Omar  
 Owens  
 Pallone  
 Palmer  
 Panetta  
 Pappas  
 Pascarell  
 Payne  
 Pelosi  
 Peltola  
 Pence  
 Perez  
 Kamlager-Dove  
 Peters  
 Pettersen  
 Pfluger  
 Pingree  
 Pocan  
 Porter  
 Posey  
 Pressley  
 Quigley  
 Ramirez  
 Raskin  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rodgers (WA)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rose  
 Rosendale  
 Ross  
 Rouzer  
 Roy  
 Ruiz  
 Rutherford  
 Ryan  
 Salinas  
 Sánchez  
 Sarbanes  
 Scalise  
 Scanlon  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Scholten  
 Schrier  
 Schweikert

Scott (VA)  
 Scott, Austin  
 Scott, David  
 Self  
 Sessions  
 Sewell  
 Sherrill  
 Simpson  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (WA)  
 Smucker  
 Sorensen  
 Soto  
 Spanberger  
 Spartz  
 Stansbury  
 Stanton  
 Stauber  
 Steel  
 Stefanik  
 Steil  
 Steube  
 Barr  
 Brownley  
 Buchanan  
 Cammack  
 Cartwright  
 Cohen  
 Costa  
 Crenshaw  
 Crow  
 De La Cruz  
 Emmer  
 Frankel, Lois  
 Goldman (NY)  
 Gomez  
 Higgins (NY)  
 Jackson Lee  
 Kaptur  
 Kiggans (VA)  
 Lee (CA)  
 Luna  
 Magaziner  
 Manning  
 Meeks  
 Meng  
 Mfume  
 Mooney  
 Moskowitz  
 Moulton

Stevens  
 Strickland  
 Strong  
 Swalwell  
 Sykes  
 Takano  
 Tenney  
 Thanedar  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Tiffany  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Torres (NY)  
 Trahan  
 Trone  
 Turner  
 Underwood  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Dуйne  
 Van Orden  
 Vargas  
 Vasquez  
 Veasey  
 Velázquez  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Waltz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Westerman  
 Wexton  
 Wild  
 Williams (GA)  
 Williams (NY)  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke  
 Perry  
 Phillips  
 Ruppertsberger  
 Salazar  
 Schneider  
 Sherman  
 Slotkin  
 Timmons  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Wenstrup  
 Wilson (FL)

Bost  
 Bowman  
 Brown  
 Bucshon  
 Budzinski  
 Burchett  
 Burgess  
 Bush  
 Calvert  
 Caraveo  
 Carbajal  
 Cárdenas  
 Carey  
 Carl  
 Carson  
 Carter (GA)  
 Carter (LA)  
 Carter (TX)  
 Casar  
 Case  
 Casten  
 Castor (FL)  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chavez-DeRemer  
 Ciscomani  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Comer  
 Connolly  
 Correa  
 Courtney  
 Craig  
 Cuellar  
 Curtis  
 D'Esposito  
 Davids (KS)  
 Davis (NC)  
 DeGette  
 DeLauro  
 Deluzio  
 DeSaulnier  
 DesJarlais  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell  
 Duarte  
 Duncan  
 Dunn (FL)  
 Edwards  
 Ellzey  
 Escobar  
 Espallat  
 Estes  
 Ezell  
 Fallon  
 Feenstra  
 Ferguson  
 Fitzgerald  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fletcher  
 Flood  
 Foster  
 Foushee  
 Foxx  
 Franklin, Scott  
 Frost  
 Fry  
 Fulcher  
 Gaetz  
 Gallagher  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi  
 Garcia (IL)  
 Garcia (TX)  
 Garcia, Mike  
 Garcia, Robert  
 Gimenez  
 Golden (ME)  
 Gonzales, Tony  
 Gonzalez,  
 Vicente  
 Gooden (TX)  
 Gottheimer  
 Granger  
 Graves (LA)  
 Green (TN)  
 Green, Al (TX)  
 Griffith  
 Grijalva  
 Grothman  
 Guest  
 Guthrie  
 Harder (CA)  
 Harshbarger

Hayes  
 Hern  
 Hill  
 Hinson  
 Houchin  
 Houlihan  
 Hoyer  
 Hoyle (OR)  
 Hudson  
 Huffman  
 Huiizenga  
 Hunt  
 Issa  
 Ivey  
 Jackson (IL)  
 Jackson (NC)  
 Jackson (TX)  
 Jacobs  
 James  
 Jayapal  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson (SD)  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)  
 Joyce (PA)  
 Kamlager-Dove  
 Kaptur  
 Kean (NJ)  
 Kelly (IL)  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 Khanna  
 Kiley  
 Kilmer  
 Kim (CA)  
 Kim (NJ)  
 Krishnamoorthi  
 Kuster  
 Kustoff  
 LaHood  
 LaLota  
 LaMalfa  
 Lamborn  
 Landsman  
 Langworthy  
 Larsen (WA)  
 Latta  
 LaTurner  
 Lawler  
 Lee (FL)  
 Lee (NV)  
 Lee (PA)  
 Leger Fernandez  
 Lesko  
 Letlow  
 Levin  
 Lofgren  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 Luttrell  
 Lynch  
 Mace  
 Malliotakis  
 Maloy  
 Mann  
 Matsui  
 McBath  
 McCaul  
 McClain  
 McClellan  
 McCollum  
 McCormick  
 McGarvey  
 McGovern  
 McHenry  
 Menendez  
 Meuser  
 Miller (IL)  
 Miller (OH)  
 Miller (WV)  
 Miller-Meeks  
 Molinaro  
 Moolenaar  
 Moore (UT)  
 Moran  
 Mrvan  
 Mullin  
 Murphy  
 Neguse  
 Nehls  
 Newhouse  
 Nickel  
 Nunn (IA)  
 Obernolte  
 Ocasio-Cortez  
 Omar  
 Owens

Pallone  
 Palmer  
 Pappas  
 Payne  
 Peltola  
 Pence  
 Perez  
 Peters  
 Pettersen  
 Pfluger  
 Pingree  
 Pocan  
 Porter  
 Posey  
 Pressley  
 Quigley  
 Ramirez  
 Raskin  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rodgers (WA)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rose  
 Ross  
 Rouzer  
 Ruiz  
 Rutherford  
 Salinas  
 Sarbanes  
 Scalise  
 Schakowsky  
 Scholten  
 Schrier  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, Austin  
 Scott, David  
 Sherrill  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (WA)  
 Smucker  
 Sorensen  
 Soto  
 Spanberger  
 Spartz  
 Stansbury  
 Stanton  
 Steel  
 Stefanik  
 Steil  
 Steube  
 Stevens  
 Strickland  
 Strong  
 Swalwell  
 Sykes  
 Takano  
 Tenney  
 Thanedar  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Timmons  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Trahan  
 Trone  
 Turner  
 Underwood  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Dуйne  
 Van Orden  
 Vargas  
 Vasquez  
 Veasey  
 Velázquez  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Waltz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Westerman  
 Wexton  
 Wild  
 Williams (GA)  
 Williams (NY)  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke

NOT VOTING—39

Barr  
 Brownley  
 Buchanan  
 Cammack  
 Cartwright  
 Cohen  
 Costa  
 Crenshaw  
 Crow  
 De La Cruz  
 Emmer  
 Frankel, Lois  
 Goldman (NY)  
 Gomez  
 Higgins (NY)  
 Jackson Lee  
 Kaptur  
 Kiggans (VA)  
 Lee (CA)  
 Luna  
 Magaziner  
 Manning  
 Meeks  
 Meng  
 Mfume  
 Mooney  
 Moskowitz  
 Moulton

□ 1900

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 707.

LOWER COSTS, MORE TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5378) to promote price transparency in the health care sector, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 320, nays 71, answered "present" 1, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 708]  
 YEAS—320

Adams  
 Aderholt  
 Alford  
 Allen  
 Allred  
 Amo  
 Amodei  
 Armstrong  
 Arrington  
 Auchincloss  
 Bacon  
 Baird  
 Balderson  
 Balint  
 Banks  
 Bilirakis  
 Bishop (GA)  
 Blunt Rochester  
 Bean (FL)  
 Beatty

Bentz  
 Bera  
 Bergman  
 Bice  
 Bilirakis  
 Bishop (GA)  
 Blunt Rochester  
 Boebert  
 Bonamici

NAYS—71

Aguilar	Evans	Nadler
Beyer	Finstad	Napolitano
Biggs	Fischbach	Neal
Bishop (NC)	Garbarino	Norcross
Blumenauer	Good (VA)	Norman
Boyle (PA)	Gosar	Ogles
Brecheen	Graves (MO)	Panetta
Buck	Greene (GA)	Pascrell
Burlison	Hageman	Perry
Cherfilus-	Harris	Rosendale
McCormick	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Chu	Horsford	Ryan
Cline	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Cloud	Kildee	Scanlon
Clyde	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Collins	Lieu	Schweikert
Crane	Loudermilk	Self
Crawford	Massie	Sessions
Davidson	Mast	Sewell
Davis (IL)	McClintock	Simpson
Dean (PA)	Mills	Stauber
DelBene	Moore (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	Moore (WI)	Tiffany
Donalds	Morelle	Torres (NY)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Crockett

NOT VOTING—41

Babin	Gomez	Mooney
Barr	Higgins (NY)	Moskowitz
Brownley	Himes	Moulton
Buchanan	Jackson Lee	Phillips
Cammack	Keating	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Kiggans (VA)	Salazar
Cohen	Lee (CA)	Schneider
Costa	Luna	Sherman
Crenshaw	Magaziner	Slotkin
Crow	Manning	Wasserman
De La Cruz	McCarthy	Schultz
Emmer	Meeks	Webster (FL)
Frankel, Lois	Meng	Wenstrup
Goldman (NY)	Mfume	Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1908

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2023, PART II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6503) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 15, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 709]

YEAS—376

Adams	Dunn (FL)	Kuster
Aderholt	Edwards	Kustoff
Aguilar	Ellzey	LaHood
Alford	Escobar	LaLota
Allen	Eshoo	LaMalfa
Allred	Españillat	Lamborn
Amo	Estes	Landsman
Amodei	Evans	Langworthy
Armstrong	Ezell	Larsen (WA)
Arrington	Fallon	Larson (CT)
Auchincloss	Feenstra	Latta
Babin	Ferguson	LaTurner
Baird	Finstad	Lawler
Balderson	Fischbach	Lee (FL)
Balint	Fitzgerald	Lee (NV)
Banks	Fitzpatrick	Lee (PA)
Barragán	Fleischmann	Leger Fernandez
Bean (FL)	Fletcher	Lesko
Beatty	Poster	Letlow
Bentz	Foushee	Levin
Bera	Foxo	Lieu
Bergman	Frost	Lofgren
Beyer	Fry	Loudermilk
Bice	Fulcher	Lucas
Bilirakis	Gallagher	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (GA)	Gallego	Luttrell
Bishop (NC)	Garamendi	Lynch
Blumenauer	Garbarino	Mace
Blunt Rochester	Garcia (IL)	Malliotakis
Boebert	Garcia (TX)	Maloy
Bonamici	Garcia, Mike	Mann
Bost	Garcia, Robert	Massie
Bowman	Gimenez	Mast
Boyle (PA)	Golden (ME)	Matsui
Brecheen	Gonzales, Tony	McBath
Brown	Gonzalez, Vicente	McCarthy
Bucshon	Gooden (TX)	McCaull
Budzinski	Gottheimer	McClain
Burchett	Granger	McClellan
Burgess	Graves (LA)	McCollum
Burlison	Graves (MO)	McCormick
Bush	Green (TN)	McGarvey
Calvert	Green, Al (TX)	McGovern
Caraveo	Greene (GA)	McHenry
Carbajal	Griffith	Menendez
Cárdenas	Grijalva	Meuser
Carey	Grothman	Miller (IL)
Carl	Guest	Miller (OH)
Carson	Guthrie	Miller (WV)
Carter (GA)	Hageman	Miller-Meeks
Carter (LA)	Harder (CA)	Mills
Carter (TX)	Harris	Molinaro
Casar	Harshbarger	Moolenaar
Case	Hayes	Moore (AL)
Casten	Hern	Moore (UT)
Castor (FL)	Hill	Moore (WI)
Castro (TX)	Hinson	Moran
Chavez-DeRemer	Horsford	Morelle
Cherfilus-	Houchin	Mrvan
McCormick	Houlahan	Mullin
Chu	Hoyer	Murphy
Ciscomani	Hoyle (OR)	Nadler
Clark (MA)	Hudson	Napolitano
Clarke (NY)	Huffman	Neal
Cleaver	Huizenga	Neguse
Cline	Hunt	Nehls
CLOUD	Issa	Newhouse
Cloud	Ivey	Nickel
Clyburn	Jackson (IL)	Norman
Cole	Jackson (NC)	Nunn (IA)
Collins	Jackson (TX)	Obermole
Comer	Jacobs	Ocasio-Cortez
Connolly	James	Omar
Correa	Jayapal	Owens
Courtney	Jeffries	Pallone
Craig	Johnson (GA)	Palmer
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Panetta
Crockett	Johnson (SD)	Pappas
Cuellar	Jordan	Pascrell
Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Payne
Curtis	Joyce (PA)	Pelosi
D'Esposito	Kamlager-Dove	Peltola
Daivs (KS)	Kaptur	Pence
Davis (IL)	Kean (NJ)	Perez
Davis (NC)	Keating	Peters
Davis (ND)	Kelly (IL)	Petterson
Dean (PA)	Kelly (MS)	Pfizer
DeGette	Kelly (PA)	Pingree
DeLauro	Khanna	Pocan
DelBene	Kildee	Porter
Deluzio	Kiley	Posey
DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Pressley
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Quigley
Diaz-Balart	Kim (NJ)	Ramirez
Dingell	Krishnamoorthi	Raskin
Doggett		Reschenthaler
Donalds		
Duarte		
Duncan		

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

NAYS—15

Biggs	Gaetz	Ogles
Buck	Good (VA)	Perry
Clyde	Gosar	Rosendale
Crane	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Davidson	McClintock	Steube

NOT VOTING—42

Bacon	Goldman (NY)	Moulton
Barr	Gomez	Norcross
Brownley	Higgins (NY)	Phillips
Buchanan	Himes	Ruppersberger
Cammack	Jackson Lee	Salazar
Cartwright	Kiggans (VA)	Schneider
Cohen	Lee (CA)	Sherman
Costa	Luna	Slotkin
Crenshaw	Magaziner	Veasey
Crow	Manning	Wasserman
De La Cruz	Meeks	Schultz
Emmer	Meng	Wenstrup
Flood	Mfume	Wilson (FL)
Frankel, Lois	Mooney	
Franklin, Scott	Moskowitz	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1915

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be recorded on rollcall No. 707, rollcall No. 708, and rollcall No. 709. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 707, "yea" on rollcall No. 708, and "yea" on rollcall No. 709.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR THREE LIVES LOST AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join me and the members of the Nevada delegation in honoring the three precious lives that were lost to a heinous act of gun violence on December 6, 2023, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where I

taught in the political science department for 35 years.

Patricia Navarro Velez, an assistant professor of accounting at the university and a mother of four, devoted her career to educating the next generation of business professionals, particularly among underserved populations and minorities. She is remembered for her infectious smile and her larger-than-life personality.

Cha Jan "Jerry" Chang, a professor of management information systems and devoted UNLV colleague for more than 20 years, was known for his even-keeled, positive, and unwavering presence. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Naoko Takemaru was an associate professor of Japanese studies and a noted author, academic, and award-winning educator. In her 20th year at UNLV, Ms. Takemaru's colleagues remembered her as lionhearted in kindness.

Today, I stand here in solidarity with my colleagues from Nevada with a heavy heart for the victims, their families, and all of the UNLV students, faculty, and staff who experienced this horrific event.

Mr. Speaker, we honor the lives we lost and uplift the UNLV community during this trying time.

I ask that we not only use this time to commemorate the important and selfless contributions of each of these individuals who were part of the UNLV community and also to remember the heroic actions of our law enforcement, but also to reflect on the pressing need to enact commonsense legislation to protect our communities from the epidemic of gun violence.

I ask all of my colleagues to consider signing on to a resolution to this effect, which I will be introducing tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House observe a moment of silence to honor the three lives lost and to uplift the UNLV community.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BRAEDAN STEVEN PENCE

(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 the life of Braedan Steven Pence.

Braedan passed away this past October after courageously fighting multiple medical conditions for his entire life. Braedan's life was cut tragically short, but the impact that he left on others, his friends, his family, and members of our community will be felt forever.

He was known for his kindness and the joy that he confidently displayed to others. You could often find Braedan outside enjoying the sunshine or on a walk with his nurse, Bonnie, waving at everyone he passed.

Braedan should be an example to all of us on how we should live our lives.

Even in the face of adversity and challenges, it is important to always stay positive and to be kind to others. I, again, express my deepest sympathies to Braedan's family.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SARAH KEYS EVANS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the remarkable life and legacy of Ms. Sarah Keys Evans. Her courage left an unforgettable mark on our Nation's history.

On August 1, 1952, 3 years before Rosa Parks, Ms. Keys, who was a private in the Women's Army Corps, refused to give up her seat on a bus in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, leading to the landmark case of Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company.

Her stand against discrimination helped ignite the civil rights movement.

This past November, at the age of 94, Ms. Sarah Keys Evans passed, leaving us reflecting on her enduring impact on humanity.

Let us honor Ms. Sarah Keys Evans by continuously striving for a nation where opportunity for all flourishes.

#### RECOGNIZING A&B HEATING AND SHEET METAL COMPANY FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WARREN COUNTY

(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 the A&B Heating and Sheet Metal Company from Warren County. Originally founded in 1953 by World War II veteran, Carl Papalia, the family-owned small business continues to provide excellent services to those in the Warren area for the last 70 years.

Before creating the company, Carl served his company honorably as a flight engineer on B-24 bombers in the South Pacific.

Carl and his brothers, Ralph and Joe, were first-generation Americans who together paved the way for the success of the business for more than 40 years.

Following Carl and Ralph's passing, Carl's son, David, took over the ownership of the company, leading to substantial growth.

Today, the company has 20 employees specialized to assist customers in a 60-mile radius. Seventy years later, the company's mission statement, "The satisfaction of helping the community is not about what you do, it is about who you are," remains the same.

I am so proud of the A&B Heating and Sheet Metal Company and all the work that they have done for those in Warren County and across the Northern Tier.

God bless them.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RON BYRNE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Ron Byrne, a pillar of New York's Capital Region community who sadly passed away on November 8.

When Ron's mother experienced a debilitating fall, he saw a group of local retirees come together to assist her with her daily needs.

Inspired by that outpouring of support, Ron devised an idea: an organization that would connect handy retirees and certified contractors with elderly homeowners who need help with errands, home repairs, or landscaping.

In 1995, Ron brought this idea to life and founded the Umbrella of the Capital District.

Today, this organization serves more than 500 homes in Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties, enthusiastically helping seniors and people with disabilities to maintain their homes, their independence, and, yes, their dignity.

His unwavering commitment to service and community was a beacon to us all, and his impact will continue to be felt by all in my district.

Ron Byrne, rest in peace.

□ 1930

#### THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM IS NOT OVER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over 110 times since Biden appeasement in Afghanistan, I have warned the global war on terrorism is not over as terrorists plan to attack American families with Biden open borders.

The threat is clear with a shocking number of trained, well-financed mass murderers who are invading America—reaching 169 persons this year. Ukraine was invaded, then Israel, now America—invaded.

House Republicans addressed the issue earlier this year with the Secure the Border Act, which was blocked by Senate Democrats. It promotes restarting wall construction, advancing technology, adding Border Patrol, transparency on illegals, ending catch and release, and reversing executive authorities.

Each congressional office has a rally point in the event of an attack, and I urge all families to plan a rally point. Communications may be disrupted, and every family member should know where to go for safety before roads are closed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years. It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11s across America imminent as the FBI has finally, last week, revealed.

#### DON'T LEAVE THE GREAT LAKES REGION OUT

(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 urge the Biden administration to launch the Great Lakes Authority as passed by Congress last year. Don't leave our region out.

For decades, the Great Lakes watershed, the largest body of freshwater on Earth, has endured atypical economic stress, job loss due to disastrous trade policies, underinvestment, and major deindustrialization.

Now, with Democratic economic recovery initiatives that passed in the last 3 years, our region is beginning to see major reinvestment, starting with the long-delayed Soo Locks modernization so vital to our ports and maritime trade.

For decades and decades, the Great Lakes region lacked authorization for a regional development instrumentality that might begin to emulate the success of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Now, coupling the Great Lakes authority with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, our region stands poised for new investment in good-paying jobs and economic opportunity to turbocharge revitalization.

Our need is no different than the TVA, which for nearly 100 years has uplifted that formerly neglected region. All our Great Lakes region asks the Biden administration for is equal footing. Don't leave us out.

#### WE NEED HIGHWAYS, NOT HIGH-SPEED RAIL

(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, the United States' debt has grown by \$2.5 trillion over the last year. Over the last 20 months, thanks to Biden-led policies, \$4.8 trillion. This is a massive driver of inflation and lack of credit on the market out there for regular people.

On top of the omnibus bill done a year ago and many other big spending ideas that were gotten through in the previous Congress, now the President wants to add \$6 billion more for high-speed rail in California, \$3 billion for the project, that is already 15 years late and four times its budget price, and \$3 billion more now for what was going to be a private concern from LA to Las Vegas, the gambler special.

We need highways to be rebuilt. We need less debt causing people to not be able to make ends meet. Why are we putting it on these boondoggles in southern California? It is crazy. Put it toward highways that people can use or something else.

#### THE THREAT CROSSING THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the American public and my colleagues one more time of the biggest threat we face today, and that is the huge volume of people crossing our southern border.

Again, in the most recent month available, we made an all-time record of the number of people coming here, about 11 times the number of people crossing the border as were crossing the border just 3 years ago.

Don't let anybody tell you we have got to work on some solution. The solution was there. Just a little bit of will, and you could cut it by 91 percent.

Above that, don't forget, over a million people are sworn in legally. Don't let anybody ever tell you that we have a problem, and we have got to get more people here. A million people per year come here legally.

Don't forget that during the Trump administration, when Trump was criticized for not deporting enough criminals from this country, we were deporting about four times the number of people here today.

The American public has to wake up and tell this body to get in gear and do something about this illegal immigration.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 11, 2023.  
Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: I hereby resign from the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Sincerely,

TED W. LIEU,  
Member of Congress.

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

#### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, for over 80 years, our country has recognized the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week. This week was first established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 to create an annual event where Christians could celebrate the Bible.

The very first Psalm of David expresses the importance of the Bible: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly nor stands in the path of sinners nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law, he mediates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season whose leave also shall not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.

King David found that his greatest counsel was not found in human philosophy but rather in the words of God.

America is a Nation that from its beginning has respected the Bible. The evidence is all around us here in Washington, D.C. Numerous memorials that quote the Bible, the buildings that house our executive, judicial, and legislative branches have Bible verses etched in stone. More importantly, the values and principles that have made us a secure, free, and prosperous Nation come from the holy Word of God.

In this hour, we will hear from Members of Congress from various faith traditions and denominations speak about what the Bible means to them. We are here in keeping with that 80-year tradition to recognize National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege to speak in each of those years talking about the Bible and its importance in my life.

The Psalmist in Psalm 119:105, the longest Psalm in the Bible, the longest chapter in the Bible, is written entirely about the Word of God and the impact on the Psalmist's life. He says: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

That has been my experience. Over the years, my friend and colleague, as he has led that, he has heard me talk about my experience from the Word of God.

Tonight, I will let the Bible, God's Word, speak for itself. We know in Genesis 1:1, it says: In the beginning, God.

In John 1:1, it says: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. That speaks to the foundational truth that

God makes up the word, the truth. The revealed Word is His Son, Jesus Christ. As a Christian, I accept that, but the Bible, the written Word of God, is powerful.

Every Word of God is tested. We have a lot of books that are out there today, self-help books, but not all is tested. Every Word of God is tested, according to Proverbs 30. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

It talks about the impact of the Word of God in our challenges of life. In Ephesians 6:17, the Apostle Paul says: Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

In Luke, the writer says: On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it.

Oftentimes, when we speak about the Bible, we speak about the principles, but it doesn't work until we use it and we observe it and the impact of scripture that goes through the entire life of an individual.

Paul, writing to his son in the faith, Timothy, says: And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

The power of the Bible continues. It doesn't go away. It says in Isaiah the prophet: The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever.

What else can we say that lasts forever?

Peter said in I Peter 1:25: But the Word of the Lord endures forever, and this is the Word which was preached to you.

Finally, for our impact in our daily life that can go on, in II Peter 1:20–21 it says: But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

That is the power of the Bible. It is God's truth revealed to us to be used in our lives.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand here in this Chamber and commemorate National Bible Week along with my colleagues here tonight.

Tonight, I want to talk about what the Bible has meant to me and its impact on our Nation's history, the divisions we see across our country, including in this Chamber, and highlight the challenges we are facing.

I am currently reading the Bible, with a prayer group here in Congress, in its entirety for the third time. I am constantly reminded of the answers this book provides to the current issues we are facing in our Nation.

Unfortunately and regrettably, we are a Bible-illiterate society. Just above our flag here in this Chamber is "In God We Trust." How do you put your faith and trust in God if you don't know Him and understand His Word?

I was baptized in a small, rural church at the age of 9 in Georgia, and, of course, I began to go my own way in high school and college. After marrying my wife, we found another church home. For some 30 years, that meant so much to our family, raising our children in that church, but it became more of a ritual and somewhat meaningless to me. I had my priorities out of order.

A friend asked me to join him in a Bible study. Some 6 months later, I realized that God didn't want my rituals; He wanted my heart. I have had this urge to know God since then and study His Word intently and try my best to understand His will for me. What I have learned is that God created the church through Jesus Christ to evangelize, and God created government to moralize and restrain evil.

Today, both the church and the government are divided on these issues. We have Moses, his full face looking down on the entire Chamber, who gave us the first five books of the Bible, the moral law. It should be pretty plain to us what God expects.

As I said earlier, "In God We Trust" is above the flag, and it is on our money, yet in this body we are without excuse.

Joshua 1:8 says: This book of the law, the Bible, shall not depart from your lips, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do what it says and what is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

God's Word is full of great promises. So where are we today?

My fellow Americans, Billy Graham offered a prayer on inauguration in 1969, and I would like to read it.

□ 1945

I will read just part of it: Our Father and our God, Thou hast said, "Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord." We recognize on this historic occasion that we are "one Nation under God."

As the prayer goes on, Reverend Graham describes the current situation in 1969. Today, we are struggling with the same issues. Emotional health has become an epidemic because so many do not have hope and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to seek God's Word, pray, and meet with others and your colleagues and seek understanding.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ALLEN for sharing from his personal story.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), who is the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LAMBORN for bringing us all together tonight.

The Bible is a book that has endured for generations. Around the world, it is the number one bestseller. For 6,000 years of history, it is the Bible that has shaped who we are, how we govern, and our laws, morality, education, and family values.

The Bible has influenced the greatest philosophers, scholars, artists, musicians, and scientific work and discoveries.

The Bible answers questions like: Who am I? What makes me human? What is the purpose of life?

At a time when we are divided, angry, and fearful—the Surgeon General says we have a public health crisis of loneliness and isolation driving record suicides, deaths of despair, divorce, substance abuse, depression, and anxiety—perhaps more of us should read the Bible.

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed: "We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

In 2023, have we forgotten God? How about doing something new in 2024? How about reading the Bible, all 435 Members of the House of Representatives? With our family and friends, it is only 15 minutes a day. We can read through the old book together for wisdom, like in Proverbs to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

God is with us in everything that we do. May we discover the truth and freedom of His ways as revealed in the sacred Scripture.

Together, with His abundant grace, we can bring hope and healing to our land.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Bible Week. I thank Mr. LAMBORN, who is not only a colleague but a good friend and someone that I look up to in so many ways, for organizing this important Special Order.

As we come to the end of our first session of this Congress, to say that it has not been a tumultuous year would not be putting it clearly. Right now, we are at the beginning of our Advent season, and there is no time better to pause and reflect on the Founding Fathers' intentions. That is simply to protect Americans' right to worship and practice their faith freely.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 says that the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

To be honest, when I came to Washington, I was actually shocked to learn how much the Founding Fathers

looked to Scripture for guidance as they drafted our founding documents. Unfortunately, today, in schools, they don't really explain this. They really hardly even mention it.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues and every American citizen to simply look at what the Founding Fathers had to say about the Holy Bible and just how much the Founding Fathers relied on it on a day-by-day basis, especially as they put together the documents that founded this very Nation that we live in.

During the days following the inception of this Nation, most people would be surprised to learn that this body, the U.S. Congress, authorized the publication of Bibles.

The Holy Bible is a firm foundation on which we can build our lives, filter decisions through, be encouraged by, and seek guidance from.

Let me say, from my personal standpoint, as an individual who is imperfect but who made a decision to trust Christ Jesus at a young age, and as someone who tries to look at Scripture on a daily basis, we need to continue to lean into God's Word as we seek to do the good work for the American people, grow in our faith, and contribute to a culture of renewed light in this Nation.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from California comes forward, I am going to give my own story. My own story shows a life that was changed by the Bible.

When I went to college, I thought I knew what the Bible was all about. In reality, I never read any of it for myself. When I was urged to do so, I realized that it was different than what I had assumed.

I read the Gospel of John, and I realized I was separated from God and that the way for me to find Him was through Jesus, who said He is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father but through Him.

When I accepted Him as my Lord and Savior, my life changed dramatically. I can attest to the reality of the Bible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado with almost the same name as me. I appreciate him leading this important time for us here tonight, especially as we encroach upon Christmas, which a lot of times can be made into something else besides the celebration of our Savior.

The Bible serves as a compass, guiding us through life's journey, illuminating the path of its teachings, parables, and wisdom. It is indeed more than a collection of words. It is a living testament to the grace, power, and unwavering love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Its narratives reveal the depth of God's faithfulness, His miraculous interventions, and His promise of salvation—if we would just ask for it.

The Bible has played, of course, an integral role in shaping the values, principles, and visions of the early pioneers who sought freedom in this coun-

try, who did not want to be dictated by a monarch as to what religion they would follow.

We have that freedom in this country. We don't have a state-sponsored religion. We don't have a preferred one, even though many based the founding of this country on Christian and Biblical values, the Judeo-Christian ideal. They don't force it on anyone in this country.

We hear a lot of fuss about the separation of church and state. That is really a misnomer. It is not in the Constitution, and it is not what everybody is about. No one has to prescribe to any particular type, but we encourage it because there is salvation in it.

As we celebrate the week of the Bible here, it is the inerrant Word of God, inspired. The teachings in it are positive values for anybody. They stand the test of time. They stand above the whims of Congress, of people, or of governing. If we embrace that, it is indeed better for all of us and for all of our families.

The Pilgrims sought that religious freedom 300-plus years ago, and many have been seeking it since. As we see more and more persecution of people's religious beliefs, we have to put a stop to that and, indeed, honor what is so formative in this country and its basic freedoms.

As we honor National Bible Week, we do recognize the impact extends far beyond individual faith practices. It is indeed part of our Nation's story. It serves as an anchor, offering solace, hope, and guidance in the world—indeed, inspired by God, given to mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this time and opportunity to put the spotlight on this because it is a very selfless thing. We hope you will take time to read it. It will inspire.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, Representative ADERHOLT made passing reference to an early action of our Congress in authorizing publication of a Bible in the 1700s. I am going to amplify on that just a little bit here.

Many of the early American settlers who came to the New World wanted to live out their faith in God and His Word, according to the convictions of their own consciences. It is true that one of Congress' first acts in the infancy of our Nation was the authorization of an American-published Bible. The Revolutionary War with the British had cut off all shipments of Bibles from England. Our Founding Fathers understood how important it was for the American people to have access to Bibles.

Robert Aitken, a private citizen, brought this need to the attention of Congress. He said, in a letter, "This work is an object worthy of the attention of the Congress of the United States of America, who will not negligent spiritual security, while they are virtuously contending for temporal blessings."

In 1782, Congress reviewed, approved, and authorized the first known English

language Bible to be printed in America, and the congressional resolution for that read:

"Resolved: That the United States in Congress assembled highly approve the pious and laudable undertaking of Mr. Aitken, as subservient to the interest of religion as well as an instance of progress of arts in this country, and being satisfied from the above report of his care and accuracy in the execution of the work, they recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation in the manner he shall think proper."

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine doing that today, authorizing a Bible and recommending it to the people of the United States?

Our country has changed over the years and not always for the better, I am afraid.

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding and for claiming the time this evening to acknowledge and honor our Nation's 82nd National Bible Week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join those Members here tonight on the House floor to share the Lord's Word, its meaning, and the lessons I have learned from reading and studying it throughout my life.

There are many lessons we learn throughout our lives, whether in school or our careers, as parents, or throughout the countless challenges life provides. However, there are no better lessons than those revealed in God's Word in the Bible.

For example, in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we learn about the importance of gratitude when the Apostle Paul writes: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

Mr. Speaker, I know many of us tend to voice our displeasure with many of the world's current affairs on the House floor, but thankfully there is so much for which to be thankful.

We also learn about forgiveness when Jesus dies for our sins on the cross. Ephesians 4:32 says: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." There is nothing more powerful than the message of forgiveness.

Each and every lesson found in the Bible of forgiveness, compassion, gratitude, generosity, faith, humility, wisdom, perseverance, patience, and respect, among many others, are powerful lessons on their own.

Each lesson has had a tremendous impact on my life and the lives of those around me. I couldn't be more grateful to have them impact me the way they have so that I can go forth and spread them in my community and in my family, including with my two sons, Guy and Sam.

□ 2000

Of course, as Christmas quickly approaches, there is no Biblical story more significant than that of the miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ. As always, it is important to remind ourselves what we are celebrating this time of year: the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Of course, there are no better reminders than those that exist in the Bible, which is why we are here today to honor the Bible during our country's 82nd National Bible Week.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. LAMBORN, for taking the time today to recognize the importance of the Bible in our Nation and its history. As a Christian, I am proud to recognize National Bible Week, and I pray that by doing so I will be able to encourage more souls to know the teachings of the Lord through His written word, the Bible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate National Bible Week, and it is right that we do so. Our forefathers felt very strongly that America was fit for a moral and religious people and totally unfit for anyone else, and our forefathers frequently quoted the Bible and made reference to the Bible. I think if we are going to continue with our oaths of office to uphold our Constitution, inevitably that means familiarizing ourselves with the Bible and guiding ourselves in this institution by the Bible.

George Washington, the father of our Nation, said that it is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible.

I just mentioned John Adams. I should mention Benjamin Rush who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a Representative of Pennsylvania at the beginning of our Nation.

The Bible contains more truth than any other book in the world. John Jay was our first Supreme Court Justice. For some who think there is a separation of church and state, John Jay, our first Supreme Court Justice said: "Let us therefore persevere steadfastly in distributing the Scriptures far and near, and without note or comment. We are assured that they are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

John Quincy Adams, the son of John Adams, said: "The Bible is of all books in the world that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy."

Of all the books in the Old Testament other than, of course, Psalms, which is a very long book, the book quoted most by our forefathers was Deuteronomy. It is kind of interesting because normally, Mr. Speaker, when you hear somebody quote something in the Bible, you never hear Deuteronomy. Nevertheless, what I take it to mean is that Deuteronomy was kind of the book laying out the type of govern-

ment that our Lord expected the Jewish people to have when they left Egypt and established their land even before they had a king.

Therefore, if you look at it that way, Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising at all. In any event, I do think it is time for the American public—there are some churches that do it more than others—to read some of the Bible, to try to live by its precepts, and insofar as we raise our younger people in this country, familiarize them with the Bible and have them live by its precepts.

I thank Congressman LAMBORN for yielding to me to talk about the Bible. I hope Members of Congress, when they return after this week to their districts, make a special point of reading parts of the Bible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. It is that time of year when we as Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Of course, His story is found in the Bible that we are talking about tonight. So it all ties together very well at this time of year especially.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and hosting this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Bible Week. As the Christmas season approaches and with all the conflict going on in our world right now, I can't think of a better time to discuss the good news that is our Bible.

For many Americans, the Christmas season is a time of giving, a time of joy, and a time for family. For many Christians across the world, this season looks a lot different, conflict rages in Eastern Europe and Israel. Many lives have been lost. Here at home fentanyl plagues our country with Americans being poisoned daily.

Sometimes it is easy for us to get lost in the bad, and we forget who is really in control. I am certainly guilty of this, and I am sure you are too, Mr. Speaker. Fortunately, we can turn to the Word of the Lord for comfort in these troubling times.

The Book of Romans 8:38-39 remind me that no matter what we go through as individuals or as a nation or as a planet, it cannot separate us from Christ's love.

The verse says, For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This Christmas season, pray for our world, pray for our country, pray for our leaders, and pray for our military. Remember that God loved us all so much He sent His one and only Son to die for our sins so that we may be forgiven. It is for that reason that we celebrate this Christmas season.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado for inviting me to speak today and for hosting this.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I will mention something about archaeology. There are many archeological discoveries which have validated biblical accounts giving trustworthiness to the Bible that we are acknowledging now during the recent National Bible Week.

Archeology has, time and time again, shown that the Biblical personalities, locations, and events actually existed in time and space. Claims by critics that a Biblical statement was simply made up have been later debunked by archeological discoveries more times than we can say.

For instance, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the late forties and fifties proved the credibility and authority of Scripture. The discovery of these scrolls shined light on the oldest records of the worldwide flood and the longstanding authority and accuracy of the Bible.

Jewish archaeologist Nelson Glueck has stated: It may be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted or contradicted a Biblical reference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the reason we study the Bible is because it is the history of God's creation of Earth starting in the Book of Genesis and in the creation of man and his fall in Genesis chapter 3.

Mr. Speaker, if you study the Bible, you will note that in Genesis 3:15, God promises to Adam and Eve that He will send someone to atone for their sin. You might further note that God promises that the one whom He will send will be wounded in the heel but that the atonement or what I call the "at one ment," which is to be one with God which is Jesus, will crush the serpent or Satan's head.

Also note, Mr. Speaker, that He promises that the woman, or Eve's, seed, will crush the head of Satan. This is the only time I know of in God's Holy Word that the woman's offspring is referred to as the seed because the term is usually for the offspring of men and not for women.

Understand the virgin birth: there was no man's seed involved with the woman's pregnancy. It was the Holy Spirit of the living God. In this way God was stating way back in the first book of the Bible that Jesus was coming to atone for our sin.

Thousands of years later, Jesus shows up as prophesied by Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 7 where under the influence of the Holy Spirit Isaiah writes: Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel, which is being interpreted as God with us.

This is the one in the New Testament whom John the Baptist pointed to and said: Yes, this is the one.

Jesus did live a sinless life, and He did go to the cross to pay for our sins. For me, he saved me on July 2, 1973, at 5:30 in the afternoon in Pearland, Texas.

Jesus is the Holy One of Israel and the anointed one whom God uses to save people from their sins.

That is why we study the Bible, Mr. Speaker. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It is important to study the Bible. Merry Christmas.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to commemorate National Bible Week this evening. I am grateful to my colleagues who joined me to honor the Word of God.

Mr. Speaker, I simply restate my gratitude for the Words of Jesus about the Bible:

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was its fall.

So I am thankful for the Word of God that we have to live by. I thank God for the stability and foundation the Bible has given in my life, for the lives of those who have spoken here today, and for the life of our great Nation.

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

#### CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the members of the Democratic Caucus who have been able to accomplish many things in spite of the sound and fury of the dysfunctional politics in a small and vocal part of the House Republican Conference. As I stand here in the people's House I am struck by how much congressional leadership matters and how divided the 118th Congress has been.

We have been here, without question, living in perilous times. In times like these what we do in this Chamber matters in the lives of American people.

The people of our district did not send us here to perform theatrical acts. They did not send us here to posture for the cameras. None of us were elected here so that we could increase the status and the stature of our personal media profiles. Yet that seems to be the total measure of what this Congress has amounted to.

The 118th Congress and the year of 2023 have been unprecedented. Earlier this year, leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES made history as the first man of African descent to be elected the leader of a major political party.

Nevertheless, almost immediately chaos erupted. The Speaker's vote was a mess. Speaker Emeritus MCCARTHY was elected after 15 rounds of votes, 15 rounds. It was the first time in a century that election of a House Speaker took multiple ballots to complete, and it was the longest vote in the United States' history since 1855 lasting 133 rounds just over 2 months.

I will say, though, that our honorable leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, did receive 3,179 votes for Speaker across 15 rounds.

The hits just kept coming as we rolled into the spring. At the end of March, we reached a new milestone, the People of the State of New York v. Donald J. Trump marked the first time—after four indictments against President Trump—that we have ever seen in our country's history a former President indicted on criminal charges.

As the weather got warmer, temperatures flared. Some wanted to take our national debt hostage. To be clear, this is money the Congress had already appropriated, and with a bipartisan coalition we managed to avert an economic calamity and an economic shutdown.

Fast-forward to the fall, and many of the same issues arose again. Then Speaker MCCARTHY was confronted with an unruly small group who were willing to shut down the government after the debt ceiling debate. For keeping the government open, Speaker MCCARTHY became the first Speaker in the House to ever be removed. The chaos that ensued was brutal. The House went without a Speaker for 23 days, the longest since 1961.

A marathon 10-week session that tested everyone's patience produced only frustration and anger. There is a reason we have had a record number of retirements from the Members of Congress at every level that we have not seen in a decade. Thirteen Senators and Representatives have already announced they are not seeking reelection in just the month of November. This is the highest number of retirements we have seen in this body in more than a decade.

This should not surprise us because dysfunction is a bitter pill to swallow, and I say that broadly because that dysfunction is not limited to this Chamber or to the House of Representatives.

□ 2015

Over in the Senate, Senator TUBERVILLE stood in the way of over

400 senior military officers that deserved promotion and the dignity of all of their ranks and their compensation. He held up 400 officers, putting our Nation's security at risk. One United States Senator thought his understanding of what was right should supersede the will of 99 other United States Senators.

More than that, this one Senator spent most of the year subjecting the United States military and members of the armed services to the detrimental effects of his personal whims and wishes. He had no regard for the families he put in jeopardy who risk their lives every day for our citizenry. He showed no concern for the hard work and dedication of these military officers who have focused their careers on protecting and serving our Nation.

Perhaps most of all, this United States Senator tried to impose his morality on 1.4 million active military personnel in the armed services without their consent and without the advice of their commanding officers.

Senator TUBERVILLE's story is instructive of what happens when we come together and do the right thing. Just last week, he folded. As a man of faith, I pray that the second part of the 118th Congress is more productive than the first. With only 21 bills that have been passed into law at the halfway point of this Congress, it is on pace to be the most sluggish Congress since our predecessors met in 1931 and 1932, but let's stay positive and hopeful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Louisiana, Congressman TROY CARTER.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON for the great work that he continues to do. I thank him for his illustrious words and for the opportunity to participate in the CBC Special Order.

2023 has been an exciting and action-packed year. It has been an honor to serve as the second vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus under the leadership of my dear friend Congressman STEVEN HORSFORD, Democrat from Nevada.

As a member of the Regional Leadership Council for Region 7 and on the House Homeland Security and Transportation Infrastructure Committees, this session has been yet another one that we continue to work.

I am proud that, despite the pushback from our friends on the other side almost at every opportunity, we have accomplished historic investments for the American people. I would like to highlight just a few of them that we challenged all year long.

Environmental justice must be at the center of any action to address disproportionate health and environmental impacts on communities, especially communities of color. This year I hosted multiple EPA executives, including the EPA Administrator, Michael Regan, and the Secretary of Department of Energy, Jennifer



Granholm, and other leaders from my district.

Louisiana was also selected to establish new Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance grants, creating the first ever in Louisiana Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center that will give communities an opportunity to have technical access to attract and have access to real resources to defend communities against environmental injustice. That is a success. The first that we have had in a long time at this level.

This will provide resource to help communities and nonprofits navigate the complex Federal grant process. Additionally, in Louisiana, we know better than anyone that storms are coming stronger, staying longer, coming faster, and leaving more havoc in their path, having greater impact than ever before.

Adequate funding is essential to enhance the resilience of our roads, bridges, and levies, ensuring they can withstand and recover from future natural disasters. By investing in robust infrastructure, we not only protect people's lives and property, but also bolster the overall economic sustainability of our region. Strengthening our infrastructure is a proactive measure that reduces long-term costs associated with disaster recovery, ultimately fostering a safer and more sustainable future for all Americans.

We have continued to see promises kept as funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes its way to the communities around the country.

I am committed to advocating for the vital funding to fortify our infrastructure, recognizing its pivotal role in safeguarding our communities against ever-present threats of natural disasters.

Just as important as protecting our Earth is the health of our minds and bodies of that of our citizens. Regardless of age, location, education, and economic standing, racism is the biggest barrier to mental health for the Black community.

This year, I convened multiple forums where I brought together visionaries, activists, and leaders who are shaping the future of this field in the Black community. These events focus on themes, including reduction in the isolation that our children saw during and after COVID, improving campus safety, and increasing access to healthcare providers. I am committed to fighting for greater representation in industry in the mental health area where we are significantly underrepresented with providers of this level of care.

Our veterans give so much to us, we owe it to them to make sure that we do all that we can to help them live healthy, productive, and meaningful lives during and, most importantly, after they come home. Far too many of our veterans come home to find themselves homeless, without a job, without

resources, without someone to care after they have provided for us the greatest contribution, protecting our flanks. The freedom that we enjoy isn't free. It is paid by our veterans who put their lives on the line and sacrificed their family time. They should get the best services when they are away and when they come home.

This year, I hosted multiple VA curbside events across LA-02 to bring Federal resources to the front doors of our veterans and our citizens. That includes specific help for veterans like signing up for disability pay and receiving VA benefits, assisting with FEMA case work, and getting assistance with tax refunds.

This is only a small snapshot of the work House Democrats have done this year in fighting for all Americans. I will continue to put people over politics and work tirelessly for Louisianans to empower them with the necessary resources to not just survive, but to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I wish everyone a merry Christmas, happy holidays, happy Hanukkah, happy Kwanzaa, and a blessed New Year.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as I stand on this floor tonight, I do so as someone painfully aware of the serious times we are living in. Let the word go forth in this time and place that this Nation and, indeed, this entire world stands on the precipice of unregulated conflict.

From Civil War in the Congo, to the war in Ukraine, to Israel's war with Hamas in the Middle East, the Earth is saturated with violence and recrimination and as in the case of all wars, people are dying.

Tens of thousands of innocent people have lost their lives. People who have nothing to do with governmental policies that send men and women into battle are no less the victims of those momentous decisions. Israeli babies, Palestinian babies, Congolese babies, and Ukrainian children all deserve to live in a world where they are, not judged by the details of their religion or the color of their skin. Yet, this is not the world that they were born into.

I stand here tonight concerned about the state of our civilization. I stand here tonight concerned about the role this country plays in being promoters of peace. I come here to this well bothered by the rise and the almost unfettered proliferation of anti-Semitism.

It should never be the case that a Jewish person in this country feels like their lives are under threat because they are Jewish.

We cannot allow the children of Einstein, Oppenheimer, and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel to feel as if they have no place in this country. There can be no moral equivocation when it comes to anti-Semitism in the way that this could be a moral equivocation when it comes to racism. Racism and anti-Semitism travel together because they are two sides of the same coin.

History is repeat with the evidence to prove that societies that begin with

one will evidently end up with the other. Where there is anti-Semitism, racism is sure to follow. Where there is racism, there will ultimately be anti-Semitism as well.

We know this is the case because hatred knows no bounds, bigotry respects no limits, and ironically prejudice does not discriminate.

The moment you release one into the universe of our consciousness, the other will invariably come knocking at the door. That is why those of us who are leaders in this country must be clear about where we stand with respect to anti-Semitism. Whatever challenges people may have with policies conducted by the government of Israel, those concerns must not be used to avoid the absolute rejection of anti-Semitism as a plausible, cultural, or political solution.

I say this as a Black man living in America who has had a multiplicity of concerns about the policies of my own government. Black people in America have had 400 years of learning how to separate policies from people. While it is intelligent to question all governments, it is not, however, acceptable to allow corrosive influences to convince us that anti-Semitism is a liberating political project because it is not, nor has it ever been, and neither will it ever be.

I don't care what anyone says: Black lives matter, Jewish lives are sacred, and Palestinian lives are important because all life comes from God.

Anti-Semitism is a vile and repulsive preoccupation with hatred that has more than once manifested itself with horrific consequences. I stand here today doubly concerned because influences and, in some cases, influencers have provided the permission and the structure for people who are themselves the object of hate to participate in the hatred of our Jewish brothers and sisters.

We simply cannot allow this to happen. We must declare in no uncertain terms that right is right and wrong is wrong, and that it is wrong to hate people. It is wrong to treat people like they are beneath you. It is wrong to act like people are outside of the human family because they pray differently. We here tonight must be highly resolved that this country is to be the oasis of tolerance amid a vast desert of discrimination.

We say no to anti-Semitism, we say no to anti-Black racism, and we say no to anything that would subject any human being to dehumanizing language in treatment.

I encourage the people of this country to hold fast to the principles of this Christmas season in which we find ourselves. Whether you are Christian or not, the principles of this season are enduring and a great degree universal.

The idea that peace should be the function of our politics is something all of us should embrace. The notion that the birth of love is the only thing that can save us is something that no

one should be willing to reject. In the words of Reverend Martin Luther King, he called us a “beloved community.” I submit to you tonight that it is this very thing that compels me to be a Member of this body.

I still believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men and women who are other-centered can build up again. I still believe that truth crush down to Earth can still rise again, and I still believe that if we stand up for one another, that is the only way we can have our salvation. None of us would be brutalized when we learn to love.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), the honorable and distinguished Congressional Black Caucus Chairman.

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Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for anchoring tonight’s Special Order hour and for his tenacity, perseverance, and dedication along with Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK as the coanchor for the Congressional Black Caucus.

At the end of each year, Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we owe it to the American people to show our work. We owe it to the American people to show who we have been fighting for and what we have delivered on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, as the first year of the 118th Congress comes to a close, I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus because the report card on House Republicans’ do-nothing chaos agenda and the CBC’s people over politics agenda is in.

Since the 118th Congress was sworn in this January, and as our Caucus has grown to a historic, record-breaking 60 members, we have been fighting for the people. We have been fighting to preserve our democracy, fighting to protect voting rights and create fairer districts, fighting for public safety and police accountability, fighting to protect a woman’s right to make her own healthcare decisions, fighting against the expulsion of Black elected officials, fighting archaic traditions that block progress, and, of course, fighting extremist Republicans and a judiciary who would rather erase us, who want to see us less free, and with fewer fundamental rights.

While the Congressional Black Caucus and House Democrats have been working to deliver results for the American people, the majority party has descended into complete and total chaos; chaos that left our country without a House Speaker for the first time in our Nation’s history and brought the people’s House to a standstill for 22 days; chaos that has nearly shut down our government and brought our country to the brink of defaulting on our national debt time and again. The American people deserve so much better than the Republican do-nothing Congress.

By contrast, Democrats have offered a positive vision for our country and a

real record of accomplishments to show in our districts and all across America. This is because of the investments that we worked to pass during the 117th Congress, along with President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, which was made possible because of historic legislation, including the Inflation Reduction Act, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs law, including the Chips and Science law to bring U.S. manufacturing back to the United States and so much more, including historic investments in funding for our historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

In my district alone, we just announced, with President Biden on Friday, a grant worth \$3 billion to fund true high-speed rail to connect Las Vegas to the Los Angeles region. Finally, after decades of people talking about it, because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is finally happening. This will be a monumental and transformational boost to our local economy, and it will also create tens of thousands of good-paying union jobs—jobs, jobs, jobs. Jobs that will be offered to every faction of our community and small business owners, including Black-owned and other minority-owned small businesses.

Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are connecting the more than 123,000 households in my State that did not have access to the infrastructure to connect to broadband, to the internet, something as simple as connecting to the internet, something that far too many of us take for granted, there are counties and rural communities in my State that do not have that access, that do not have that benefit, but thanks to this law, those investments are finally happening.

Another 825,000 families in low-income households are connecting to broadband thanks to the affordable connectivity benefit that was part of the infrastructure bill and that we are now working to make sure is included in the supplemental.

Nevada is also seeing over \$300 million invested to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging stations. I am so proud to have met just recently with a number of small businesses, including one Latina-owned business and one Black-owned business. They are electric companies who are now, for the first time, being connected to these contracts and have an opportunity to grow their business, to hire more workers, and to be part of this new burgeoning sector.

These are just a few of our accomplishments, and we still have so much more work to do. I thank my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus, because many of these historic bills would not have been possible without the leadership and the votes of the Members who make it happen, including our immediate past chair, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY; the assistant Democratic leader, Mr. CLYBURN;

our Democratic leader now, Mr. JEFFRIES, who literally worked toward reaching negotiation to deliver the votes necessary.

We know that as we begin the work on behalf of our constituents in 2024 and beyond, there is more work to do, and so we will be tackling issues around Black economic prosperity and wealth creation, continuing to advocate for the passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and making sure that every community is safe: Safe from gun violence, safe from overpolicing, safe from hate crimes, whether they be against the Jewish community or Asians or African Americans because we understand that all communities deserve to be safe.

I am proud of the accomplishments, the record that we can stand here and talk about, putting people over politics, and I look forward to working with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus as we continue to advance these legislative efforts for the people that we represent.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I give a very special thank you to the Honorable Congressman STEVEN HORSFORD, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank him for his leadership and his outstanding voice.

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF REUEL “MOE” TODD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 30 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Sheriff Reuel Todd. Sheriff Todd, affectionately known by everyone in Oswego as Moe, was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away on August 21, 2023, but not without making an indelible impact on our community.

Sheriff Moe Todd’s lifelong dedication to service began on June 29, 1974, when he joined the Oswego County Sheriff’s Department. With unwavering commitment and relentless determination, he climbed the ranks, becoming a sergeant, a criminal investigator, and eventually the undersheriff in 1984. His tenure culminated with his election as the sheriff of Oswego County in 1998, a role he fulfilled with honor and distinction for an impressive 20 years.

Throughout his career, Sheriff Todd was laser focused on the safety and well-being of his colleagues and the communities he served. He was a tireless advocate for everyone in the Oswego County Sheriff’s Department, fighting hard for essential equipment, training, and fair pay for his team. His unwavering commitment to their safety and success was evidence of his character and leadership.

In 2022, the Oswego County legislature recognized his exceptional service to our community by dedicating the Oswego County Public Safety Building in his name, a fitting tribute to his enduring legacy. I was honored to be in attendance with a very huge crowd, all confirmation that his compassion and his excellent service to his community was appreciated by so many.

Moe and his beloved wife, Valerie, shared 55 years of marriage. He was not only a loving husband, but also a devoted father to his son, Michael, his daughter, Jolene, and proud grandfather to Kaitlynn. His family meant the world to him, and he always found time for family dinners, ball games, school activities, holidays, and precious moments with all of them.

Moe coached baseball and softball, demonstrating his strong interest in investing in the growth and development of young athletes and future leaders. He was always ready to lend a hand for fundraisers and community events, embodying the spirit of selflessness. Moe had a unique ability to connect with people from all walks of life, treating everyone with the same respect and kindness, regardless of their background or circumstances. His honest and very frank demeanor—and, yes, he was very frank—and a wonderful sense of humor was appreciated by everyone he met.

In 2021, Moe faced one of his greatest challenges when he was diagnosed with ALS. Yet, even in the face of this relentless and cruel disease, he displayed incredible strength and resilience. He never once complained or engaged in self-pity. Instead, his first thoughts were of others facing the same struggle. Moe and his family organized the annual “Stronger with Moe” chicken barbecue, with all proceeds going to the ALS Association of Upstate New York to support families struggling with ALS. His determination to help others, even while suffering from this agonizing disease, was truly inspiring.

Tragically, Moe lost his battle with ALS on August 31, 2023, but his legacy of kindness, compassion, and service will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. As a tribute to his memory, his family will continue the “Stronger with Moe” chicken barbecue, ensuring that his spirit of helping others endures.

Today, as we honor and remember Moe, let us take inspiration from his life, let us strive to embody the values he held dear—humility, compassion, and a commitment to making our communities better for everyone. Moe’s life reminds us that the impact we make on others through small acts of kindness, or a lifetime of service is what truly matters in the end.

May God bless Moe, his family, and the community he served and loved so deeply.

MIKE WOODWARD, CHAMPION FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mike Woodward,

a resident of Oakfield, New York, whose dedication to conservation has left a lasting impression on our community for many generations to come.

Mike started his path in the conservation field in the 1970s when he attended his very first Ducks Unlimited dinner. There he was inspired to partner with Ducks Unlimited to champion wetland protection. He was committed to the cause of wetland protection for almost 50 years. Mike served on the national Ducks Unlimited board, where he was better able to enhance his impact and improvements to wetland conservation.

Mike Woodward’s influence extends far beyond his own achievements, as his passion for conservation has touched the lives of his children and grandchildren and left an indelible mark on their values and priorities.

Today, I rise to proclaim that Mike Woodward is recognized as a champion of wetland conservation. Mike’s legacy of unwavering dedication and visionary leadership has inspired others to embrace the same cause and thus will ensure a better future for conservation efforts and the preservation of our natural world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANTHONY MAZURKIEWICZ

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3838, bipartisan legislation that honors and remembers the life and legacy of Rochester, New York, fallen police officer, Anthony Mazurkiewicz. Officer Mazurkiewicz was killed in the line of duty on July 21, 2022.

This bill would rename the post office facility in his hometown of Avon, New York, in his honor. I thank my co-sponsor, Congressman JOE MORELLE, for joining me in this bipartisan and important effort.

Officer Mazurkiewicz began his law enforcement service in 1988, receiving multiple awards throughout a career that spanned nearly 35 years. Beyond the badge and uniform, Officer Mazurkiewicz was a loving father, a devoted husband, and an amazing friend. He exemplified excellence in law enforcement.

We will never forget Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz’ sacrifice. This legislation honors his incredible legacy, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I thank his lovely widow so much who has given me this beautiful plastic band that honors and remembers his life and legacy.

□ 2045

HONORING WAYNE CENTRAL SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very tragic occurrence but yet something with a great ending, with bus crash heroes, as we call them in Wayne County.

On September 27, in Wayne County, New York, a Wayne Central schoolbus carrying 22 students and 3 staff was traveling north on the road back toward school when tragedy struck.

Three courageous staff members, driver Deb Hibbard along with teachers

Maureen Doyle and Lori Sozio, took immediate action in protecting their students after a harrowing accident due to the carelessness of a driver behind the bus.

As the bus came to a stop, Deb noticed smoke billowing from the front and, without hesitation, urged everyone to evacuate. In a matter of moments, all three staff members sprang into action to ensure the safety of each and every passenger.

In the midst of the chaos, two students, Brody Constable and Colin Schrage, who were seated at the back of the bus, displayed remarkable bravery as they aided the remaining students and staff off the rear of the bus, a 5-foot drop, allowing them to move away from the fire.

Due to the quick actions of these heroes, within just 1 minute of the collision, all 25 passengers were safely evacuated.

By the end of the second minute, the entire bus, including the passenger compartment, was engulfed in flames.

The selflessness and heroism of Brody, Colin, Deb, Maureen, and Lori in the face of immediate danger serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I also send many thanks to the emergency servicemembers in the local fire departments of Lincoln, Ontario, Walworth, as well as Wayne and Williamson ambulance service, who were promptly on the scene.

We commend and honor all of these heroes for their unwavering courage and dedication to the safety of others.

RECOGNIZING PARAMEDICS KAREN GAVIN AND MATT DEVINE

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize paramedics Karen Gavin and Matt Devine of the Lockport Fire Department for heroically saving the lives of a mother and her baby this past March.

Dispatchers received a report of a pregnant woman who was in distress and bleeding heavily. The ambulance arrived in less than 5 minutes. Gavin and Devine immediately began to administer treatment and prepared the patients for transport.

While en route to the hospital, the woman went into labor and began to give birth prematurely. As this happened, the paramedics immediately stopped the ambulance, called for backup, and jumped into action. Employing years of training, they were able to safely deliver the baby and protect the mother’s life.

Today, both the mother and child are home and healthy due to the heroic and expert actions of Karen Gavin and Matt Devine of the Lockport Fire Department.

This story is a perfect example of the hard work and expertise of our first responders, who have answered the call to serve our communities and those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank paramedics Karen Gavin and Matt Devine and the Lockport Fire Department for their

compassionate and dedicated service to our community.

RECOGNIZING LAURENCE “SPARKY” RECTOR

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish Laurence J. Rector a happy belated 100th birthday. Laurence, a World War II veteran, commonly known as Sparky, began his education in Mexico, New York, at Mexico Academy and from there earned his bachelor of science degree from Ithaca College in 1948. He then continued his education at Syracuse University, St. Lawrence University, and Oswego State University.

Sparky began his service as a corporal in the United States Army in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1945. During his service, he completed three major campaigns, earning him three battle stars, two amphibious landings, and the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat.

Sparky lived an active and inspired life. He loved sports and was involved in numerous sports associations and coached track, basketball, cross country, tennis, and baseball, creating a lasting impact on the children he worked with and on our communities.

On behalf of Congress and all of New York-24, I wish Sparky a happy belated 100th birthday and thank him for his honorable service to our Nation.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2488. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Eastman, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1674; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-33] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2489. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class D and Class E Airspace; Milton, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1780; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-35] received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2490. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Alaskan Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range (VOR)

Federal Airway V-318; Level Island, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0916; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAAL-85] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2491. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1404; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00451-T; Amendment 39-22584; AD 2023-21-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2492. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31515; Amdt. No.: 4086] received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2493. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31514; Amdt. No.: 4085] received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2494. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to United States Area Navigation Route Q-46; Point Hope, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0866; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAAL-51] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2495. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Grand Coulee Dam Airport, Electric City, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1339; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANM-84] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2496. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1504; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00473-A; Amendment 39-22595; AD 2023-22-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2497. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-158 and V-172; Polo, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0965; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AGL-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2498. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transporta-

tion, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1638; Project Identifier AD-2022-00466-E; Amendment 39-22586; AD 2023-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2499. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1399; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01535-E; Amendment 39-22583; AD 2023-22-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2500. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1705; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00480-T; Amendment 39-22594; AD 2023-22-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2501. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0436; Project Identifier AD-2022-00395-T; Amendment 39-22581; AD 2023-21-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2502. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-478 in the Vicinity of Danville, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1026; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AGL-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2503. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-14 and V-67, and Area Navigation Route T-272; Vandalia, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1014; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ACE-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2504. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Thales AVS France SAS Flight Management Computer Navigation Modules [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1716; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00168-Q; Amendment 39-22577; AD 2023-21-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2505. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1708; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00554-A; Amendment 39-22576; AD 2023-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2506. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1314; Project Identifier AD-2021-00811-E; Amendment 39-22579; AD 2023-21-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2507. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tununak Airport, Tununak, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1119; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-76] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2508. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1410; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01517-E; Amendment 39-22575; AD 2023-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2509. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2142; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01056-T; Amendment 39-22592; AD 2023-22-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2510. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1642; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00183-T; Amendment 39-22574; AD 2023-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2511. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Austro Engine GmbH Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1412; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01588-E; Amendment 39-22562; AD 2023-20-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2512. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1494; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00382-T; Amendment 39-22573; AD 2023-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2513. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2150; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00188-R; Amendment 39-22603; AD 2023-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received

December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2514. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1490; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01624-E; Amendment 39-22580; AD 2023-21-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2515. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area R-2512 Holtville, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2220; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-59] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2516. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1720; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00003-R; Amendment 39-22598; AD 2023-22-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2517. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1414; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00438-T; Amendment 39-22593; AD 2023-22-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

*[Submitted on December 8, 2023]*

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TURNER: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. H.R. 6611. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to make certain reforms to the authorities under such Act, to reauthorize title VII of such Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-302, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

*[Submitted on December 11, 2023]*

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5119. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide small businesses with additional time to file beneficial ownership information, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-303). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5524. A bill to amend the start date of the pilot program on sharing with foreign branches, subsidiaries and affiliates; with an amendment (Rept. 118-304). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5473. A bill to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for

other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-305). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 6093. A bill to improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather research, support improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-306). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6570. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight, with an amendment (Rept. 118-307, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. FISCHBACH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 922. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1147) to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 357) to require the head of an agency to issue and sign any rule issued by that agency, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 118-308). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select) discharged from further consideration, H.R. 6570 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6691. A bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. TLAB):

H.R. 6692. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish the position of the Assistant Director and Student Loan Borrower Advocate of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, to establish the Office for Students and Young Consumers of the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. STEEL, and Mr. BUCHSON):

H.R. 6693. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the coverage of additional lung cancer screening tests under the Medicare program; 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. CROW (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 6694. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to take certain actions to evaluate the attack by Hamas against Israel on October 7, 2023, and related intelligence sharing efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 6695. A bill to authorize private parties to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to seek sanctions by filing civil actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CHU, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 6696. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to States and localities to provide the right to counsel in civil actions related to eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. DESAULNIER (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 6697. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to carry out a pilot program to make grants to entities to develop gun safety technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6698. A bill to provide Federal-local community partnership construction funding to local educational agencies eligible to receive payments under the Impact Aid program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 6699. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 6700. A bill to require the Children's Bureau to collect and maintain information regarding all private adoptions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6701. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and adjust for inflation the above-the-line deduction for teachers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6702. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a nonrefundable credit for elementary and secondary school supply expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6703. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a nonrefundable credit for certain organized sport equipment expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 6704. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish a grant program for States to improve or establish a credential repository, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 6705. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to treat certain tests for tuberculosis as breakthrough devices eligible for expedited development and priority review, to require certain establishments that perform donor screening or testing to screen or test for active and latent tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 6706. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to fund the information clearinghouse through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6707. A bill to repeal the requirements of the Foreign Dredge Act of 1906 with respect to dredging and dredged material; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6708. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to propose a new nationwide permit under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for dredging projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6709. A bill to eliminate certain requirements with respect to dredging and dredged material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6710. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the rate of pay of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Ms. CHU, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 6711. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to conduct a comprehensive review of understaffing across the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 6712. A bill to amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide recovery payments to seasonal and perishable crop growers who experienced low prices caused by imports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Ms. BALINT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 6713. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 6714. A bill to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 6715. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants for hate crime prevention and prejudice reduction education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CHU, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. MENG, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H.R. 6716. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a special enrollment period for pregnant women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Mrs. HINSON):

H. Res. 920. A resolution disapproving of recommendations by the United Nations to reduce meat consumption in the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARSON, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. LETLOW, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H. Res. 921. A resolution honoring the 30th anniversary of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MAST (for himself and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H. Res. 923. A resolution designating the main hearing room of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as the "Chairman Don Young Hearing Room"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6691.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Education  
By Ms. BONAMICI:  
H.R. 6692.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Higher education  
By Mr. BUCHANAN:  
H.R. 6693.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8 of the US constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To authorize the coverage of additional lung cancer screening tests under the Medicare program.  
By Mr. CROW:  
H.R. 6694.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To direct the Director of National Intelligence to evaluate the attack by Hamas against Israel on October 7, 2023, and related intelligence efforts.  
By Mr. DAVIDSON:  
H.R. 6695.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To authorize private parties to compel the Securities and Exchange Commission to seek sanctions by filing civil actions.  
By Ms. DELAURO:  
H.R. 6696.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
to keep individuals and families housed.  
By Mr. DESAULNIER:  
H.R. 6697.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Advancing gun safety technology  
By Mr. GARAMENDI:  
H.R. 6698.  
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:  
The bill provides federal-local community partnership construction funding to local educational agencies eligible to receive payments under the Impact Aid program.  
By Mr. HORSFORD:  
H.R. 6699.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
The End Double Taxation of Successful Consumer Claims Act changes tax law so that plaintiffs that win consumer fraud cases are not liable for taxes on funds awarded to their attorney.  
By Mr. LAMBORN:  
H.R. 6700.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section VIII of the United States Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To require the Children's Bureau of Health and Human Services to collect statistics from the court system on the domestic private adoptions within the United States.  
By Mr. LAWLER:  
H.R. 6701.

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:  
Taxes  
By Mr. LAWLER:  
H.R. 6702.  
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:  
Taxes  
By Mr. LAWLER:  
H.R. 6703.  
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:  
Taxes  
By Mrs. McBATH:  
H.R. 6704.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Interstate Commerce Clause—Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
to establish a grant program for States to improve or establish credential repositories  
By Mr. MOOLENAAR:  
H.R. 6705.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
This legislation would enhance the screening and testing for active and latent tuberculosis in human cell, tissue, and cellular and tissue-based donor products by requiring certain actions of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.  
By Mr. MORELLE:  
H.R. 6706.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Anti-Poverty Initiative  
By Mr. MOYLAN:  
H.R. 6707.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Repeal the requirements of the Foreign Dredge Act of 1906 with respect to dredging and dredged material.  
By Mr. MOYLAN:  
H.R. 6708.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To require the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to propose a new nationwide permit under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for dredging projects, and for other purposes.  
By Mr. MOYLAN:  
H.R. 6709.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To eliminate certain requirements with respect to dredging and dredged material, and for other purposes.

By Ms. NORTON:  
H.R. 6710.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to increase the pay of its Chief Financial Officer.  
By Mr. OBERNOLTE:  
H.R. 6711.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Judiciary.  
By Mr. RUIZ:  
H.R. 6712.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
This bill establishes a program within the Department of Agriculture to make payments to certain producers of seasonal and perishable crops that experienced a decline in market price because of imports of such crops. The bill also sets out a method for calculating these payments.  
By Ms. SCANLON:  
H.R. 6713.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses.  
By Mr. VAN DREW:  
H.R. 6714.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Allows remote access to court proceedings of the alleged bombmaker in the December 21, 1988, terror attack on Pan Am Flight 103.  
By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:  
H.R. 6715.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; . . .  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Education  
By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:  
H.R. 6716.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . . ] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a special enrollment period for pregnant women, and for other purposes.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.

- H.R. 39: Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 51: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 167: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 244: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 266: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 396: Mrs. FLETCHER.  
H.R. 427: Mrs. BICE, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CLINE, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 533: Ms. SALINAS.  
H.R. 537: Ms. SCHRIER and Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 544: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 590: Ms. LEE of California.  
H.R. 594: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 595: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 603: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 619: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 660: Mr. AMO.  
H.R. 715: Mr. AMO.  
H.R. 743: Mr. HUNT.  
H.R. 782: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
H.R. 807: Mr. ROSE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. EZELL.  
H.R. 884: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
H.R. 895: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BENTZ, and Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 936: Mrs. STEEL.  
H.R. 953: Mr. HORSFORD.  
H.R. 987: Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Ms. DELBENE.  
H.R. 1097: Mr. BUCK and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 1118: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 1139: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H.R. 1167: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 1269: Mr. SORENSEN.  
H.R. 1278: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 1298: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 1342: Ms. LEE of California.  
H.R. 1387: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 1483: Mr. BEYER.  
H.R. 1511: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 1624: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 1627: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 1685: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.  
H.R. 1725: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 1801: Mr. SWALWELL.  
H.R. 1831: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. SCHRIER, and Ms. SALINAS.  
H.R. 1833: Mr. MRVAN, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 1839: Mrs. TORRES of California.  
H.R. 2365: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. RYAN.  
H.R. 2370: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 2403: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. TORRES of New York.  
H.R. 2412: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 2474: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. BARR, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 2548: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 2552: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 2667: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 2700: Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 2705: Ms. SALINAS.  
H.R. 2732: Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 2766: Mr. COLE.  
H.R. 2909: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 2923: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. SANCHEZ.  
H.R. 2955: Mrs. CAMMACK and Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 3000: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
H.R. 3005: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 3024: Mrs. PELTOLA.  
H.R. 3036: Ms. SCHRIER.  
H.R. 3063: Ms. PETERSEN.  
H.R. 3086: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 3229: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 3238: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3350: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 3400: Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.R. 3403: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 3433: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 3475: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 3541: Mrs. HINSON.  
H.R. 3569: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 3611: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
H.R. 3651: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 3713: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BACON, and Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 3725: Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 3781: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 3783: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
H.R. 3850: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 3851: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 3916: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
H.R. 3933: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 3946: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 3950: Ms. CHU and Mr. ARMSTRONG.  
H.R. 3955: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 4035: Mr. FITZGERALD.  
H.R. 4172: Ms. BALINT.  
H.R. 4262: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 4323: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 4335: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. EVANS.  
H.R. 4343: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 4422: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 4432: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LIEU, Ms. OMAR, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. CASAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs. FLETCHER.  
H.R. 4541: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 4610: Mr. VEASEY.  
H.R. 4682: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. COLE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 4771: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. LEE of California.  
H.R. 4867: Mr. COLE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 4904: Mr. NORMAN.  
H.R. 4937: Mr. STEUBE.  
H.R. 4945: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 5003: Mr. TORRES of New York and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 5012: Mr. LATURNER.  
H.R. 5035: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 5054: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 5075: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.  
H.R. 5077: Ms. JAYAPAL and Ms. SANCHEZ.  
H.R. 5085: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 5097: Ms. SCHRIER and Ms. SANCHEZ.  
H.R. 5113: Mr. TAKANO.  
H.R. 5116: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 5140: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
H.R. 5163: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
H.R. 5175: Ms. SANCHEZ and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 5250: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 5266: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Mr. GIMENEZ.  
H.R. 5302: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 5399: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 5456: Ms. SCHRIER.  
H.R. 5473: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 5502: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 5526: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H.R. 5547: Mr. FERGUSON.  
H.R. 5588: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 5613: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 5778: Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 5785: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 5796: Mr. LATURNER, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. MURPHY.  
H.R. 5798: Mr. NICKEL and Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 5804: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 5839: Ms. LEE of Florida.  
H.R. 5851: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
H.R. 5867: Mr. STEUBE.  
H.R. 5917: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 5920: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 5979: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 5995: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 6023: Mr. RYAN.  
H.R. 6030: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 6031: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 6049: Mr. MAST, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. MEUSER, and Ms. MENG.  
H.R. 6077: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 6090: Mr. YAKYM.  
H.R. 6124: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 6129: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 6156: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 6161: Mr. BACON and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 6175: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 6179: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 6203: Ms. OMAR.  
H.R. 6213: Mrs. SYKES, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 6262: Mr. CASAR.  
H.R. 6283: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 6295: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.  
H.R. 6301: Mr. CONNOLLY and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 6306: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 6307: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 6318: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.  
H.R. 6379: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 6390: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 6394: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 6415: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. BACON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. ROSS.  
H.R. 6416: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 6423: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 6430: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 6460: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 6501: Mr. SELF.  
H.R. 6504: Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 6515: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. BARRAGAN.  
H.R. 6516: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. CHU, Mr. BOST, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
H.R. 6519: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 6527: Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 6545: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 6570: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MACE, Mr. CASAR, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. CHU, and Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 6578: Ms. STEFANIK.  
H.R. 6585: Mrs. McCLAIN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 6586: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 6592: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 6593: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.  
H.R. 6594: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.  
H.R. 6625: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mrs. PELTOLA.  
H.R. 6634: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BUSH, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 6641: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 6652: Ms. SHERRILL.



H.R. 6654: Mr. CARSON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BALINT, and Ms. CHU.  
H.R. 6662: Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 6668: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 6671: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.  
H.R. 6672: Mrs. LUNA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. MCCAUL, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
H.R. 6681: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 6687: Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BARR, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H.J. Res. 97: Ms. HAGEMAN.  
H.J. Res. 98: Mr. BARR, Mr. PERRY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HERN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. BURLISON.  
H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H. Con. Res. 73: Mr. STEUBE.  
H. Res. 156: Mr. MOULTON.  
H. Res. 277: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H. Res. 365: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H. Res. 376: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H. Res. 627: Mr. FRY.  
H. Res. 689: Mr. CASAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H. Res. 737: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. TRAHAN.  
H. Res. 803: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H. Res. 806: Mr. HUDSON.  
H. Res. 837: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H. Res. 881: Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
H. Res. 882: Ms. NORTON and Ms. TOKUDA.  
H. Res. 883: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. ARMSTRONG.  
H. Res. 895: Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. CRAIG.  
H. Res. 901: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. JAMES, Ms. WILD, and Mr. HUIZENGA.  
H. Res. 907: Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BALINT, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. KUSTER.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

No. 203

## Senate

The Senate met at 3:02 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Give heed, mighty God, to our prayers and hear our petitions. You are a God of justice, who always does what is right.

As Jewish people tonight light the fifth candle of Hanukkah, let there be peace on Earth, and may it begin with us.

Lord, You have examined our hearts. You know our motives. Continue to guide our Senators. Empower them to follow You faithfully, to seek Your will, and to find their peace through fellowship with You. May they trust You for safety, finding their highest fulfillment in knowing they are doing Your will.

When everything seems to fall apart, remind them that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You, who are called according to Your purposes.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 11, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. KELLY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for all of its flaws, the supplemental request the Biden administration submitted to Congress did correctly identify four especially urgent national security priorities: defeating Russian in-

vasion in Europe, countering Iran-backed terror in the Middle East, deterring Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific, and securing America's southern border.

Late last week, President Biden said he was willing to make "significant compromises" on Republican policy changes designed to restore real border security.

And across the country, elected Democrats are emphasizing just how urgent this progress is. The Governor of Arizona reported over the weekend that her State is "at a breaking point" and that it needs Washington to "step up, do its job, and bring security and order to our border." She is a Democrat.

At the frontlines of the crisis that has unfolded on President Biden's watch, the mayor of Nogales, AZ, put it this way:

I think it's time to say enough is enough. . . . I'm a Democrat, a registered Democrat, but I run this city as a human being.

I know many of my colleagues here in the Senate share that frustration. Many of them recognize the urgency of the situation. Just over the weekend, in the time since Senator LANKFORD presented Senate Democrats with this latest opportunity to help fix America's broken asylum and parole system, the crisis at the southern border has actually gotten worse.

With average daily border crossings near 10,000—10,000—CBP is now saying it is releasing 6,600 illegal aliens into the interior every single day. The backlog of asylum cases sits at 3 million—3 million—and counting. And officials have reported arrivals from more than 150 countries just since October 1.

This is what a crisis looks like. This is what the Democratic leader spent last week insisting was "extraneous" to America's national security.

Well, when it comes to keeping America safe, border security is not a side show; it is ground zero.

Senate Republicans have no more spare time to explain this basic reality.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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We cannot convince anyone who doesn't want to acknowledge the glaring facts on the ground. The Senate has to act.

## ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. President, now on another matter, years of moral rot and intellectual decay began to catch up with America's most elite universities. The President of the University of Pennsylvania resigned 4 days after failing to state whether calls for genocide against Jews constituted bullying or harassment under her institution's conduct policy.

In the face of an alarming wave of vile anti-Semitism—including death threats—on college campuses, the heads of Penn, Harvard, and MIT did everything they could to avoid condemning one of the world's oldest forms of hatred.

Of course, the Ivy League administrators' lack of moral clarity is not a recent development. For more than 2 months now, universities across the country have been engaged in an embarrassing public cycle of equivocations and apologies.

And for years, elite institutions have sheltered despicable anti-Semites under the guise of academic freedom and let them poison a generation of young minds with hateful, postmodern ideologies. The especially alarming part of the Penn, Harvard, and MIT testimony last week was just how brazenly—brazenly—their cynical embrace of free speech contradicted their response to supposed slights against leftist orthodoxy.

Today's elite college campuses are hardly bastions of free speech. The Ivy League's enforcement of speech restrictions against a laundry list of wrongthink and "microaggressions" would make censors in Pyongyang blush.

There is room to punish faculty for inviting guest speakers with objectionable views or assigning controversial class readings as Penn's president did just last year. There is room to revoke invitations for academic panelists and deplatform visiting lecturers who fail to toe the elite liberal line on social issues, as Harvard has done repeatedly.

But apparently there might not be room in the Ivy League's extensive speech restrictions to take action against calls for genocide against Jews, as Harvard's president told our House colleagues, it would—listen to this—"depend on the context."

Some current—and now former—leaders of America's most elite echo chambers would like us to believe they have a deep and abiding commitment to intellectual diversity and freedom of speech, but they are not fooling anybody. In fact, Harvard ranks dead last in a leading watchdog ranking of campus free speech. Its speech climate rated "abysmal." "Abysmal," how is that for context?

It is rather simple. Universities can enforce their existing speech restrictions evenly or they can start applying their newfound embrace of free speech across the board—and not just for anti-Semites and terrorist sympathizers.

Until they decide, the Ivy League's most philanthropic alumni will continue to vote with their checkbooks. Harvard alone is reportedly facing more than \$1 billion in canceled donations over its president's astounding failure. Even with their gargantuan tax-free endowment, that is real money. And until universities commit to protecting innocent Jews on campus, bright, young students might just vote with their feet.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

## GUATEMALA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the weekend, I joined Senator TIM Kaine of Virginia on a trip to Guatemala and Honduras. With us were Senators MERKLEY, BUTLER, WELCH as well as Guatemalan-American Congresswomen TORRES of California and RAMIREZ of Illinois.

Both Guatemala and Honduras have struggled with conflict, corruption, stark inequality, and fragile democratic governments.

Many of us have forgotten that until the 1980s, much of Latin America was led by military dictators, sometimes with Cold War-era support from the United States.

Guatemala's bloody 36-year civil war only ended in 1996. It is a reminder of why the U.S. attention to this region's nascent and often fragile democracies is so important.

Guatemala is facing a deeply challenging Presidential transition. In October, Bernardo Arevalo won in a decisive landslide election where he pledged to tackle endemic corruption. Early polls showed him at 3 percent of the vote. When the final election took place, he won by 20 percent, a 1 million vote plurality, but outgoing President Giammattei, and Attorney General Porras are, unfortunately, attempting to undermine that peaceful transition ahead of the January 14 inauguration.

I might add that unlike other elections in Central and South America, this election where Mr. Arevalo prevailed was monitored by international sources, and the votes were challenged in court, counted, and found to be still in his favor, overwhelmingly.

In fact, shortly after President Giammattei didn't show up for a meeting with us one morning, his government crudely tried to annul the recent election results. This clumsy coup attempt—which was globally rejected—must not succeed. The Guatemalan voters' choice must be respected.

I want to raise the attention of the Senate to two Guatemalan political prisoners we asked about but were denied an opportunity to visit in prison, former prosecutor Virginia Laparra and journalist Jose Ruben Zamora. You won't be surprised to hear that both focused on issues of corruption, which is why they landed in jail on nonsense charges.

I look forward to working with the new President-elect, Arevalo, once he is sworn in, and hope their release will be one of his early actions.

## HONDURAS

Mr. President, in 2021, neighboring Honduras elected its first female President, Xiomara Castro, who many hoped would bring much needed change after decades of misrule and instability. Though she claims repeatedly to be an ally of the United States and closely aligned with our values, there have been some actions by her government in transition that raise serious concerns about commitment to democratic norms and, unfortunately, of closer ties to China, Cuba, Venezuela, and even Russia. President Castro still has an opportunity to show that we can work together for the common values that we share. I hope she takes that path.

Early in Senator Kaine's adult life, he spent a year in a Jesuit mission in Honduras, teaching Hondurans how to be carpenters and welders. It was in a Jesuit school for impoverished children where he gave a year of his life. I want to commend TIM Kaine for that effort, what he calls his "North Star" in his life, which helped to make him a thoughtful leader and one of the most admired Senators on the floor. His commitment to the region is a reminder that we still have important allies and responsibilities in our own neighborhood.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, I would also like to speak briefly on the National Defense Authorization Act. The bill authorizes \$886 billion for America's defense, expanding benefits for servicemembers and strengthening national security. It provides a 5.2-percent pay increase for our troops and the Pentagon civilian workforce, the largest increase in 20 years. Importantly, the conference report excludes a number of dangerous partisan provisions that were designed to rip away the freedoms of the very Americans whom, every day, we send to defend them.

This bill includes a number of provisions I offered, including to uphold Ukraine's territorial sovereignty, as that country fights for survival against Russia. Here is this country, hanging on by a thread, wondering if the United States is going to come to its assistance as people fight and die every single day to stop the invasion of Putin and his forces.

It is hard to imagine that we have reached a point where we have promised to stand by a country like Ukraine in this time of testing and we have mobilized the NATO alliance and many other nations to join us in that effort, and then have the rug pulled out from us by Donald Trump, who said he changed his mind on Ukraine.

To strengthen our security partnerships with our allies, such as the Baltics and Australia, we have to stay the course. I am convinced that the Ukrainians will prevail. We must show that we are determined to help them prove it.

This year the bill also authorizes many important programs. It is not

perfect, and it includes an unnecessary extension of section 702. I won't go into the details of this complicated mechanism that we have to try to detect those who threaten our country, but, from the beginning, I raised questions about its compliance with the constitutional guarantees of people being safe in the searches and seizures of the government. We will continue to discuss this over the weeks and months ahead.

## IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, I want to close on the topic that Senator MCCONNELL raised, immigration. It is not an easy issue. I have given 20 years of my life here in the Senate to the issue of immigration and feel it was time well spent. It is over 20 years ago that I introduced the DREAM Act. Before I introduced this bill, if you asked most people what the "Dreamers" were, they would say a British rock group headed up by a guy named Freddie. Well, today, when you say "Dreamers," people know what you are talking about: infants, toddlers, and children brought to the United States by their parents, growing up here, going to school, and determined to help this country succeed in the future. And what they find when they are teenagers is that they are undocumented; they don't have legal status in the United States.

I have always believed that they deserve a chance. The overwhelming majority of Americans of both political parties believe the same thing. But we have been unable to enact that law, and, as a consequence, at least 800,000 who were helped with the DACA Program by President Obama still have their fate in doubt as it courses through our Federal court system. That is something we should do automatically—we should have done it a long time ago—to protect these young people and the aspirations they have to make us a better nation. These are young people who will serve not only as teachers and engineers, but doctors and nurses and members of our military. If we give them the chance to fight and die for America, they will do it. They want to be part of this Nation's future, and they deserve that opportunity.

But, currently, we are debating only one thing, and that is the policy at the border—the southern border of the United States. I will tell you this: I have taken a close look at the situation at the border, and I know that change is necessary. But it must be change consistent with our values and realistic.

For the Republicans to propose change which says that those who come into the country seeking asylum will either be detained or sent to remain in Mexico—a policy that Donald Trump tried during his Presidency—there are some fatal flaws here. How in the world are we going to detain all those people presenting themselves at the border? That is simply a promise that can't be kept. And, secondly, as for this notion of "Remain in Mexico,"

there is only one party to this conversation that hasn't agreed to it, Mexico. They don't want to have these people residing in their country for long periods of time while we work out changes in America's legal system.

It is hard to imagine, when you see the intractable positions taken by some on immigration, that there actually was a moment when we agreed on a bipartisan basis to pass comprehensive immigration reform. The Gang of 8, which I was part of, put that together. It was an extraordinary effort, and it was successful because of the hard work of a lot of people and a lot of time spent going through—painstakingly going through—each and every provision of the bill.

It can be done. It needs to be done. But the notion that in 7 days or 14 days we can craft some change in immigration policy that will help us, from time immemorial, is unrealistic and naive, and to condition any assistance to Ukraine on the achievement of that political goal is nonsense.

What we can do is come up with an agreement, I believe, on a bipartisan basis to enforce provisions and rules at the border that are consistent with American values but really do make it clear that we cannot sustain the number of people who are presenting themselves at the current time. I think that can be done, but only as a preliminary step to move us toward comprehensive immigration reform.

There are some, incidentally, who call for immigration reform but have never voted for an immigration bill one time in their political lives. That is a reality. So we shouldn't listen to their guidance if they haven't proven that they are open to vote for anything on the subject.

This is an important issue to a lot of people. I was in Guatemala City yesterday, as a matter of fact—or was it Saturday? This weekend, I met with people from Venezuela who were making their way to the U.S. border—they were mothers with small children—and I thought to myself: Who would embark on that dangerous, deadly journey with small children, realizing that every step of the way they are the most vulnerable person in the country?

As you travel through these countries, they are assaulted by people who steal everything that they own and threaten them with physical abuse and other things. I can't imagine how desperate these people must be to risk their families and their kids to make it to America. But then I think back: As a son of an immigrant myself, I know there was a determination in my family to make it in this country.

We have got to find a way to carefully construct a border policy that still takes advantage of the opportunities of immigration—the people who will come here and make us a better nation in the years ahead—and do it in a fashion that is thoughtful, not vindictive. That is what immigration requires, and I hope that we can reach that goal.

I yield the floor.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

## UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tomorrow morning, Leader MCCONNELL and I will welcome Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the Senate. This will be the third time President Zelenskyy meets with Senators since the start of the war, and it will be his most important visit of all.

The war in Ukraine stands at a crossroads, with our friends in desperate need of American aid to maintain pressure on Vladimir Putin. The last time President Zelenskyy spoke to the Senate, he warned us that without more aid, Ukraine will lose the war—simple as that. Earlier today, he warned military officers at the National Defense University that "if there's anyone inspired by unresolved issues on Capitol Hill, it is just Putin and his sick clique."

So if there is a word for what we most need this week, the word is to be serious about the task at hand. If Republicans in the Senate do not show they are serious about finalizing an agreement for the national security package, Vladimir Putin is going to walk through Ukraine and right through Europe.

Both parties understand that aiding Ukraine and resisting Putin are critical for our national security, but Republicans and only Republicans are holding everything up because of unrealistic, maximalist demands on the border.

Last week, we put forth a serious bill to address our national security needs. The package included robust border security provisions. Republicans rejected it out of hand, demanding their way or the highway, even though they were offered an amendment of their choosing—and they only need 11 Democrats to go along.

This posture is unserious. Again, Republicans and only Republicans are holding everything up because of unrealistic, maximalist demands on the border.

I want to be very clear. Democrats very much want an agreement if possible. We talked all weekend with our Republican counterparts to find some kind of agreement. We talked again earlier today. We are not there yet, but as a sign of good faith, Democrats are going to keep trying.

If Republicans keep insisting on Donald Trump's border policies, then they will be at fault when a deal for aid to Ukraine, Israel, and humanitarian aid to Gaza falls apart. The onus is on Republicans to show they are willing to moderate.

Let me say that again. If Republicans keep insisting on Donald Trump's border policies, then they will be at fault when a deal for Ukraine, Israel, and humanitarian aid to Gaza falls apart. Republicans will be giving Vladimir Putin the best gift he could ask for.

Democrats are serious about reaching reasonable, bipartisan compromise to pass this package. The question is if Republicans are now willing to do the same.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

On NDAA, at the beginning of December, I said the Senate has three major priorities before the end of the year.

First, we needed to end the blanket holds on hundreds of military nominees by the Senator from Alabama. We have now done that. Before we finish for the year, the Senate plans to move to confirm the 11 four-star military officers awaiting confirmation.

Second, we must pass the annual Defense authorization bill, which has been one of the most bipartisan priorities in Congress for over 60 years. This will be our focus on the floor this week.

Third and hardest of all, we must reach an agreement on the national security supplemental. We are still working, and while we are not near an agreement yet, we are going to keep pushing as the week progresses.

Last week, I filed cloture on the NDAA conference report, and we expect to move forward on the NDAA conference report after lunch tomorrow. At a time of huge trouble for global security, passing the Defense authorization bill is more important than ever.

This year's NDAA makes strong downpayments in outcompeting the Chinese Communist Party, particularly by approving President Biden's trilateral U.S., U.K., and Australia nuclear submarine agreement. We have been working on AUKUS all year. It is one of the most important tools we have against the Chinese Government, and it is a major accomplishment to get it done.

I want to thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, JACK REED, and Ranking Member WICKER for their good work in shepherding this bill through committee and through the conference process. I commend all conferees for their good work over the past few weeks.

I thank my colleagues for working together to ensure the Senate's six-decade streak of passing the NDAA remains unbroken.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on judges and nominations, today, the Senate will confirm the 39th circuit judge under President Biden—Richard Federico to be circuit court judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Mr. Federico is precisely the type of judge we need on our circuit courts—a brilliant legal mind who has dedicated his life to service as a lawyer in the Navy and as a public defender.

Thanks to the work of President Biden and the Senate majority, we have confirmed more public defenders to circuit courts than under any President in history. Of course, we also confirmed the first-ever public defender to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, the great Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Now this Senate majority has confirmed over 160 judges to lifetime appointments on the bench, including more Black judges, more women judges, and more judges of color than the full first term of any other President; more women to circuit courts than any President in their entire time in office; the first Muslim-American woman on the Federal bench; the first Navajo Federal judge; and, of course, as I mentioned, the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

All year long, this Senate majority has prioritized confirming judges who add to the bench's personal and professional diversity, and we are going to continue going into the new year.

#### STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. President, now on student debt and the letter we sent, today, I sent a letter with several of my Democratic colleagues, including Senators WARREN, PADILLA, and SANDERS, to the Secretary of Education urging him to continue the Department's expansion of student debt relief to working- and middle-class borrowers.

The Biden administration has already taken historic steps to reduce the burden of student loan debt for tens of millions of Americans, but following the Supreme Court's cruel ruling blocking student debt relief, too many borrowers remain saddled with massive and in many cases unbearable amounts of debt. We can and must do more to help these borrowers.

As the Education Department is engaged in the rulemaking process for student debt relief, our letter specifically urges the administration to, No. 1, eliminate all debt that exceeds the original principal balance of the loan; No. 2, provide full cancellation for borrowers who have repaid enough to cover their original principal; and No. 3, extend relief to borrowers victimized by student loan servicer misconduct or error and other commonsense measures to help borrowers.

I want to thank Senators WARREN, PADILLA, and SANDERS, as well as Representatives PRESSLEY, OMAR, and WILSON, for their leadership on this letter. I look forward to working with the Biden administration to make sure relief reaches every borrower in need.

#### ALBANY NANOTECH

Mr. President, now on Albany NanoTech, earlier today, I joined Governor Hochul and Albany leaders to announce a historic \$10 billion public-private partnership to make the Albany NanoTech Complex the most advanced center for semiconductor research in the entire world. It is a landmark day for the capital region in New York. That is Albany, Schenectady, and Troy in that tricity area.

This \$10 billion partnership, spurred by the CHIPS and Science Act, will bring the most cutting-edge semiconductor machinery on the planet to Albany and propel Albany NanoTech as the premier global center for semiconductor research.

Today's announcement will mean hundreds of new, high-paying tech jobs, hundreds of construction jobs, and a tidal wave of scientific innovation that engineers today cannot even fathom.

When I wrote the CHIPS and Science Act, I had precisely regions like Albany and Upstate New York in mind because these communities have so much to offer for America's semiconductor future.

As we enter the home stretch for the selection of the major hubs of the National Semiconductor Technology Center, today's \$10 billion announcement will strengthen Albany and Upstate New York's case as the best region to lead the next generation of innovations in America's microchip industry.

Today's announcement comes on the same day as the announcement by the Commerce Department of the first funding agreement from the CHIPS Incentives Program. BAE Systems will receive \$35 million to quadruple its production capacity for chips essential to our national security, including for F-35 fighter jets. This award, like today's announcement in Albany, shows that the CHIPS and Science Act is delivering for American workers and for our national security.

So it is an exciting time for New York tech, with major announcements from companies like Micron, IBM, GlobalFoundries, and so many others made possible because of CHIPS and Science. And I believe the best for New York's semiconductor industry is still to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Mississippi.

#### MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, a major item in the news last week was that the senior Senator from Alabama, Senator TUBERVILLE, released holds on over 400 military promotions. As usual, media reports framed the situation in much the same way as the Biden administration had. Both the President and the press focused on the holds instead of the policy the holds protested. They claimed my Senate colleague manufactured a crisis. The truth is that it is the President's political appointees who have been manufacturing the crisis from the start.

Let's go back. In the summer of 2022, the Supreme Court handed down its landmark Dobbs ruling. Almost immediately, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel claimed the decision would have "significant implications . . . for the readiness of the force." The abortion decision named "Dobbs" would have "significant implications . . . for the readiness of the force." Again, he claimed that the Supreme Court's decision, which essentially returned abortion decisions to the States, would have "significant implications . . . for the readiness of the force."

Let's all agree that readiness is vital to our success. Military readiness is

our No. 1 job. The United States faces the most dangerous national security situation in decades. China's military strength is growing at an alarming rate. Russia has brought war to Europe. Iran is actively attacking our troops. North Korea continues to develop dangerous weapons.

In the face of such a complicated web of threats, we must take military preparation seriously. Our precarious situation makes it irresponsible for anyone to fearmonger about readiness in order to advance a political agenda. Yet that is what we must conclude the President's appointees at DOJ have done.

They contend that the Dobbs decision hurts readiness, so, in response, Republicans have repeatedly asked for proof that Dobbs harms readiness. I have personally, as ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, asked for proof that Dobbs harms readiness, and the administration has refused to provide that evidence. In truth, that is because the evidence does not exist. At this point, it is pretty clear that Biden officials are avoiding the question because they do not like the answer.

It is difficult not to see that the President, and not my colleague from Alabama, is the one who precipitated the crisis.

To solve this imaginary emergency, the administration released what they called the reproductive health policy. The creative title failed to disguise what is a clear attempt to use taxpayer dollars illegally for abortion, contrary to the Hyde amendment. Under the rule, servicemembers are granted compensated time off, as well as monetary reimbursement for travel costs incurred, to receive an abortion. This policy violates popular opinion, and it violates the law.

Most Americans oppose late-term abortions, but a DOD official begrudgingly admitted to me in testimony that the policy would facilitate abortion at the very latest stages of pregnancy, in the eighth or ninth month. The provision spends tax dollars to facilitate abortions conducted mere days before a child's due date. That is just a fact.

Again, the administration claims this policy is necessary to solve a readiness problem created by Dobbs, but if Dobbs is such a threat, we could have reasonably expected wide usage of the travel policy. Despite the administration's stonewalling, I have obtained information indicating that just 12 women during this entire time have taken advantage of the reimbursement—just 12. Over 1 million Americans serve in our Armed Forces, but 12—not 12,000, not 1,200, but 12—have so far used this abortion travel reimbursement program. So the Biden administration cannot provide proof that Dobbs created a crisis for national defense.

We do have evidence that other administration priorities are harming our Armed Forces. The U.S. military faces a recruiting challenge, but the Biden administration is making it worse. The

President has instituted a woke diversity, equity, and inclusion bureaucracy at the DOD which is souring servicemembers' views of the military. A survey of Active Duty troops found that 7 in 10 are concerned about the politicization of the military. That same percent said that politicization would affect whether or not they would encourage their children to enlist. We know that family ties are the No. 1 way we recruit new servicemembers. When the Biden administration injects politics into the Armed Forces, it weakens that recruiting channel, and we see the results of that weakening.

In this year's national defense legislation, Republicans successfully included a number of important provisions curbing that woke agenda; but, regrettably, Democrats ended up blocking our efforts to end the DOD's illegal abortion travel policy. We will continue in future Congresses to resist that travel policy.

Last year's Dobbs decision was a monumental victory for the Constitution, our country, and, most importantly, for the unborn. It was the culmination of decades of dedicated work by pro-life groups, and I salute them. These groups understood how the Framers built our political process, and they patiently used their voices to advocate for the unborn in our democratic system. They were rewarded for their faithfulness that they exhibited during nearly 50 years under Roe.

During this time, the Biden administration has refused to play by the rules, and they grasp at ways to circumvent the Supreme Court's ruling. We intend to promote, in the next phase of our effort, a culture of life and to refocus the Pentagon on its national defense mission. The pro-life movement has always been a coalition of energetic volunteers, resilient advocates, and elected officials, and we will continue to work together to fight for the unborn.

And one final bit of very good news: Since the Dobbs decision was announced in 2022, approximately 30,000 babies have been born who would, otherwise, not have had an opportunity to experience life. That, in essence, is what this fight has been about and what it will continue to be about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I want to address the ill-advised and really unacceptable conduct at the November 30 Judiciary Committee executive meeting. The majority there didn't allow a single Republican amendment to the adoption of the subpoena authorization, and that was breaking with precedent. Contrary to what Democrats allege, when I was chairman, I followed the rules and let everyone speak who wanted to so speak. I even allowed them to offer resolutions during a confirmation process, which I could have ruled out of order. Simply put, this subpoena authoriza-

tion isn't based on oversight; it is based on overreach. It is a political hit.

Over the past 6 months, the left's web of dark money interest groups has tried to impugn the character and reputation of certain conservative members of the Supreme Court. This Democratic investigation into the Supreme Court totally ignores ethical questions and dark money networks surrounding liberal Justices. This is all part of a whirlwind effort to cast doubt on our country's highest Court and call into question the legitimacy of its rulings. Conservative Justices have been specifically targeted, harassed, and even threatened. The left's influence-peddling scheme views these conservative Justices as the greatest obstacle to jamming their radical agenda through our courts because Congress won't do the same liberal bidding.

The left has outlined new rules for conservative Justices: Justices' spouses must give up their independent law practices; Justices shouldn't vacation with close personal friends; Justices shouldn't have wealthy friends; and Justices shouldn't make any new friends after donning the robe.

How unfair and how unrealistic. No such conflicts of interest ever were raised during the Court's liberal years. These rules were not invoked against the Court's liberal Justices. This persistent political battering of the Judiciary is coming at a tremendous cost. The conservative Justices have endured real threats to their safety and the safety of their loved ones.

As I have said before, judicial decision-making must be based on law and sound jurisprudence. It shouldn't be subject to the whims of public opinion or clamor. It cannot be the result of threats and intimidation of Supreme Court Justices. This political hit by the Democratic majority of the committee will do lasting damage not only to the Court but to the committee. Again, this effort isn't really oversight as I like to do, and we do a good job of it; instead, it is about political theater.

Let me give some examples of how an investigation should be conducted.

During my time as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, starting in 2017, the committee investigated, in a bipartisan fashion, alleged collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russians. Bipartisan committee staff—I want to emphasize that—bipartisan committee staff interviewed five individuals who participated in that meeting, including President Trump's son, and collected documents from several others involved. At the Democrats' request, the committee interviewed an additional six individuals. I subpoenaed even Paul Manafort, with then-Ranking Member Feinstein's agreement for him to appear at a hearing and to provide testimony. With the exception of Democrats refusing to subpoena Fusion GPS and related parties, then-Chairman GRAHAM's 2020 Crossfire Hurricane subpoena authorization was based on years of bipartisan work.

As I have thought more about my Democratic colleagues' apparent laser focus on government ethics, it is clear that they have totally ignored the biggest, most obvious ethical fact pattern that requires investigation, and that is of the Biden family.

Since August 2019, Senator JOHNSON and I have investigated the Biden family's connections to foreign governments and questionable foreign nationals. We issued two reports and gave three floor speeches that made public hundreds of bank records. Our findings showed criminal activity, to include potential money laundering, with respect to members of the Biden family and their business associates and the use of public office for private gain.

Well, with respect to the Hunter Biden-related accounts, some have also been flagged for potential human trafficking. As Senator JOHNSON and I noted in our September 23, 2020, Biden family report, Treasury records show thousands of dollars in financial transactions involving Hunter Biden and Ukrainian and Russian women. These Treasury records link those women to Eastern European prostitution or human trafficking rings.

At this Judiciary Committee executive meeting that I have been speaking about, Democrats failed to consider my amendment to gather more facts on this abuse against women. Senator JOHNSON and I made public a bank record that showed Hunter Biden received \$1 million from a Chinese company that was an arm of the communist regime for representing Patrick Ho. Patrick Ho was charged and convicted for bribery and related Federal offenses. Now, guess what. Hunter Biden called Patrick Ho the spy chief for China. Based on the known facts, it appears that Hunter Biden was effectively a foreign agent of the communist regime.

The Judiciary Committee maintained jurisdiction and still maintains jurisdiction over the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Justice Department's enforcement of it. Yet, the Democrat-led committee has ignored the law and the Biden family.

In July of this year, I obtained and publicly released what is now called the Biden family 1023. This FBI-generated document is based on information provided to a long-serving FBI confidential human source. The FBI document shows a criminal bribery scheme. The criminal scheme included Joe Biden and Hunter Biden each being paid \$5 million for Joe Biden to take a policy position in favor of a foreign national. That policy position was ultimately taken. Joe Biden even bragged about it, and you can see, fairly regularly, his voice and his face talking about this—what he did to the Ukrainian Government to get somebody fired. The 1023 used the phrase "Big Guy" to describe Joe Biden before the "Big Guy" description was publicly known months later. Different people at different times in different parts of the

world independently used the same code name to describe Joe Biden.

Do my Democratic colleagues believe that it is just a coincidence? The 1023 includes references to audio recordings with Joe Biden, text messages, and records allegedly proving bribery criminal activity, and that it was real.

What have my Democratic colleagues done to investigate that evidence? What has the Biden Justice Department done?

The Tony Bobulinski interview noted that the Biden family would receive a multimillion-dollar unsecured loan, intended to be forgivable, from the energy company in China called CEFC. That would serve as payments for actions Joe Biden took during his Vice Presidency.

This financial strategy to illegally treat income as a loan is consistent with the IRS whistleblower testimony that indicated Hunter Biden attempted the same with respect to other income. These facts and allegations indicate criminal activity, money laundering, bribery, tax evasion, and significant ethical violations.

And, by the way, the Hunter Biden tax indictment mentioned financial transactions that my and Senator JOHNSON's work exposed years ago.

Look at indictment paragraphs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 100. Compare them with the other two reports from 2020 and three floor speeches last year.

My Democratic colleagues have shown zero interest in knowing, understanding, joining forces, or advancing this 4-year-old investigation. Instead, they have shown willful blindness to protect the President and family.

One of my Democratic colleagues said the right thing when we considered then-Chairman GRAHAM's subpoena authorization. Senator WHITEHOUSE brought up an amendment to "reinforce his point made at the last meeting about the selective enthusiasm of [the Judiciary] Committee for getting to the bottom of things and what appears to be a policy at the Department of Justice of refusing to answer Committee members' letters and Committee members' questions for the record."

The U.S. Congress has a constitutional mandate to conduct oversight of Republican and Democratic administrations without any political bias for either. We have a duty to ensure the Justice Department and the FBI consistently enforce the law without regard to politics.

Judiciary Committee Democrats were eager to engage in the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation before it was totally debunked. However, they were very eager to falsely attack my and Senator JOHNSON's Biden family investigation as Russian disinformation. Sadly, I haven't seen the same enthusiasm from the other side now that a Democratic political family is under the microscope.

If it is criminal and ethical questions my Democratic colleagues are inter-

ested in, then the Judiciary Committee should, in a bipartisan fashion, bring the family members for interviews and obtain records from them. No, the Democrat majority wants to investigate Supreme Court Justices and, of all nine of the Justices, only the conservative ones. So I can only conclude the Democrats' brand of oversight is more about politics than fact finding.

#### WHISTLEBLOWERS

On another subject, Mr. President, I come to the floor to bring attention to three brave Department of Homeland Security whistleblowers: Mark Jones, Mike Taylor, and Fred Wynn.

These three whistleblowers came to my office to report retaliation and government misconduct. People like this, I say they ought to be considered heroes, instead of like skunk at a picnic, as sometimes whistleblowers are treated by our bureaucracy. The retaliation that they told me about has been extensive and long enduring.

In 2018, these whistleblowers made legally protected disclosures to the Office of Special Counsel and Customs and Border Protection. They legally disclosed information about delays and the failure to collect DNA from detained illegal immigrants based on the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005 and subsequent regulations.

An August 21, 2019, letter from the Office of Special Counsel to the President substantiated these whistleblowers' disclosures, stating:

The agency's noncompliance with the law has allowed subjects subsequently accused of violent crimes, including homicide and sexual assault, to elude detection even when detained multiple times by [Customs and Border Protection] or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. . . . This is an unacceptable dereliction of the agency's law enforcement mandate.

I don't know how you can get a stronger statement from a nonpolitical division of our government about information not being properly used to stop wrongdoing.

After making their protected disclosures, all three whistleblowers were retaliated against. That gets back to my "skunk at a picnic" of how whistleblowers are treated by the bureaucracy. They aren't treated as the patriots they ought to be treated as. All they want the government to do is what the government is supposed to be doing, what the law requires, and how the money should be spent.

From February 2018 to the present, Customs and Border Protection officials subjected these whistleblowers to significant changes in duties, responsibilities, and working conditions. That is how you get treated if you are a whistleblower.

After harsh retaliation, Fred Wynn left Customs and Border Protection's Office of Intelligence to work for the U.S. Border Patrol doing management and program analysis work.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Taylor didn't receive a performance award any year after their disclosures, for the first

time in all of their employment at Customs and Border Protection. They had an overall reduction in pay and have been removed from their supervisory positions, negatively impacting promotional opportunities—once again, like a skunk at a picnic.

The Office of Special Counsel also identified an intentional nonpromotion for Mr. Jones. Additionally, Customs and Border Protection removed credentials, law enforcement authorities, firearms, and law enforcement retirement coverage for Mr. Taylor and Mr. Jones. The removal of one's firearm and one's credentials is the ultimate act of personal and career retaliation against Federal employees.

I have been told that Mr. Jones and Mr. Taylor discovered that one senior official who was aware of their ongoing retaliation refused to commandeer their firearms and credentials without a letter from senior officials—another person retaliated against.

Customs and Border Protection officials refused to provide the letter. The senior official who refused to participate in this retaliatory scheme then was involuntarily transferred out of his law enforcement position and stripped of premium pay in July of this year. So another person was retaliated against.

The Office of Special Counsel said its investigation supports a conclusion that government action against these three whistleblowers constituted a prohibited personnel practice. To put it plainly, the government violated Federal law and retaliated against these three brave whistleblowers.

On August 18 of this year, I sent a letter to Secretary Mayorkas and the current head of the Customs and Border Protection, Troy Miller. I asked what they have done to correct the retaliatory actions and take disciplinary action against the retaliators. As you might expect, both have failed to respond, which is not uncommon, after telling Congress—when these people come up for confirmation, we always ask them: Will you answer our letters, answer our phone calls? Will you come and testify before Congress? They always say yes. In the end, I tell them: Maybe to be honest, you ought to say maybe.

But instead of responding to Congress, Mr. Miller's Customs and Border Protection provided a public comment to the New York Post on August 22. It said this:

The Office of Special Counsel . . . terminated its investigation into these claims without issuing a Prohibited Personnel Practice Report or seeking corrective action.

The Office of Special Counsel told my staff multiple times that they did, in fact, seek corrective action with Customs and Border Protection. Customs and Border Protection's public comment is, then, a lie, or demonstrably false.

On September 11 of this year, I sent a followup letter to further address their failures to protect these whistleblowers and demand a public retraction. Sec-

retary Mayorkas and Mr. Miller failed to respond. But, again, Customs and Border Protection provided a public comment to the New York Post, saying about my letter: "This is a mischaracterization of this issue based on incomplete records, and we are unable to comment further based on open litigation regarding these cases"—something bureaucrats regularly hide behind, with a quotation like that.

On September 27 of this year, I wrote another letter to Secretary Mayorkas and Mr. Miller demanding they explain their second inaccurate public comment. Customs and Border Protection, but not the Department of Homeland Security, provided a response on October 17.

That letter said:

The Office of Special Counsel didn't issue a final report finding a prohibited personnel practice and didn't initiate corrective action litigation before the Merit Systems Protection Board . . . on the petitioners' behalf.

Did anyone catch that distinction? The public comment said "corrective action." The letter said "corrective action litigation."

Corrective action can take many forms and doesn't always include litigation—for example, negotiating with the parent Agency to put a whistleblower in a position they were in before retaliation occurred. Customs and Border Protection attempted a sleight of hand. That sleight of hand has failed. The Customs and Border Protection letter makes clear its public comments were false, and they were the ones to offer mischaracterizations to the public.

Secretary Mayorkas has failed to take action despite my oversight efforts. Mr. Jones, Mr. Wynn, and Mr. Taylor are still struggling from the many acts of retaliation that have been taken against them for speaking up to protect Americans. But this Senator won't stop fighting for them and the dozens of other whistleblowers who have come to my office. There must be accountability for what has happened to these patriotic Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, at long last, the Senate will vote on the National Defense Authorization Act conference report.

Each year, the Defense Authorization Act is how we demonstrate our support for the men and women in uniform—how they are paid, how they are equipped, how they are trained—and how our alliances are strengthened.

Given the incredible number of threats that exist in today's world, preserving our military readiness has never been more important. There is a war in the Middle East, a war in Europe, and growing tensions in the Indo-Pacific. I was reading this morning there are more wars and conflicts today than there have been literally at almost any time in history. We live in

a dangerous world, and maintaining our paramount strength and the deterrence that flows from that is absolutely imperative.

That is why the Defense Authorization Act is so important. Each year, it allows us to take stock of the evolving threat landscape and to take corrective actions. This year's Defense bill prioritizes long-term strategic competition with China. It will help replenish our defense stockpiles from the weapons that we have been supplying Ukraine so that they can defend themselves against unjustified Russian aggression, and it will help us maintain our own state of readiness and the deterrent effect that goes along with it. This bill will also support modernization efforts across the board, from the nuclear triad to next-generation weapons.

This year's NDAA also authorizes military construction projects across the country, including \$230 million for military construction projects in Texas alone. That includes \$48 million for a cyber operations center and \$20 million for a child development center at Joint Base San Antonio. It is really important to understand that in an All-Volunteer military, it is important not only to view this as service by just the member who wears the uniform but also the entire family. So trying to make sure that we take care of things like a child development center at Joint Base San Antonio ensures our ability to continue to recruit and retain highly qualified individuals to serve in our All-Volunteer military.

This bill also has \$20 million for barracks improvements and nearly \$6 million for tactical equipment maintenance facilities at Fort Cavazos. It has \$74 million for a new rail yard spur at Fort Bliss. This is so, should troops need to be deployed from Fort Bliss, they can almost immediately be loaded onto a rail and then sent to the port at Beaumont and other ports for disembarkation.

And this is just scratching the surface. So, simply put, the NDAA will support our troops, strengthen our military readiness, and implement a raft of reforms to strengthen our national security.

Included in this bill is the Intelligence Authorization Act, which includes the Sensible Classification Act that I introduced with Senator WARNER earlier this year. It had become apparent to me that our classification system had been overused, and too many people were able to classify documents and keep them out of public view without any real rhyme or reason.

This is particularly important given the nature of our Republic where the public has a right to know what their government is doing. Now, certainly—and this bill does protect sensitive classified information when it is important to our national security, but it is important to make sure that that classification process extends no further than is absolutely necessary and



that once the risk of public disclosure lapses, that that information be subject to declassification, which is what the Sensible Classification Act does.

The classification of sensitive information gives us an invaluable edge when it comes to planning and preparing for threats all around the world, but there is a very thin line between strategic classification and excessive secrecy. Of course, political accountability is a critical part of self-government, and given the all-too-human, natural incentive to trumpet successes and hide mistakes, excessive secrecy undermines that accountability, which is essential to our system of government. If too much information is withheld from the public, it can sow distrust.

Without transparency, there can be no accountability, and without accountability, there is no confidence that the government is acting in the best interest of the American people. It is obvious that there is a need to recalibrate the balance between the public's right to know and the need to protect and defend our Nation, and that is what this important provision of the National Defense Authorization Act does. It will increase accountability and oversight of the classification system by requiring training to promote sensible classification and efficient declassification. Declassification, as I indicated, after the need for secrecy goes away, will allow information to become public so we can learn from our history, and we can learn our history as well.

This bill requires Federal Agencies to justify security clearances. Too many people have security clearances, which actually contribute to the overclassification of information. We need to limit security clearances and access to classified information to those who truly need it in order to keep our Nation safe. This legislation will help protect the integrity of America's classification system and help provide some additional trust in the government, I hope, and I am glad it will soon be heading to the President's desk for his signature.

There is another important provision in the National Defense Authorization Act that is very important as well, and that is an extension of section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which is set to expire at the end of this year unless it is extended. But we all know this law is not without some controversy.

Still, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and section 702, in particular, is one of the most important and consequential laws that most Americans have never even heard of. This authority is the key to detecting and disrupting threats to our safety and our security. For example, information acquired through section 702 has helped identify threats to our own troops and thwart planned terrorist attacks both here at home and abroad.

It has enabled the U.S. Government to stop components for weapons of

mass destruction from reaching our foreign adversaries. It has helped us disrupt our adversaries' efforts to recruit spies on American soil or send their operatives to the United States once recruited overseas.

It has also helped us understand and combat fentanyl trafficking, a drug which took 71,000 American lives last year alone.

It has helped us identify foreign ransomware attacks on U.S. critical infrastructure and uncover war crimes and gruesome atrocities in places like Ukraine.

For virtually every national security threat America faces, section 702 is an essential asset. There is a reason why it is known as the crown jewel of America's intelligence-gathering capabilities. But as I said a moment ago, despite the importance of this law, this authority is not without some controversy, and unfortunately we have been unable to resolve all of that controversy into an agreed statute with appropriate reforms. So this temporary extension is important to give us the time and the space to be able to do that.

In recent years, we have learned of some abuses of our intelligence authorities. But I want to be clear: The targeting of Americans is expressly prohibited in section 702. In fact, you can't target foreign adversaries on American soil—only overseas. This is very limited in its application. This authority allows the intelligence community and the Department of Justice to obtain intelligence on foreigners located outside the United States. It cannot be used to target U.S. citizens, whether on American soil or elsewhere.

Now, where this issue gets thorny is because of the so-called incidental collection of the identity of Americans. So when a foreign national communicates with somebody in the United States—obviously, a U.S. person, defined as a legal permanent resident or a U.S. citizen—there will be incidental collection of that communication between the foreigner and the American.

As an example, let's say the intelligence community is using 702 to monitor the communications of a Hamas terrorist in Gaza who is believed to pose a danger to our national security. He is not on American soil, and he is not an American citizen, but he is using U.S.-based communication networks.

One of the people that Hamas terrorists in our hypothetical is communicating with is an American on U.S. soil, and through a series of text messages, the intelligence community is able to discern that the two are planning an attack on civilians in New York City.

This is a fairly typical sort of collection using this important authority, and you can understand why it is important to be able to retain that ability to discern these sorts of attacks and this sort of planning by our adversaries against us.

So in this case, even though the American is not the target of the collection, the conversation would be visible because the person he is communicating with is a foreign target. But the intelligence community has a whole set of protocols and procedures to protect American citizens and U.S. persons even in this sort of incidental collection. There is a series of minimization procedures intended to limit the distribution of this information to make sure that it is not subject to abuse.

So let's say that the FBI wants to get some more information about that U.S. citizen on American soil. They then have to go to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and demonstrate probable cause that that American citizen or U.S. person is a threat to U.S. public safety. And they have to get a warrant involving that U.S. citizen—U.S. person.

So in this hypothetical terror plot, we are looking at a clear and imminent threat to people on American soil, and clearly that is something that the FBI would want to take a closer look at.

Congress has designed this authority to provide intelligence professionals with timely and actionable intelligence in a way that protects the privacy and the rights of American citizens, but unfortunately we know that occasionally we will find abuse of those authorities. For example, in 2020 and early 2021, it was revealed that hundreds of thousands of improper searches had been made using the 702 database.

Now, I, like most other people I know, were outraged by these abuses, and the American people should be outraged when these authorities, as important as they are, are used improperly. This represents a violation of trust by some of our Nation's most powerful law enforcement Agencies.

Given these abuses, some of our colleagues have suggested that we simply allow this authority to lapse, but the truth is, we can't cut off our nose to spite our face. Instead of nixing it, we need to fix it, and that is what we need the time to do that this temporary extension will provide.

Losing section 702 authority would make the American people vulnerable to a range of threats. Instead of tossing this authority aside, we simply need to reform it. I say "simply"—we need to reform it.

Last week, FBI Director Christopher Wray testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and talked about the abuses of 702 authority. He described these failures appropriately as "unacceptable" and spoke about the raft of reforms he has implemented to address the problem.

The FBI has improved its systems, enhanced training, added oversight and approval requirements, and adopted new accountability measures. It has also launched a new Office of Internal Auditing that is focused specifically on FISA compliance. The data show that these reforms are actually working.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court found that agents complied with FISA requirements 98 percent of the time. And the number of searches of the 702 database fell by 95 percent from 2021 to 2022. Obviously, this is not 100 percent. It is not perfection. But these are commendable signs of progress.

(Ms. BUTLER assumed the Chair.)

Given the understandable concern here in Congress with reforming the way section 702 operates, primarily as it applies to American citizens, the NDAA gives us more time to get it right—something we have not had to this point. Once it is signed into law, Congress will have until April 19 to advance a longer term 702 reauthorization.

In both the House and the Senate, Members are diligently working to reauthorize this authority in a way that protects the foundation of this intelligence-gathering tool while strengthening privacy protections for the American people.

As always, we have to ensure these enhanced protections don't create new problems. We don't want to create inadvertently loopholes that could be exploited by our adversaries or hamper law enforcement's ability to hold criminals accountable.

I hope we can build on the progress that has been made by codifying the FBI's changes and taking additional measures to protect the privacy of the American people.

The information and dot-connecting that is made possible through 702 is absolutely essential. It allows us to stay a step ahead of our adversaries and mitigate threats to the United States and the American people. It is an invaluable and irreplaceable component of our national security, and we need to be thoughtful and deliberate about the steps we take to preserve it and, more importantly, to reform it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### TENNESSEE STORMS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, in Tennessee, our hearts are absolutely breaking for the families and the communities that have been impacted by the storms that raced across our State this weekend. We are mourning the loss of six Tennesseans—two children in that number—and dozens of individuals have been injured and hospitalized. The storm left thousands without power. It destroyed homes and businesses.

I want to express my thanks to the first responders, the emergency management officials, and the volunteers who immediately jumped into action to support these families and to help those who have lost their businesses, their homes, and the families of those who lost their lives. They have made such a difference. Each and every one of these volunteers and officials has made such a difference in what is going to be a very long road to recovery.

My team has been in touch with the White House, with the Governor's of-

fice, with local elected officials, and we are working to ensure that the full force of the Federal Government mobilizes behind these communities in order to help them recover.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, late last month, Democrats did something unprecedented in the history of the Senate Judiciary Committee: They blocked the opposing party from speaking on judicial nominees ahead of rollcall votes. This was a gross violation of committee rules. It is not something we generally see take place in the Judiciary Committee. But if you look at the track records of some of these radical, far-left nominees, you can see why the Democratic Party does not want these individuals to be up for discussion.

Let me give an example of some of these individuals who have been nominated for the Federal bench. Now, bear in mind that appointments to the Federal bench—for the district court, for the appellate court, and, of course, the Supreme Court—are lifetime appointments. So the only time the representative of the people—that the people can be heard pro or con on these nominees is in the committee, is in this Chamber, because it is a lifetime appointment.

Judge Mustafa Kasubhai is one of these nominees. There were several of us on the Republican side of the aisle who wanted to speak about him, but we were blocked from talking about him.

The concern that I have with him is that Judge Kasubhai has actually defended Marxism. In his words, in his writings, he has defended Marxism. He has argued against private property rights, and he has called our Nation "deeply Islamophobic." That is what he believes, and that is what he has written and talked about.

He has also made some deeply disturbing comments about sexuality, women, and rape. For example, he helped promote a radical, leftist view that all heterosexual relationships—all; not some but all—are infused with violence and that all sexual acts should be viewed as rape. That is his point of view. This appalling argument silences women who have actually been victims of sexual assault. Yet my colleagues across the aisle, the Democrats, want this man in the courtroom, making life-and-death decisions about women. They want him making decisions about rape and sexual violence. They want him making decisions about property rights when he has spoken out against property rights.

Worst of all, Judge Kasubhai has shown alarming leniency when it comes to violent criminals. As a prosecutor, he recommended a sentence far below guidelines for a man who drugged, raped, and brutally abused girls as young as 10 years old. He wanted leniency for this guy for those crimes of drugging, abusing, and raping girls as young as 10 years old. How many of you know a 10-year-old girl?

Judge Kasubhai didn't just say that because it was one count or two counts;

this guy had done this for 15 years. That is what you call a serial perpetrator—15 years. Think about that. But, no, let's let him off. Let's give him leniency. And let's not protect private property of individuals. Let's not protect women who have been sexually abused. Astounding.

Judge Kasubhai, on that case, with a guy who had drugged, raped, and brutally abused girls as young as 10 years old over a 15-year period of time—he wanted just over 10 years in prison for this guy. And he had committed these crimes for 15 years—for 15 years. He committed some of the most heinous crimes imaginable against children. Even though this guy's risk of recidivism was very high, Judge Kasubhai was willing to let him go with 10 years in prison.

I am telling you, Judge Kasubhai's track record is disturbing. It is despicable. It is disqualifying. But the thing that probably should disturb each of us is that not only is this guy unqualified, so are a host of others. Let me tell you about some of the others who have been up for discussion. Some of these have moved on through the system.

There is Nancy Abudu. Nancy Abudu endorsed political violence against conservatives. Go read her Twitter feed. It would be astounding. She was very involved with the Southern Poverty Law Center, but she supported violence against conservatives—against me. Would you want to go into a court and be in front of a judge who was an activist and supported violence against people? I would think not.

There is Todd Edelman. He has been the nominee, and he is there with the DC district court. Todd Edelman used his authority to release a known criminal. This is someone with a record who then went on to participate in the murder of a child. So the guy has a criminal record, and he gets off. Then he goes on and he participates in the murder of a child. That was a decision from Todd Edelman.

Then, for the California District, Marian Gaston. She opposed residence restrictions for convicted child sex offenders. So she doesn't even want them to have home confinement. Just let them go, let them be out there.

DeAndrea Benjamin over at the Fourth Circuit released violent criminals on bond. Well, guess what happened when DeAndrea Benjamin released them on bond. What happens when violent criminals are let go? They go do it again.

It is as if this White House does not understand who needs to be on the Federal bench.

There is another one I want to talk about: Seth Aframe. He is a First Circuit nominee. He is out of New Hampshire. Mr. Aframe's background is something that I think is disqualifying for someone to be on the Federal bench, and let me explain why I believe this.

Mr. Aframe gave lenient sentences to pedophiles who abused children.

Let me give you a couple of examples of this abuse. One was a pedophile who apprehended, kidnapped a 14-year-old girl who was deaf. So this pedophile kidnaps a 14-year-old girl and he takes her across the State line into Vermont and he takes her to an abandoned motel and he rapes her. This is what the guy did.

Now, the second one he let off, that he went for leniency, was a 3-year-old child that he repeatedly raped.

Now, showing you that this pedophile had planned all this out, he befriended the parents of the 3-year-old girl and then he abused that friendship and he raped this child. This guy was sick.

The sentencing guidelines for each of these two pedophiles and their crimes—the sentencing guidelines call for life in prison. That makes sense. You go out, you kidnap a 14-year-old girl; you take her across State lines; you take her to an abandoned motel, and you rape her—and this is a 14-year-old who is deaf. You take a precious little 3-year-old girl, after you have befriended her parents, knowing you are going to do this because you have got a record, and you rape a 3-year-old child and then you produce videos of yourself carrying out these crimes—these are sick, sick, sick animals.

But, no, Mr. Aframe, he goes for leniency. Instead of going for life in prison, he wanted that sentence lowered. He got his way.

Now, here is what he said about the pedophile who had raped the 14-year-old girl who was deaf. Of that pedophile, he said—following his sentencing and giving him the lower sentence—that by the time he got out of prison, he should be over 60 years old and maybe his desire would have passed. This is sick.

These people are not qualified, and I am going to continue to talk about these judges who are not qualified.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Madam President, last week, border encounters with illegal immigrants reached 12,000 in a single day, the first time that has ever happened in our Nation's history.

This border is not closed; this border is wide open, and the cartels, fentanyl, and terrorists are streaming across it in record numbers—yes, 12,000 in a day.

In fact, 279 terrorists have been caught at the southern border since President Biden took office. More than 160 suspected terrorists have been apprehended in fiscal year 2023 alone, a number larger than the last 6 years combined.

And since October, more than 6,500 Chinese nationals, 700 Afghans, and dozens of Iranians have also been encountered at the border. Do you think these people have gotten the message that the Biden administration has thrown down the welcome mat and said: Come on over. We are going to let you in. Of course, that is what they are being told by the cartels—of course—because we have got a DHS Secretary who does not stand up and secure the

border. How about that? A Homeland Security Secretary who does not believe in securing the homeland. You can't make it up.

But instead of cracking down on border security, the Biden administration is cracking down on American businesses, including in my home State of Tennessee. They are cracking down on them for ensuring that their employees are eligible to work in our country.

Late last month, Biden's Justice Department fined a Chattanooga-based trucking company \$700,000 for simply checking whether job applicants had permanent resident cards or their immigration documents. They want to see a permanent resident card. They want to see immigration documents.

According to the Justice Department—you are not going to believe this one—according to the Justice Department, these documents are “unnecessary.” Their choice of words.

You know what, you just can't make it up. This administration continues to try to find ways to make illegal legal. They are constantly trying to circumvent the rule of law. They have got two tiers, two standards, two tiers of treatment, two tiers of justice, and it has caused massive amounts of confusion.

So this administration believes open the border, let them run all over, don't document them, doesn't matter if they are a terrorist, doesn't matter what they are coming here for. But if you are a company and you are going to check for permanent residency cards and immigration documents—which you are required to do by law, by the way—then this DOJ is going to tell you: Give it up. We are not checking who is complying with the law. We just want things done our way.

This needs to stop.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before we break for the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GUATEMALA

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, it was bullets not ballots. Bullets were the way that policies were set when I visited Guatemala in the spring of 1980: a soldier with a gun on every corner of Guatemala City, the army going village to village killing indigenous young men, rebels attacking government officials, and rightwing death squads assassinating professors and students.

I had the unfortunate experience of coming around a street corner just after a death squad had assassinated a professor at San Carlos University and left his body lying in the street.

Well, four decades ago—that is a long time ago—and, fortunately, Guatemala has come a long way since I visited as a young man. Now, the battles over the country's future are being fought not with bullets but with ballots.

But maintaining the integrity of balloting, the peaceful transfer of power, which are the hallmarks, the foundations of representative democracy, is not inevitable. And in Guatemala, the system is being stressed. In Guatemala, the system is being tested.

The ballot box is beautiful because it creates the opportunity for citizens to call on their leaders to change direction, actually, to select leaders who are calling for a change in direction.

If the government isn't serving the people, the people can change the government. And every now and then, one of these elections is particularly exciting, and Guatemala's recent Presidential election has certainly been exciting.

The current Guatemalan Government is mostly a government by and for the powerful, rather than by and for the people, and the powerful blocked several candidates that they didn't want as the next President from even running in the election.

But one person they didn't stop was Bernardo Arevalo and his Semilla or “Seed Movement” Party. This gray-haired academic and anti-corruption advocate was running far back in the pack, virtually unnoticed, some eighth place just a couple weeks before the election, a campaign staff of only five people, so certainly not a serious contender—not a serious contender until he was a serious contender, and that happened because of two factors: The first was young people on social media. Nearly two-thirds of Guatemala's 17 million citizens are under the age of 30, and young people on TikTok flocked to the honesty of the man often referred to as “Uncle Bernie” and his campaign against corruption.

Soon Semilla's seedlings were spreading across social media. And one of the Semilla's leading advocates on social media was a young woman whom our delegation met this last weekend named Marcela Blanco. Ms. Blanco is a 23-year-old influencer who was arrested in November by the government for a tweet, arrested for her campaign activities, held for 11 days, and then released under house arrest and allowed to come to a meeting at the Embassy, which was fortunate because we were able to meet her.

She was a threat to the government because she was effective in spreading a message, a message of support for a man running for President who was running against the corruption of the existing government, her support for a democratic movement of development that was inclusive, meaning that it would support healthcare and housing and education, clean water, not just for the cities but also for the rural indigenous villages.

Well, when that first round of Presidential balloting was held on June 25, Mr. Arevalo came in second, which in the Guatemalan system is very important because first and second place have a runoff, assuming nobody got a majority in the first round. So that runoff was on August 20.

In the August election, that first and the second round, Mr. Arevalo didn't just barely win, he won by more than 60 percent of the vote, defeating the establishment candidate, Sandra Torres.

So a 20-percent victory is a pretty powerful message being sent from the people about whom they want to guide them in the future. And then what happened was the existing government went to work to try to invalidate the election, coming up with a series of spurious claims, and that triggered the indigenous communities to shut down roadways—so a protest—and it forced business leaders to call on the government to recognize the results.

So people, young people, indigenous people, Guatemalan people won a victory.

But they only won a victory if they can keep it. And Mr. Arevalo was here in Washington, DC, to talk about his upcoming service that would start on January 14 of next year, and he noted that he was still under intense attack—both him and his Vice President—and he wasn't sure if he would ever make it to be installed as President.

So a couple of us asked him whether it would be helpful to show that the United States was standing for the ballot box, standing for the peaceful transfer of power to come down before the election. And so a group of us went down this last weekend, led by Senator TIM KAINE, who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Latin America for the Foreign Relations Committee. And we were accompanied by Senator BUTLER, who is in the chair right now—and I gather this was her first congressional delegation—and by Senator DICK DURBIN and myself and then two members of the House who are themselves of Guatemalan descent, which was enormously powerful.

So we advocated there in Guatemala to maintain the recognition of this election, which had a huge amount of oversight, which was certainly conducted with integrity, and to ensure that there was a peaceful transfer of power on January 14.

But in the morning, on Saturday morning, as we were meeting with members of the President's Cabinet and they were telling us everything is just fine, one member of the Cabinet who was not there, which was the attorney general, was preparing to release a statement that afternoon. And that statement she released declared that the election of President-elect Arevalo and Vice-President-elect Herrera and the party's—that is the Semilla party's—parliamentarians was null and void.

Wow. So the attack on democracy by the existing government was still in full force this weekend. We responded by holding a press conference to stress the integrity of the election, underscore the need for democratic continuity, recognizing that the message carried by the President had been supported by an overwhelming majority of

the country. And other organizations and other countries condemned the decision too. The Organization of American States called it an attempted coup d'état that constitutes the worst form of democratic breakdown and the consolidation of a political fraud against the will of the people. And the Supreme Electoral Tribunal declared that the results are validated, formalized, and unchangeable. And Mr. Giammattei, the current President, called for the passage of power to Mr. Arevalo in January.

We have to admit that decades ago, it was not unusual for the United States to undermine democracy in a number of countries in the world—a couple of examples: In 1953, the United States helped engineer a coup against a democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran, Mohammad Mosaddegh, to install the Shah to power. Some 20 years later, Henry Kissinger in the Nixon administration supported and helped a coup d'états by the military against the democratic-elected President of Chile, Allende; and what followed were the worst kinds of repressive regimes with unforeseen consequences, including the Islamic Revolution in Iran and terrible oppression in Chile.

So I was pleased to be part of a team from this Chamber in Latin America working to support and defend democracy, defend the ballot box, defend the will of free peoples. That is the stand we should always be taking when their election is held with integrity.

And right now, it is important that the United States and the international community continue to stand arm in arm with the people of Guatemala, arm in arm with President-elect Arevalo, arm and arm with Vice-President-elect Herrera and their campaign for democracy, their campaign for the rule of law.

Madam President, 44 years ago when I arrived in Guatemala, it was governed by bullets; and 4 days ago, I arrived in a country governed by ballots. But their democracy is at risk. We must continue to do all we can to support the will of the Guatemalan people, the Guatemaltecos, and the will of democratic people around the world. Let's ensure that the form of government that triumphs is that of representative democracy, channeling a government of, by, and for the people, not the powerful.

#### NOMINATION OF RICHARD E.N. FEDERICO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Richard E.N. Federico to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Born in Richmond, IN, Mr. Federico earned his B.A.J. from Indiana University in 1999, his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 2002, and his L.L.M. from Georgetown University in 2012.

Since 2003, Mr. Federico has served the Navy in various positions both in the United States and abroad. More specifically, he has served as: trial

counsel in Trial Service Office East of Naval Station Norfolk; director of military justice and trial counsel in the U.S. Regional Legal Service Office of Europe and Southwest Asia in Naples, Italy; defense counsel in the Office of the Chief Defense Counsel in the Office of Military Commissions; executive officer, senior defense counsel, and officer in charge at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, FL; appellate defense counsel in the Appellate Defense Division of the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Washington, DC; military judge in the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary; and trial counsel for the Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office Southwest at Navy Base San Diego.

Between 2015 and 2017, he served as an assistant federal public defender in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Oregon. In 2019, Mr. Federico was designated and certified by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy as a military judge. Throughout his naval career, on Active Duty and in the Reserves, he has also been detailed to serve in a quasi-judicial capacity as a preliminary hearing officer. Mr. Federico has been detailed to preside over 11 court-martial cases. Since 2020, Mr. Federico has served as senior litigator in the Federal Public Defender's Office for the District of Kansas. He previously served the office as an assistant Federal public defender and as a research and writing specialist. Throughout his career, Mr. Federico has tried dozens of cases to verdict in U.S. district courts and in military courts-martial, and he has also filed and argued several appeals.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Federico as "well qualified," and his nomination is strongly supported by his home State Senators, Mr. MORAN and Mr. MARSHALL.

I am confident that Mr. Federico will serve honorably on the Tenth Circuit. I proudly support his nomination.

#### VOTE ON FEDERICO NOMINATION.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination?

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the

Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 336 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Rubio
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Lankford	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	Marshall	Thune
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Ernst	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wicker
Graham	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Heinrich	Wyden
Cardin	Risch	Young
Cruz	Schatz	
Fetterman	Whitehouse	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 29.

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 304.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States

District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 304, Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie K. Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, John W. Hickenlooper, Mark Kelly, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Patty Murray.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider executive Calendar No. 305.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brandon S. Long, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 305, Brandon S. Long, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie K. Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, John

W. Hickenlooper, Mark Kelly, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Patty Murray.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 11, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Coker nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR TYRONE C. MARSHALL, Jr.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, today it is with great pleasure that I honor a dedicated Army noncommissioned officer, legislative liaison, and public servant. I wish to recognize SGM Tyrone C. Marshall for 2 years of exemplary service with the Senate Liaison Division and congratulate him on his selection to serve in the Pentagon as an operations sergeant major with the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs.

On this occasion, I recognize Sergeant Major Marshall's distinguished 25-year career spent serving the American people, whether here in the Halls of Congress or with his boots on the ground. A native of Ashbury Park, NJ, and a fourth-generation soldier, he enlisted in the Army in 1998, serving first as an administrative specialist for 7 years before transitioning to public affairs in 2005. Sergeant Major Marshall deployed to Iraq twice, serving first in 2005 with the 25th Infantry Division public affairs, Task Force Lightning, and later with Task Force Wings as Brigade PAO for 25th Combat Aviation Brigade in 2008.

In 2011, Sergeant Major Marshall began his first tour at the Pentagon as the senior public affairs NCO for the Defense Media Activity's Armed Forces Press Service, Pentagon Bureau, later designated DoD News. In this role, he served as the sole military adviser to a 20-person civilian news team supporting the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His service in this capacity demonstrates his steadfast commitment to the defense of the United States, whether on the ground or over the airwaves.

In 2015, Sergeant Major Marshall returned to the line as a platoon sergeant at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. He then returned to the Pentagon as Public Affairs and media adviser to the 15th and 16th Sergeants Major of the Army and as an operations NCO.

In 2020, Sergeant Major Marshall arrived on Capitol Hill to serve as a defense fellow for Representative ELISE

STEFANK of New York before his selection as a legislative liaison in the Senate Liaison Division. In each of these positions, his primary responsibility was to help continue and strengthen Army relationships across both Chambers of Congress. Over the past 2 years, Sergeant Major Marshall has done just that: He has been an indispensable resource and representative of the Army and traveled all over the world facilitating congressional and staff delegations.

He will now continue his distinguished Army career, once again returning to the Pentagon as an operations sergeant major. He will assume responsibility for his new position later this December.

I am personally thankful for his shared wisdom, service, and sacrifice. I am grateful to him for the help he provided my staff and me to better serve our Georgia Army families and communities. And on behalf of the U.S. Senate, I thank SGM Tyrone C. Marshall for his time here in the Senate as a legislative liaison and wish him, his wife Tammy, and his children Kya, Kaden, Tre'Yon, Elijah, and Tyrone all the best.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIM RIGGINS

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend an extraordinary Georgian for her lifetime of service to the State of Georgia and to our entire country.

This month, Ms. Kim Riggins will retire as a congressional liaison in the Atlanta VA Regional Office's Congressional Unit, where she works to ensure Georgia's veterans and their families can access the benefits they have earned, and to coordinate that work with Georgia's congressional offices.

In 1979, Ms. Riggins enlisted in U.S. Navy, and she served on Active Duty from October 1979 until October 1983. While stationed at Fort Myers, VA, she met and married Charles Riggins, a soldier, in 1983. The couple had two sons, Charles Jr., an educator, and Terron, Active-Duty Army. Both are married and captains in the National Guard and Active Army, respectively.

Upon her discharge from Active Duty, Ms. Riggins joined the Navy Reserves and remained in the Reserves until 1994. In June 1994, Charles and Kim Riggins moved to Georgia. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, she was recalled to Active Duty and served from February 2002 until October 2003.

Ms. Riggins retired from the U.S. Naval Reserves in 2005, and in May 2008, she graduated magna cum laude from Clayton State University, earning a bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in finance.

She began working at the Atlanta VA in August 2009 and was hired under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—ARRA—of 2009 as a veterans service representative, VSR. Ms. Riggins was part of the pre-development team from 2009 to 2012, where she was selected by the veterans service center

Manager—VSCM—to be detailed to congressionals on the public contact team, where she has been serving Georgia's veterans for the past 11 years.

For her lifetime of service to our Nation in the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Navy Reserves, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, I commend Kim Riggins and congratulate her and her entire family on her retirement.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING MUDDY DOG MARKET AND GRILL

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Muddy Dog Market and Grill of Unionville, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded by husband and wife duo Regina and Darrell Sarmento in 2023, Muddy Dog Market and Grill offers dine-in and takeout food options, groceries, and entertainment in Unionville. The Sarmentos opened Muddy Dog Market and Grill to provide quality dining and groceries to residents of Appanoose, Monroe, Davis, and Wapello Counties. For dine-in food options, Muddy Dog Market and Grill offers artisanal pizzas, smash burgers, soups, salads, appetizers, and weekly specials. The drink menu at Muddy Dog Market and Grill is unique, with drinks named after the family's "muddy dogs." In addition to the market and grill, they also provide live music events and offer party rental services.

Muddy Dog Market and Grill is actively involved in the Unionville community. Regina grew up in Iowa but met Darrell in Sacramento, CA, where they both were living at the time. They moved to Iowa in 2009, with Darrell working as executive director of the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce from 2010 until 2014 and the Des Moines West Side Chamber of Commerce from 2017 until 2021. In addition to running Muddy Dog Market and Grill with his wife, Darrell serves as a small business counselor at the Indian Hills Community College Small Business Development Center. In this position, he helps other small businesses grow and develop. Prior to owning and running Muddy Dog Market and Grill, Regina spent years working in restaurants and as a behavioral health professional. The Sarmentos are actively involved in their church, using the proceeds from their recycled bottles to benefit youth services. Muddy Dog Market and Grill actively employs high school students in the Moravia and Moulton-Udell School Districts. The Sarmentos serve as mentors to the students, helping the next generation gain practical skills in the workplace. This Veterans Day,

Muddy Dog Market and Grill offered a Vets Dine Free Day, with live music and free meals for local veterans.

Muddy Dog Market and Grill's commitment to providing quality food and groceries at great prices in Unionville, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Regina and Darrell Sarmento and the entire team at Muddy Dog Market and Grill for their continued dedication to south central Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

##### TRIBUTE TO MOLLY LIEBERMAN

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend a Savannah, GA, nonprofit organization working to support our children and schools. Founded in 2008 by Molly Lieberman, Loop it Up Savannah is a nonprofit community art program that began as a children's knitting and crochet class at the West Broad Street YMCA. Since then, it has grown into a community-wide program, helping bring art forms to children and adults across Chatham County and the Savannah area.

Partnering with schools, community centers, museums, and local businesses, Ms. Lieberman and Loop It Up Savannah work to provide creative art experiences and connect resources to children and families throughout Savannah. Loop It Up Savannah's programming includes visual and performing arts, early literacy programming, school garden projects, yoga and mindfulness-based practice, and STEAM Programming throughout Savannah and Chatham County. These events, programs, and workshops help build strong relationships, greater academic successes, and a more connected community.

I commend Molly Lieberman and the entire Loop it Up Savannah team for their work in the Savannah community and their commitment to our children.●

##### TRIBUTE TO SUN PARK

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Sun Park, the 26th president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce GA-ATL, for his exceptional leadership and commitment to the Korean American business community in Georgia.

This weekend, the Korean American Chamber of Commerce GA-ATL inaugurated its 27th president and celebrated Mr. Park's service. Mr. Park immigrated to the United States from the Republic of Korea in 2004 and started a small business in Duluth, GA. In January 2022, Mr. Park was sworn in as the 26th president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce GA-ATL. Under Mr. Park's leadership, the chamber has flourished and continues to be a beacon of innovation and collaboration.

Mr. Park has been instrumental in supporting Korean American small business owners, and he has worked to deepen cooperation and ties with other

communities in metro Atlanta. Under Mr. Park's presidency, the chamber has successfully hosted expos every March and October, which have been vital in serving Korean companies, providing essential resources, and connecting them to U.S.-based buyers. This initiative has played a crucial role in helping Korean companies establish and thrive in the U.S. market.

I commend Mr. Sun Park for his leadership and service to Georgia's Korean American community as the 26th president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce GA-ATL.●

#### RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany for receiving the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence in June 2023.

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations. In May 2022, the base announced it had become the first DOD installation to reach electric Net Zero. Partnering with Georgia Power, MCLB Albany was awarded funding via the electrical vehicle Make Ready Program. The effort consists of 21 charge points at nine locations across the installation and includes underlying infrastructure to allow for future growth.

In March 2022, MCLB Albany opened the first hybrid dining facility to feed both Active Duty and civilians, emphasizing nutritional density while maintaining compliance with the Military Dietary Reference Intake. The base is also recognized as a Military Community of Excellence through various partnerships with industry, schools, local, State, and Federal leaders.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Col. Matthew McKinney, U.S. Marine Corps, and all who serve and work at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany for their outstanding and innovative efforts to support Department of Defense missions.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JORDAN J. CORBETT

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize Jordan J. Corbett on the occasion of his 101st birthday on November 25, 2023.

J.J. grew up in Pierce, FL, and attended Union Academy in Bartow. In 1943, after a semester at Bethune-Cookman University, he was drafted into the U.S. Army to fight in World War II. He was one of the first African Americans to train as a paratrooper and was a founding member of the 555th "Triple Nickles" Parachute Infantry Battalion. The 555th was part of Operation Firefly, tasked with parachuting into rough terrain in the American Northwest to put out fires started by the Japan's deadly fire balloons. Not only did they help protect the homeland and deter future balloon

attacks, they pioneered many of the procedures of today's smoke jumpers who help put out wildfires.

After the war, J.J. earned a degree in mathematics from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College where he played football, was editor of the yearbook, and was active in Omega Psi Phi fraternity. Upon graduation, he returned to Bartow, FL, to teach math and coached at his high school alma mater, where he met his wife Ava.

He served 12 years on the Polk County School Board and 14 years on the board of the Citrus and Chemical Bank. He is a two-time Florida Track Coach of the Year and a member of the Florida Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

J.J.'s life of service and perseverance is an inspiration to us all. I extend my best birthday wishes to J.J. and his family.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 88. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program".

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 88. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program".

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3038. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guaranteed Loanmaking and Servicing Regulations" (RIN0570-AB07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3039. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transparency in Poultry Grower Contracting and Tournaments" ((RIN0581-AE03) (Docket No. AMS-FTTP-21-0044)) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3040. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Office, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Memorandum on Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Funding" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3041. A communication from the General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conservators and Receivers" (RIN3052-AD48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3042. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)" (RIN7100-AG69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3043. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fair Credit Reporting Act Disclosures" (12 CFR Part 1022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3044. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold" (RIN7100-AG19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3045. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Truth in Lending (Regulation Z) Annual Threshold Adjustments (Credit Cards, HOEPA, and Qualified Mortgages)" (12 CFR Part 1026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3046. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Leasing (Regulation M)" (12 CFR Part 1013) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3047. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Deadline Extension for Reporting Companies Created or Registered in 2024" (RIN1506-AB62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3048. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of FinCEN Identifiers for Reporting Beneficial Ownership Information of Entities" (RIN1506-AB49) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3049. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Entity List Additions" (RIN0694-AJ44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3050. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Entity List Removal" (RIN0694-AJ47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3051. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Assessment Pursuant to Systemic Risk Determination" (RIN3064-AF93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3052. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition Against Conflicts of Interest in Certain Securitizations" (RIN3235-AL04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3053. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3054. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (2023 FPA), the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding the Compact Trust Fund (2023 TFA), and the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Amend the Compact of Free Association, as Amended (2023 Amended Compact); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3055. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (2023 FPA), and the 2023 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia with Annexes (2023 FPSA); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 61. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational criminal organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit activities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-123).

S. 1798. A bill to establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and an Office of Health Security in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-124).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2260. A bill to require transparency in notices of funding opportunity, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-125).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2286. A bill to improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-126).

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 1381, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-127).

Report to accompany S. 2395, a bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-128).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3458. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the application of the in-office ancillary services exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for drugs furnished under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3459. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3460. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3461. A bill to impose certain requirements relating to the renegotiation or reentry into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or other agreement relating to Iran's

nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3462. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue draft guidance to address non-addictive analgesics for chronic pain; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3463. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to States and localities to provide the right to counsel in civil actions related to eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 53. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 474

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen reporting to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children, to modernize liabilities for such reports, to preserve the contents of such reports for 1 year, and for other purposes.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1026, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1819

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1819, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1840

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program



for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

S. 1843

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1843, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and an accompanying minor, and for other purposes.

S. 1884

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

S. 1953

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1953, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2870

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2870, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to allow certain activities to be conducted with respect to sturgeon held in captivity or in a controlled environment in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3358

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3358, a bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures to prevent death,

injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3364

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3364, 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.

S. 3374

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3374, a bill to waive General Schedule qualification standards related to work experience for nurses at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3404

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3404, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 3409

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3409, a bill to end the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in all Federal agencies and entities with which Federal agencies contract.

S. 3424

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3424, a bill to reauthorize the program for strengthening communities of recovery for individuals with substance use disorders.

S. 3428

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3428, a bill to terminate the membership by the United States in the United Nations, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S.J. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Cybersecurity Risk Management, Strategy, Governance, and Incident Disclosure.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3460. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3460

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Corporate Crime Database Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. CORPORATE CRIME DATABASE AT THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part C of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 305. CORPORATE CRIME DATABASE.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term 'business entity' means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity.

"(2) CORPORATE OFFENSE.—The term 'corporate offense' means—

"(A) a violation or alleged violation of Federal law committed by—

"(i) a business entity; or

"(ii) an individual employed by a business entity within the conduct of the individual's occupational role; and

"(B) any other violation determined by the Director to be a corporate offense.

"(3) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Bureau.

"(4) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—The term 'enforcement action' includes any concluded administrative, civil, or criminal enforcement action or any declination, settlement, deferred prosecution agreement, or non-prosecution agreement entered into by a Federal agency to enforce a law or regulation.

"(5) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'Federal agency' has the meaning given the term 'agency' in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Corporate Crime Database Act of 2023, the Director shall—

"(1) collect, aggregate, and analyze information regarding enforcement actions taken with respect to corporate offenses; and

"(2) publish on the internet website of the Bureau a database of the enforcement actions described in paragraph (1).

“(c) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The database established under subsection (b) shall include the following information on an enforcement action with respect to corporate offenses:

“(1) Each business entity or individual identified by the enforcement action.

“(2) The employer of an individual identified under paragraph (1), as determined relevant by the Director.

“(3) The parent company of a business entity identified under paragraph (1) or the parent company of any employer identified under paragraph (2), as determined relevant by the Director.

“(4) The type of offense or alleged offense committed by the business entity or individual.

“(5) Any relevant statute or regulation violated by the business entity or individual.

“(6) Each Federal agency bringing the enforcement action.

“(7) The outcome of the enforcement action, if any, including all documentation relevant to the outcome.

“(8) An unique identifier for each business entity, individual, employer, or parent company identified by the enforcement action.

“(9) Any additional information the Director determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(d) INFORMATION COLLECTION BY DIRECTOR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Corporate Crime Database Act of 2023, the Director shall establish guidance for the collection of information from each Federal agency that carries out an enforcement action with respect to corporate offenses, including identification of each Federal agency that shall submit information to the Director and the manner in which, time at which, and frequency with which the information shall be submitted.

“(2) COOPERATION BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each Federal agency identified in the guidance established under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Director the information specified by the Director, in accordance with that guidance.

“(3) TIMING OF INFORMATION INCLUDED.—To the extent to which information is available, the database established under subsection (b) shall include the information described in subsection (c) on each enforcement action with respect to corporate offenses taken by a

Federal agency before, on, or after the date of enactment of the Corporate Crime Database Act of 2023.

“(e) PUBLICATION DETAILS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Corporate Crime Database Act of 2023, the Director shall publish on the internet website of the Bureau the database established under subsection (b) in a format that is searchable, downloadable, and accessible to the public.

“(2) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—The Director shall update the information included in the database established under subsection (b) each time the information is collected under subsection (d).

“(f) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the publication of the database established under subsection (b), and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report including—

“(1) a description of the data collected and analyzed under this section related to corporate offenses, including an analysis of recidivism, offenses and alleged offenses, and enforcement actions;

“(2) an estimate of the impact of corporate offenses on victims and the public; and

“(3) recommendations, developed in consultation with the Attorney General, for legislative or administrative actions to improve the ability of Federal agencies to monitor, respond to, and deter instances of corporate offenses.”.

(b) CHIEF DATA OFFICER COUNCIL.—Section 3520A(b) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) identify ways in which a Federal agency (as defined in section 305 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968) that carries out an enforcement action (as defined in that section) with respect to a corporate offense (as defined in that section) can improve the collection, digitalization, tabulation, sharing, and publishing of information under that section, and the standardization of those processes, in order to carry out that section.”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 12, 2023

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and the Senate resume consideration of the Coker nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during Thursday’s session ripen at 11:45 a.m. and that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Coker nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that following the confirmation vote, there be up to 15 minutes for debate prior to the cloture vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 12, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 11, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD E.N. FEDERICO, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING THE CHOICE IN AUTOMOBILE RETAIL SALES ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023, which would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from finalizing the proposed rule titled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles" and further prohibit EPA from prescribing any regulations for new motor vehicles that would directly or indirectly result in the limited availability of new vehicles powered by any given engine technology.

EPA's vehicle emissions standards save lives. By 2030, these standards are projected to prevent 40,000 premature deaths and 34,000 hospital visits annually. However, H.R. 4468 would force Americans to breathe dirty, polluted air, needlessly putting tens of thousands of lives at risk. This bill would lock in dirty, fossil-fuel-burning vehicles for the foreseeable future, at a time when the American people are already experiencing the deadly effects of climate change. More fossil fuel cars mean more frequent and intense floods, stronger hurricanes, more dangerous wildfires, and more extreme heatwaves. Simply put, we are out of time. We must reduce climate pollution now.

California has long been a global leader in the fight against air pollution. We established the first vehicle emissions standards and the first greenhouse gas standards in the country because we know that strong air quality standards mean healthier communities and a livable climate. I am a proud Californian and a proud champion of strong vehicle emissions standards.

In July of 2023, I led 94 of my colleagues in a letter urging EPA to finalize the strongest feasible emissions standards for new light- and medium-duty vehicles, which would cut harmful emissions from passenger cars and pick-up trucks by more than 50 percent between 2026 and 2032.

H.R. 4468, however, would not only prevent EPA from implementing the proposed light- and medium-duty vehicle emissions rule—it would gut EPA's authority to regulate vehicle pollution altogether. It is disgraceful. We are faced with a choice between new zero-pollution technologies or doubling down on dirty fossil fuels. The choice is clear. I strongly oppose H.R. 4468, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS STEVEN MOORE, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Sergeant First Class Steven Moore, U.S. Army, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country and is an embodiment of the Army values of service, courage, and integrity. I am proud to present him with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SFC Moore dedicated over 20 years to serving our country in the U.S. Army, having been stationed around the world. While he was awarded many honors including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Army Commendation Medal, SFC Moore takes great pride in knowing he served in the greatest military the world has ever known.

After over two decades in the military, SFC Moore followed his passion to continue serving our warriors, their families, and the veteran community through his countless hours of contributing his energies that work to support those who've served. As the Community Relations Officer at Fort Cavazos, he continues to showcase his limitless devotion to Central Texas warriors and veterans. His fires of patriotism and service continue to burn bright.

I join SFC Moore's friends and family in celebrating his outstanding achievements. His commitment to investing his time and abilities in devotion to his community makes him a deeply respectable and honorable recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING PEARL HARBOR DAY ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we commemorate the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2023. We solemnly remember and honor the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who were thrust into World War II by the tragic events of that fateful day in 1941.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a moment of profound loss and national awakening. It marked the beginning of a war that would test the very essence of our nation. However, it was also a catalyst that united Americans in a common cause, giving rise to the "Greatest Generation."

In the face of adversity, they displayed unparalleled courage and determination, rising above the challenges of their time to defend Liberty and justice. We remember those who perished at Pearl Harbor and the countless

others who would go on to fight and sacrifice in the years that followed.

That is why I fought to create the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall, a 17-year effort, and recently passed the Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin, whose federal sales will begin in 2024.

The legacy of Pearl Harbor Day reminds us of the strength that unity and resilience can bring to a nation. It is a reminder that even in the darkest hours, the American spirit shines bright, and we stand strong together.

Let us pay tribute to the sacrifices that paved the way for a better future. Their memory continues to inspire us to uphold the values of freedom and democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH ON CELEBRATING THEIR 175TH YEAR OF SERVING THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS COMMUNITY

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Historic Second Baptist Church as they celebrate their 175th year of serving the Greater New Orleans Community.

In the year 1848, the Second African Baptist Church was originally a group of Negroes who congregated under the guidance of the white members of the Coliseum Place Baptist Church, for the purpose of rendering praise and honor to God in their own modest way. The church was later incorporated, and in 1857 the First Baptist Church of New Orleans turned over Lot 4 (which they purchased in 1852) to four churches, all of which operated at 2525 Melpomene Avenue.

In 1861, Rev. Thomas Miles took over the church. Shortly thereafter, the First African Baptist Church came back and the two operated together until Second Baptist incorporated in 1866. Since that time, this church as an institution has been in continuous existence and has served its congregation without interruption. Even more important than age is the history of the congregation's growth. It has had a steady growth, and its service to the community has grown with time.

During the entire span of its life, the church has had only seven ministers—namely: Reverends Willis, Racks, Steptoe, Brown, Hubbs, late Pastor, Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington, and present pastor, Rev. Robert Bryant Jackson, who was elected in January of 1997. The late Pastor, Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington, served the congregation for 53 years, while his immediate predecessor, Rev. Ambrose Hubbs, was the pastor for 39 years. This is an indication of not only fine pastoral leadership, but lay leadership as well.

In September of 1961, the church grounds at 2525 Melpomene Avenue were purchased

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

by the New Orleans Housing Authority. Through the kindness of Rev. C. H. Hayes and the members of Wesley Methodist Church, they worshiped in their church edifice up until March 1, 1964, when they moved to their current edifice at 2505 Marengo Street. The fine Christian spirit and friendship that was exhibited by this pastor and congregation will always be remembered with grateful hearts by those members of their church who experienced this display of Christian charity. May God forever bless them.

Over the years, God has made Historic Second a Beacon Light of Gospel Truth to this community and communities beyond. In respect to its witness to communities beyond, God not only gave our late Pastor Washington a vision to broadcast the Gospel Message over the airwaves, but also provided sufficient grace to keep the broadcast for 55 years through August 28, 2005. Begun in 1950 on WWEZ, the radio airwaves carried our services live from 10:00–11:00 p.m. People in all areas of the city began to follow the Radio Broadcast of Historic Second Baptist Church and its dynamic young pastor. As a result of these many years of broadcasting, many members were added to the church.

As a much-respected spiritual force in this city, Historic Second Baptist Church has worked to educate, equip, and empower its members and our city's residents to perform their civic duties and responsibilities. In the 1960's, under the leadership of Pastor Washington, voter registration classes were held at the church to teach citizens of color how to register to vote. Their famed Radio Choir desegregated the Municipal Auditorium with its Annual Musicals, successfully fulfilling 21 contracts. Each time 5,000 to 8,000 people gathered to hear Pastor Washington and the Radio Choir at its best. One year, the Radio Choir was accompanied by the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra—a night long to be remembered. And it was their own late Rev. Avery C. Alexander who was dragged up the steps from the basement of City Hall, as he attempted to desegregate the City Hall cafeteria. The importance of Historic Second Baptist Church is felt to this day in our community, as countless individuals seeking public office still make their way to the church on Sunday mornings to appeal to this congregation for their support.

Through the years, Historic Second Baptist Church has stood as a symbol of pure idealism in the sense of what Jesus of Nazareth characterized in His teachings. As an institution and a definite entity of the Church Universal, this assembly, in golden purposes and architectural design, represents the fulfillment of the need for the true spirit of the changing times of this ultra-modern age—that is, the promotion of institutionalized Christianity to meet the needs of children, young people, and adults.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL MATTHEW WARD HIGER ON THE OCCASION OF THIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Matthew Ward Higer's retirement from our United States Air Force. His final assignment on Active Duty was as Commander of the 412th Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. In this role General Higer led nearly 8,000 personnel in the developmental test and evaluation of the KC-46, KC-135, KC-10, C-17, C-5, F-35, F-22, F-16, B-1, B-2, B-21, B-52, T-7A, RO-4, and numerous other emerging technologies. General Higer also served as the Installation Commander of United States Air Force Production Plant 42 and Edwards Air Force Base, globally recognized as the center of the aerospace testing universe.

General Higer has proudly served our country as a military officer since he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on May 7, 1993, through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Detachment 060, at the University of Southern California. He served our nation as an F-16 instructor pilot and an experimental test pilot amassing 3,000 military flight hours in 40 different aircraft. His 30-year career encompasses two combat deployments, countless nights away from family, and fifteen assignments at diverse locations well beyond California including Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, South Korea, and right here in Washington D.C. His leadership potential and demonstrated commitment to integrity, service, and excellence resulted in his promotion to Brigadier General on December 2, 2020.

General Higer exemplifies the very best of our High Desert community and our nation's commitment to building servicemembers dedicated to the profession of arms. His superior leadership and devotion to duty has not gone unrecognized. He is the recipient of decorations including the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and upon his retirement he will be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

General Higer's active duty military service to our nation would not have been possible without the love, support, and encouragement of his family. His wife of 22 years, Leslie—also an Air Force veteran, and children, Alex and Zev, are also each deserving of our deepest gratitude for their support of the General throughout his service to our country. Heather and I thank the General and his family for their devotion, service, and sacrifice.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Brigadier General Higer for his three decades of selfless service to our Nation, in commending him for his steadfast dedication to our Constitution, and in wishing him many years of joy and peace in his well-earned retirement.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF REAR ADMIRAL MARTIN JANCZAK, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Rear Admiral Martin Janczak, U.S. Navy, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country as he embodies the Navy's storied code of honor, courage, and commitment.

RADM Janczak was stationed all over the world during his 30 years of naval service, ranging from places like Vietnam, Hawaii, Guam, and South Korea. As the Navy force shore commander responsible for United States Navy activities in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and the surrounding islands, he supported American force projection in the Pacific. His superb work was recognized with various awards including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

RADM Janczak's life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for Central Texas. He devotes his energies to numerous organizations, has served in both elected and appointed leadership positions, and continues advocating for our nation's heroes. He has made lasting and positive contributions to the place we're all glad to call home.

MDM Janczak's Congressional Veteran Commendation is a small token of our appreciation for his contributions to the military and his community. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and wishing him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

MR. TERRY GENDRON

### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored and proud to recognize Mr. Terry Gendron (Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Retired) upon the occasion of his retirement after invaluable years of tireless, faithful, and selfless service to our Nation.

Mr. Gendron comes from a family of service. Not only did his mother serve in the Army as a frontline surgical nurse in World War II, and his father was career Army Infantry who served in WWII and Korea, but he and all three of his brothers wore the uniform as well. While Terry would rather talk about his family over himself, his service warrants its own illustrious recognition.

Terry enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1975. He graduated Officer Candidate School in 1977, and served in myriad command and staff positions until he earned an Honorable discharge after more than 22 years of loyal service on December 31, 1997. His awards and honors include—but are not limited to—the Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Good Conduct

Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

After several years in the private sector, Terry accepted an opportunity to serve our Veterans in the capacity of Department Service Officer for the Pennsylvania American Legion, wherein he assisted Veterans all over central Pennsylvania. In 2016, he continued his service to our Nation and Veterans by earning the position of Director of Veterans Affairs in York County, where—amongst various other missions—he maximized benefits for Veterans and Family members to improve their quality of life. He tirelessly worked to ensure that every Veteran in York County (or surviving spouse) had a conversation with an accredited service officer to ensure any earned military/medical/health benefits were realized ASAP. His dedication to our Veterans continued via positions on several boards and memberships, to include York County Veterans Outreach, Veterans Memorial Gold Star Health and Peace Garden, Four Chaplains Memorial of York County, and Pennsylvania American Legion Post 945.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Terry dedicated himself to education. He's earned a Bachelor's degree in Resource Management from Troy University, a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to commend Terry Gendron (LTC, USA Ret.) on his well-earned retirement. His vast record of nearly 50 years of faithful, tireless, and selfless service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America sets the standard by which we all should be judged. I wish him Godspeed on his pending cycle trek across our beautiful Nation, and for many more years of great adventure, health, happiness, and prosperity.

THANKING JOHN CAUPERT FOR HIS 17-YEAR CAREER AS DIRECTOR OF NCERC AT SIUE

### HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. John Caupert, the outgoing Director of NCERC (National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center) at SIUE. John's 17-year journey has been marked by extraordinary achievements for SIUE and the agricultural research field.

John has presided over several significant accomplishments and advances during his 17 years at NCERC. Some of the most notable achievements include transitioning NCERC into a self-sustained center funded by research grants, serving as a pathway for more than 80 technologies, which have generated billions of dollars in revenue, and helping to lead the fight against COVID-19 by producing the first WHO sanitizer from corn-based ethanol. All of these accomplishments, along with many that NCERC has produced during his tenure, are a testament to John's dedication to his work.

I want to thank John for all of his contributions to the field of agricultural research. I wish John and his family all the best as he finds new ways to contribute to the field of agriculture research and communities across Central and Southern Illinois.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT JASON HOWARD, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Jason Howard, U.S. Army, Retired, has always been there to lend a helping hand to his fellow citizens and his efforts to make his beloved community a better place has made a lasting, positive impact on the region. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SGT Howard has extensive military experience including serving at Fort Cavazos and deployments in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He worked closely with our Kurdish allies and even met with future Iraqi President Jamal Talabani. His great work didn't go unnoticed as he was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and among others.

After retiring from the Army, SGT Howard found his way back to Central Texas. Fueled by his passion for wanting to serve and lead others. SGT Howard serves as the Alderman for the Village of Salado while giving back to his community through numerous volunteer opportunities. He pours himself into making Salado a great place to work and call home, all while ensuring that the voices of residents are heard in the halls of government. His actions reflect the commitment of a devoted public servant.

I commend SGT Howard's incredible contributions. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Central Texas. I join his colleagues, family, and friends in honoring his career, commending his commitment to public service, and celebrating his outstanding achievements.

CELEBRATING THE HMONG COMMUNITY'S 2024 NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

### HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Hmong community's upcoming 2024 New Year festivities in Merced County.

The story of the Hmong people in the United States begins with the tens of thousands of Hmong soldiers who stood side-by-side the United States in steadfast courage against communism in Indochina.

As the Vietnam War spread, the CIA recruited and trained thousands of Hmong men to fight, with over 30,000 engaging enemy troops both on the ground and in the skies. Hmong soldiers regularly conducted raids and

sabotage operations on the Ho-Cho-Minh supply trail and went deep behind enemy lines to gather intelligence and rescued American soldiers. As a result of the fighting, Hmong soldiers suffered immense casualties—ten times higher than their American counterparts.

After the United States withdrew its forces at the conclusion of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Hmong fled as refugees to the United States. Those who were unable to escape faced brutal oppression and massacres.

Today, over 360,000 Hmong-Americans call the United States their home, and California's 13th Congressional District is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States. Hmong-Americans continue to serve our nation whether in law enforcement, the armed forces, non-profit programs, or in elected office. They play pivotal roles in our schools, our hospitals, and our businesses, and through it all, the community has continued to preserve their vibrant language, culture, and traditions.

As they have done for decades, the Hmong community of the Central Valley will gather at the Merced County Fairgrounds from December 15–17 to celebrate the 2024 Hmong New Year, which will include traditional Hmong attire and cuisine, cultural dance competitions, traditional sports tournaments, and an exhibit of Hmong art and entertainment.

I am honored to represent the Hmong-American community of the Central Valley, and I wish every Hmong-American a very Happy New Year.

RECOGNIZING SHERRI SAGER

### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sherri Sager, Senior Vice President and Chief Government Relations Officer of the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, for her more than 30 years of advocacy for children and their families.

Sherri was born in Los Angeles and has a younger brother and sister, three nieces, and a nephew. With a passion for political advocacy at a young age, Sherri earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University.

Prior to joining the Packard Children's Hospital in 1994, Sherri worked as a legislative assistant to a member of Congress and later as a consultant to several political candidates and elected officials. She also served as the Assistant Director of the Valley Medical Center Foundation.

During her tenure at Packard, Sherri organized and managed the government relations program, monitored proposed laws and public policy that may impact the hospital, and oversaw various departments. Sherri prioritized three health needs for patients through her advocacy: improving access to primary health care services, prevention of pediatric obesity, and improving youth social, emotional, and mental health.

Sherri serves on many nonprofit and regional business association boards. She is

recognized for her political acumen, leadership, advocacy, ability to organize, and knowledge of public policy, particularly in health care. Sherri is also a past chair of the government relations committee of the California Children's Hospital Association, has served on numerous statewide task forces and volunteered extensively for the Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission, and the Junior League of San Jose.

Sherri is a dedicated advocate and community leader who has worked every day over the last 30 years to put patients and their families first. She remains an integral part of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and I am certain her positivity and passion will be missed. I congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement, and hope she spends her time filled with happiness surrounded by loved ones.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF  
MAJOR JACQUELINE COLE, U.S.  
AIR FORCE, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the extraordinary career of Major Jacqueline Cole, L.S. Air Force, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her superb service to both the Air Force and her Nation speaks to the best of our Nation's altruistic spirit.

During Maj. Cole's 13 years of service, she served in multiple countries around the world including Germany, Iraq, Afghanistan, including stints as a critical care nurse in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Throughout her service, she used her extraordinary skillset to support her fellow warriors as well as educate and mentor her fellow health care professionals.

Renowned for her exemplary work ethic, exceptional patient care, and critical care expertise, Maj. Cole has continued her track record of stellar service in her civilian life. She remains active in her church, supports her local schools, and contributes her energies and resources to numerous civic organizations that work tirelessly to ensure the no one is left behind. When a service member or veteran is challenged by a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder episode, she is unafraid to reach out and guide the individual to safer shores.

Her actions speak to a public servant unafraid to put the interests of others before herself.

I am honored to join Maj. Cole's friends and family in celebrating her outstanding achievements. Her commitment to investing her talents to improve her community makes her a deeply respectable and honorable recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAVEN HOUSE NWI

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Haven House

Northwest Indiana (NWI) on its 40th anniversary and to commend its leadership team, board of directors, and dedicated staff for their tireless efforts on behalf of survivors of domestic violence throughout the Northwest Indiana region.

Haven House NWI began after a small group of concerned citizens gathered at Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, Indiana. Founded in 1983, Haven House, located in Hammond, Indiana, has remained steadfast in its mission to provide emergency crisis intervention and shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. For those in need of an immediate place to stay, Haven House offers 25 beds for women, as well as additional accommodations for those with children. The organization also operates an invaluable transitional house, a million-dollar facility that came to be through the hard work of its members, generosity of community donors, and the unwavering support of former Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow, Jr. and current Mayor Thomas McDermott, Jr.

In addition to housing, residents are provided basic necessities, food, and supplies while offering them a home atmosphere where they are responsible for cooking and household chores. The residents, as well as former residents, also have access to individual and group counseling sessions and other activities related to life skills, empowerment, and the arts. Additionally, with a focus on long-term stability for its residents, Haven House provides individualized service plans that assess their needs, while also assisting with safety planning, referral services, court advocacy and protective order applications.

The operation of this extraordinary community resource would not be possible without its amazing staff and its exceptional leadership team which consists of Executive Director Carrie Greer, Residential Manager Ebony Jackson, Fiscal Manager Candace Jordan, and House Manager Luz Gonzalez. Haven House is also led by its dedicated board of directors: Board President David Gearman, Board Secretary Bernie Zemen, Terence Fife, Andrea Graciano, Michelle Resendez, Ashley Ward, Jenny Winker, and Bobbi Costa, whose lifetime of service on the board has spanned the organization's entire 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Haven House NWI on its 40th anniversary. Through the years, the committed staff and leaders of Haven House have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to ensure that survivors of domestic violence have a safe place to stay and the resources needed to take back their lives, and for this, these outstanding individuals are to be admired.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER 893 OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Chapter 893 of the National Association of Active and

Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), based in Springfield, Virginia.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Springfield Chapter 893 is one of more than 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 893 was issued December 31, 1963. At that time, there were 14 members. Today, the Chapter membership has grown to become the largest of the 37 chapters in Virginia. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large.

While Chapter 893 has always emphasized fulfilling the primary NARFE mission, its members have also made invaluable contributions to our Northern Virginia community, Chapter 893 members have volunteered countless hours at hospitals and libraries, and they have worked with local non-profit organizations to support blood drives and Meals on Wheels programs. Since 1987, members have contributed generously to Alzheimer's Research, the charity of choice for NARFE nationwide. In 1992, members first participated in the local area Alzheimer's Memory Walk, which has raised approximately \$1,000 annually for several years. In 2009, members began participating in the collection of warm clothing items for homeless veterans for the Washington, D.C., Veterans Administration Medical Center. That same year, the Chapter began supporting the National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" program. This year, with the needs of the community increasing and to support the community during the holidays, Chapter 893 is conducting a food drive to support Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO).

Over the course of its successful history, the Springfield Chapter has benefited from many dynamic, accomplished leaders. Several past presidents have been elected as officers or appointed committee chairs of the NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters. Others have served in civic, professional, or fraternal organizations locally. Particularly noteworthy are the accomplishments of past presidents Milton Kramer, Vincent Agnelli, David Sullivan, Charles Delaplane, and Ann M. Collins. Past President Kramer played a major role in organizing the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters in 1993. Past President Agnelli served on an ad hoc committee influential in the 1993 Virginia Supreme Court federal retiree tax refund issue. Past President Sullivan served on the Board of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) for several years and subsequently was elected NARFE National Secretary in 2000 and again in 2002. Past President Charles Delaplane served on the Board of the VFC for several years and chaired the National Legislation Committee at the 2008 and 2010 NARFE National Conventions. Past President Collins served on the Board of the VFC and subsequently was elected VFC President for 2 terms (2005 through 2007). In 2006, as VFC President she established NARFE VFC Congressional District Liaisons for the 11 congressional districts in Virginia as well as a Senatorial Liaison. Also, Past President Collins was appointed as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging to represent the 11th Congressional District of Virginia.

The 11th Congressional District of Virginia, due to its proximity to Washington, D.C., is home to a significant number of federal employees and retirees and I am honored to represent these dedicated and honorable public servants in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NARFE Springfield Chapter 893 on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary and in thanking the members for their unwavering support and dedication to federal employees, retirees, and their families.

**SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT BOBBY EHRIG, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED**

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Master Sergeant Bobby Ehrig, U.S. Army, Retired, for his exemplary service. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to his Nation serves as a reminder of our most sacred values.

During MSG Ehrig's service in the U.S. Army, he was a master of many assignments and responsibilities, ranging from a Team Leader to being a Supervisory Customs Border Clearance Agent. While serving for over 15 years, he has been awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, five Army Commendation medals, among others. His most significant memory while serving was narrowly surviving a blast that severely injured him and 57 U.S. and Iraqi policemen under his charge.

His retirement from the military marked not the end of his career, but the beginning of a new adventure. His commitment to serve and help his fellow veterans remains undiminished as he has held numerous positions committed to ensuring veterans receive the treatment and services they've earned. At every opportunity, he makes his mark while working collaboratively with others for the benefit of our nation's heroes.

MSG Ehrig's testimony is a testament to a citizen who puts others before himself, who works toward solutions that benefit all, and who isn't afraid to roll up his sleeves to do the hard work to make lasting, impactful, and positive change. He brings to life Gandhi's words "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." I applaud his work and wish him success as he continues to be a champion for the veterans and families.

**HONORING THE VETERAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION REACHING 20,000 MEMBERS**

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Veteran Golfers Association on reaching a membership of 20,000 people.

The Veteran Golfers Association originated as an idea amongst wounded veterans at Wal-

ter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. Several friends routinely got together to play golf courses around the area to encourage each other to improve their game and heal through camaraderie and competition.

After recovering from their injuries, these friends relocated around the country and missed the opportunity to compete against one another regularly. Realizing that other Veterans might be in this same situation, these friends got together in 2014 to create the Veteran Golfers Association, which is currently based out of Pinehurst, North Carolina. The VGA is the first golfing organization dedicated to promoting the game to all veterans and their family members and annually hosts more than 450 local tournaments across the country.

The VGA develops programs that allow members to compete, socialize, and remain physically active through the game of golf. Through league play, regional tournaments, and national qualifiers, the VGA helps reinforce values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the Veteran Golfers Association on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

**TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LEAR**

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, renowned television producer and screenwriter, Norman Lear, who passed away on December 5, 2023.

Norman Milton Lear was born on July 27, 1922 in New Haven, Connecticut. After attending Emerson College in Boston, he dropped out of college to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Force. During World War II, he served as a gunner and radio operator, and flew 52 combat missions over Europe, earning the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

Following his extraordinary military service, Mr. Lear worked in public relations before beginning a career as a freelance comedy writer, and eventually a television and film producer. Norman would go on to captivate over one hundred twenty million viewers weekly with his ground-breaking television show's of the 1970's and 1980's that dealt with consequential and critical issues such as race, social inequality, and sexuality. These iconic shows include All in the Family—which won many Emmy Awards—The Jeffersons, Good Times, and Maude.

As a kid, his show's were a staple in our household, the kind of shows families across the country would watch together, laugh, and debate. As an adult, I was proud to get to know Norman as a constituent and as a friend. When I last spoke with him, on his 101st birthday, he still wanted to know what he could do, even then, to address the challenges facing the nation he was so proud to serve.

Norman was always politically active, inspired by his uncle Jack and grandfather Shya's political involvement and view, "that a citizen can matter." In 1980, he wanted a

more direct effect on social change, so he put his television career on hold to focus on political activism. In 1981, Norman co-founded People for the American Way which sought to build a democratic society and defend constitutional values such as religious liberty, free expression and equal justice. In 1997, Norman and his wife, Lyn Davis Lear created the Lear Family Foundation, which supports a wide range of nonprofit organizations such as the Rainforest Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, Ballet Hispánico and Planned Parenthood. In 2000, Mr. Lear provided an endowment for a public policy center that explored the intersection of commerce, entertainment, and society at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism—the center was later dedicated as the Norman Lear Center. A few years later Norman founded a nonpartisan youth voter registration initiative called Declare Yourself. Additionally, in 2001, Norman and Lyn purchased one of the few surviving original copies of the Declaration of Independence and shared the nation's birth certificate with their fellow Americans by touring it in all 50 states during their Declaration of Independence Road Trip.

Norman received professional awards and acknowledgement for his humanitarian achievements, far too many to list all here. These include the National Medal for Arts from President Clinton, several Emmy Awards, two Peabody Awards, a Golden Globe Award, the Humanist Arts Award, Kennedy Center Honors, the Women in Film Lucy Award, and the National Hispanic Media Coalition's "Media Icon" Award. In addition, he was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

My heart goes out to Lyn and the rest of Norman's beautiful family. His legacy is without equal, and I ask all Members to join me in celebration of his life. America has lost a giant.

**SALUTING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT CROUCH, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED**

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Crouch, U.S. Army, Retired, for his exemplary service. His commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to his Nation serves as a reminder of our most sacred ideals.

Serving in the Army from 1990 until 2011, LTC Crouch served in various locations and operations however, the most significant being during Operation Iraqi Freedom II in 2006 through 2008 and 2009 through 2011. He is a decorated veteran with awards including the Iraq Campaign Medal (4 Campaign Stars), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and others. His most significant memory during his military service is his gratitude for his family and friends when he was coming home after his first deployment from serving in a combat zone for 12 months.

After retiring after 20+ years of military service, LTC Crouch still had more to give to his

community and local veterans. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of the National Mounted Warfare Foundation which is building a world-class military museum in the heart of Texas to honor the history of the units and soldiers who have served at Fort Cavazos and to share their untold stories. His efforts don't stop there as LTC Crouch is a part of the National Eagle Scout Association, The Association of Quartermasters, The American Legion, and among other local groups.

I proudly join LTC Robert Crouch's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selfless service. His fearless support and devotion to others make him a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING GRAVES COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE

**HON. JAMES COMER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Graves County of the First District of Kentucky for the groundbreaking of their new courthouse.

The former Graves County courthouse was tragically destroyed by the tornado that hit western Kentucky on December 10, 2021. I commend them as they continue to rebuild while preserving a sense of history and tradition. Their perseverance and bravery are second to none.

Graves County has a rich history and unwavering commitment to its future development. With loyal, hardworking locals and a town full of character, Graves County is a prime example of the values that our state and country stand for. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

I join with the community of Graves County in celebrating the rebuilding of their cherished courthouse. May it continue to be the centerpiece of Mayfield, bringing new traditions and a sense of pride.

MRS. BETTY ALFORD

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and humbled to recognize Mrs. Betty Alford on the auspicious occasion of her 100th Birthday on January 12, 2024.

Mrs. Alford grew up in Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania, growing up through some of the most triumphant and trying times of our Nation. In 1957, she married her husband, William, with whom she shared 43 wonderful years until his passing in 2001. Betty and William have three children—Brent, Brian, and Kathleen—two wonderful daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Throughout her life, Betty has been known for her generosity and kindness. She volunteered at Health South physical therapy clinic, and the Helen Kraus Animal Foundation well into her 90s—and is the epitome of the phrase

“age is just a number.” She's also worked at Nationwide Insurance, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and served countless students at the cafeteria of Hillside Elementary School.

Betty's selfless activity, huge heart, outstanding work ethic, and tireless service to others mark her as the shining example of community service and truly making a difference in the lives of others in myriad ways.

Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to recognize Mrs. Betty Alford on the blessed occasion of her 100th Birthday. She is the standard by which we all should be judged, and on behalf of the 10th Congressional District, I wish her continued God's blessings.

PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO FCC  
VICTORVILLE OFFICER NICHOLAS  
OLAS WHITEHALL

**HON. JAY OBERNOLTE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the passing of Nicholas Whitehall, a lifelong resident of San Bernardino County and proud law enforcement officer, husband, father, and grandfather. A friend to all, Officer Whitehall was an honored member of his community and a loving member of his family. Heather and I are praying for the Whitehall family as they navigate this difficult loss.

An Inland Empire native, Officer Whitehall was born in Fontana, California on January 24, 1970, to John Henry Whitehall and Nita Joyce Latham. He attended Victor Valley College (VVC), where he earned an Associates Degree in Administration of Justice. Upon graduating from VVC, he began a long and successful career protecting our prisons, including seven years at the Desert View Prison. Critically, Officer Whitehall played a vital role in assisting in opening several institutions for FCC Victorville. He served FCC Victorville admirably for over 23 years, including work as a Lock Shop and Armory Specialist before his untimely passing.

Officer Whitehall was much more than a law enforcement officer: he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He raised four children, James, Matthew, Katherine, and Ashley and was rewarded with fourteen grandchildren—a testament to his role as a loving father and devoted husband. He cared deeply for his family and did his utmost to ensure that his wife and children enjoyed a loving and secure home. Hardworking, kind people like Officer Whitehall are critical to the future of our community, state, and country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Whitehall and recognizing him and his family for their contributions to San Bernardino County.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT  
FIRST CLASS MATTHEW  
KEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I present

Sergeant First Class Matthew Key, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. SFC Key continues to be an unwavering example of commitment to the well-being of others and the betterment of his community.

With twenty-one years of military service, SFC Key served his country in numerous operations including significant combat experience during the Gulf War. He received an astounding military education including Primary Leadership Development, NCO Advanced Course, and NCO Basic Course. Military leadership recognized his hard work and talents, bestowing several commendations ranging from the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and others.

After SFC Key retired from the military, he continued wanting to make positive impacts on his community. After doing stellar work as intern in my congressional office, SFC Key was promoted to permanent staff as a Constituent Liaison. District office staff have as challenging a job there is in public service. They often deal with constituents who are at their wits' end and have lost faith in the government that is supposed to serve them. SFC Key's combination of empathy and expertise has helped countless Central Texans navigate the often-challenging world of government agencies and services. His extraordinary efforts, commitment to excellence, and skillful work has enabled my office to serve Central Texans at the high level they deserve.

I proudly join SFC Key's friends, family, and colleagues in saluting his selfless service to the Army and Texas. He's been a trusted advisor, superb public servant, and vital part of Team Carter whose work has made a real and lasting difference in the lives of his fellow citizens.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAY  
LAFRANCE BENDER

**HON. MICHAEL GUEST**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of May Lafrance Bender. May was born in Newton, Mississippi, in 1970. She attended high school in Hickory, Mississippi, and graduated in 1988. May worked several jobs around the community after graduation. In 1995, May married Zoaton Bender, and they have now been married for 29 years. Together they have two children: Zaheim and Zamarion.

The same year she married Zoaton, May began working at the Newton County Tax Collector's office, learning how the office worked, and serving the people of Newton County. In 2011, May decided to run for the office of Tax Collector and won, and she served Newton County for three consecutive terms. Each day in the office was a new day to learn something and strive to make Newton County a better place for everyone who came into the Tax Collector's office.

I am thankful for the 29 years of service May Bender has given to the citizens of Newton County and wish her all the best in her future pursuits.



CELEBRATING THE 25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP LESTER LOVE AND PASTOR FRAN LOVE OF THE CITY OF LOVE

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Co-Pastor couple, Bishop Lester Love and Pastor Fran Love.

Bishop Lester Love is the Lead Pastor of the City of Love. He possesses unique leadership skills, and yet, widely recognized for his ability to organize a team of people, energize them to accomplish any challenges that are set before them, and provide them with strategies for implementation. Bishop Love was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 1, 1965, and currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International. He received his license to preach in 1989, and was ordained on May 1, 1992 under the administration of Bishop of the Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On December 22, 1997, then interim Pastor Love of Greater Antioch presented his first message. One year later in April of 1998, both the Co-Pastor couple were installed as Pastors. In July 2005, he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He began his leadership as the Lead Pastor of the Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church in 1993.

Bishop Love, always seeking to make the Word of God as clear and relevant as possible, was asked constantly about the meaning of the word "Antioch". The Bible states that Antioch was the first place that the followers of Jesus were called Christians because of the love that they showed to one another and to the community at large (Acts 11:26). Thus, in 2009, the name Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church was changed to The City of Love. Pastor Fran was elevated to the office of Prophet in August 2022. Currently, the membership has exceeded 2,000 active members.

Bishop Love has published several books including Synergy, Catching the Mantle and The Art of Armor Bearing: God's Blueprint for Effective Servanthood, which quickly became the "how to" book for leadership and excellence in service for churches and corporations. His latest book "Whatever It Takes" encourages us to maximize our potential.

His many talents also include singing. He was the featured soloist on the CD "Where Love Abides," which won the Big Easy Award (New Orleans' version of the Grammys) for Best Gospel Artist. He has also garnered national attention for his YouTube "Love Songs" clip, which has millions of views.

Bishop Love has served as the host of the Essence Music Festival Gospel Tribute for several years and daily radio host on WBOK for "The Lester Love Show." He's been crowned "The Voice of Hope" by many and this title is fitting of Lester Love—Senior Pastor of The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. Lester Love's messages of hope, positive thinking and empowerment are sustaining

and motivating both young and old across the country. His motto "Living the Good Life" encourages us to "Think Bigger, Dream Bigger, Live Better."

Although Bishop Love's leadership abilities have been recognized across the globe, in addition God has sent him on a mission to fulfill his calling to teach and train the people of God on how to effectively serve the men and women of God.

Prophet Fran Love serves as the Co-lead pastor with her husband, Bishop Lester Love, at The City of Love in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a devoted wife and dedicated mother, Prophet Fran is listed among the most influential and socially engaged women of our time. Bishop Love and his wife Fran are the proud parents of three girls, Joy, Faith, and Angel Love.

From pulpits to street pavements, Prophet Fran's commitment to providing relief to the social issues affecting all mankind birthed the ministry of Daughters of Life and Love (DOLL) and nonprofit Love 365 where she leads an effort that cares for those suffering from a lack of food and homelessness.

Prophet Fran's kinetic faithfulness for a victorious living is deeply rooted in biblical principles. The totality of her essence firmly stands on her confession from James 1:4: "I am perfect, I am complete, wanting and lacking nothing." Boldly leading revolutionary ministries, this award-winning humanitarian, spiritual leader, scholar, and actress is devoted to influencing people into higher levels of unity, forgiveness, fulfillment, and purpose.

After meeting in college, Lester and Fran Love were an immediate "can't miss" couple. Thirty-one years and three daughters later, this couple is still flowing together. Bishop Lester and Pastor Fran Love lead The City of Love Church, a loving, vibrant experience with its heart entrenched in New Orleans, LA. The Loves are touted by local and national organizations and media for their philanthropic community work. Through the church, they lead LOVE365, a community outreach organization that has fed upwards of 2,000 homeless and hungry people at the Salvation Army, Duncan Plaza and the Hollygrove Community per week. Bishop Love and Prophet Fran have been a part of the Essence Festival Celebration for several years.

Prophet Fran also leads a women's empowerment group, "Fridays with Fran". Together they were inspired to create The I AM Prayer Journey, designed to lead people into a simple, yet deeper relationship with God. The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have them as spiritual leaders to so many. I am proud to call them friends for over 25 years. What a blessing to have spiritual friends, a Bishop and prayer warrior throughout my political career. I am forever grateful for their friendship, love, and guidance as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate them on 25 years of spiritual leadership, and may they see many more years serving individuals across the country.

RECOGNIZING KATHY BABB'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding community service of a constituent from my district, Kathy Babb. Kathy will be retiring after more than 50 dedicated years of public service to the residents of Haycock Township as a Township Supervisor.

Kathy Babb's service to Haycock Township dates back to the 1970s in which she tirelessly worked to maintain the natural beauty of the township. As a result of her efforts, today Haycock Township boasts over 6,000 preserved acres and is home to Bucks County Park, Lake Towhee, and State Park, and Lake Nockamixon. Consistently throughout her years in public service, Kathy was nominated by her fellow board members to lead the Board as Chair given her natural leadership skills.

She also served as President of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials and eagerly contributed to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials. Her dedication to local government will always be appreciated by the community and her legacy of public service will live on for future generations.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN HOWARD MCKINNEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Captain Howard McKinney, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His excellent service to both the Army and our nation is a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty.

During his service, CPT McKinney served in Georgia, Louisiana, and Vietnam where, as a Captain Infantry Platoon Leader, he led soldiers directly into combat during several enemy engagements. His accomplishments did not go unnoticed with his many awards including a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and an Army Commendation Medal.

CPT McKinney returned to Texas after his dedicated years of service. With the extensive experience he acquired with his work with automated tax systems, he started his own business, McKinney E-Systems & Associates, Inc. in Austin. Since retirement from the U.S. Army, he has devoted his time, talents, and resources to family, church, community, and veteran organizations.

I join CPT Howard McKinney's family, friends, and colleagues in acknowledging his selflessness. His fearless support and devotion to service before himself makes him a worthy recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING MR. OLAJUWON WHITE,  
FL-03'S 2023 VETERAN OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. KAT CAMMACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, we honor Mr. Olajuwon White as the 2023 Veteran of the Year.

Mr. White currently serves as the Veteran Service Director for Levv County, Florida. In this role he works to help veterans with case-work related to compensation, pension, dependency compensation, burial benefits, educational assistance, and more. In 2023, Mr. White received the 2023 Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce's Veteran Impact Award, the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, and a Levy County Certificate of Appreciation.

Mr. White began his career as a Hospital Corpsman in the United States Navy certified as an independent duty corpsman and surgical technician. Following his military service, Mr. White worked with Alachua County as a Senior Veterans Claims Counselor, working with hundreds of veterans to file claims and lead educational sessions for veterans and their dependents on information from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also has experience working with the VA as a field examiner in Tampa.

We thank Mr. White for his service and sacrifices for our nation and hope that his spirit of service will continue for many years to come. We are thrilled to honor him as our 2023 Veteran of the Year.

RECOGNIZING ARMY CAPTAIN  
KIRK R. PROCTOR, JR.

**HON. DARRELL ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today I take a moment to recognize Army Captain Kirk R. Proctor, Jr., an exceptional Officer, leader and public servant.

Cpt. Proctor has concluded a year as a member of my legislative team, and within this duration, he has made a real impact on a multitude of defense, national security, and foreign affairs policy initiatives.

His on-the-ground perspective bolstered by my team's analysis—from how the industrial base ties into the operational force, to explaining the evolution of military medicine, and how readiness initiatives intersect with military family quality of life. Furthermore, Cpt. Proctor has inspired colleagues to learn more about the defense industry through his application of institutional knowledge and hard-earned experiences.

Cpt. Proctor's unwavering dedication to my office and contributions to Congress have not gone unnoticed. His commitment to the American people and passion for public service is admirable, and I hope he is offered the most unique opportunities and enriching assignments as he continues his career as an Army Officer. I wish Cpt. Proctor and his wife Sabia

the best of luck as he begins his next assignment as a legislative liaison, and I look forward to seeing him lead in the years to come.

On behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Captain Kirk R. Proctor, Jr., and I congratulate him as he continues a career of public service within the U.S. Army and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL" SHEPLER

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. William "Bill" Shepler for his years of service to the Mackinaw City community and retirement as President of the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum Board of Directors.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, our country assumed heavy demands on the war materials industry. In order to sustain these increased production needs, the United States Coast Guard icebreaker, Cutter *Mackinaw* WAGB-83, was authorized for construction on December 17, 1941. Until decommissioning, The Mackinaw proved to be an essential facet of the Great Lakes' economy, colloquially becoming known as "The Queen of the Great Lakes." The Mackinaw was essential to the maintenance of the shipping lanes of the Lakes, becoming responsible for over 100 trapped ships being freed from ice blockages or buildups.

Following a long and successful career, the ship began its decommissioning process and the City of Cheboygan attempted to find a suitable home for The Mackinaw. In August of 2004, Mr. Shepler, along with Dick Moehl and Sandy Planisek, founded the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum in order to keep the ship in the Great Lakes. Following its successful development, the renowned icebreaker was decommissioned on July 10, 2006, and was moored at its permanent berth on July 21, 2006. With gratitude to the IMMM board of directors under the direction of Bill Shepler, the Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum welcomed its first visitors in the spring of 2007. Visitors can now explore the ship's 62-year history, making their way around the Mess Deck, Engine Room, Captain's Quarters, Sick Bay, Galley, Navigation Room and more.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the dedicated efforts of Mr. Bill Shepler in preserving our history, and I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement. I'd like to wish Bill and the IMMM all the best in their future endeavors.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF FIRST  
LIEUTENANT DEBBIE ANN NASH-  
KING, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a Congressional Veteran Commendation to First Lieutenant

Debbie Ann Nash-King, U.S. Army, Retired. Her life and career reflect hard work, activism, and dedication to what's best for her nation and Central Texas.

After being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, she attended the Medical Services Corp Officer's course and completed her military tour as the Fort Hood Dental Clinic's company commander. Her contributions didn't go unnoticed as she earned various commendations including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

1LT Nash-King's commitment to service didn't end when she stepped away from the military. She's tirelessly supported her community by volunteering and serving on a broad array of important organizations and groups throughout the region, committing her talents and energies to make the Lone Star State a great place to call home. Currently, she serves as the Mayor of Killeen. Texas and has made lasting contributions to the city that is home to Fort Cavazos. She has been a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty in every step of her life.

I commend 1LT Nash-King's selfless service to the United States Army, her nation, and her community. Her patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to others reflect the traits that make both our state and Nation great. I join her friends and family in celebrating her outstanding achievements.

OPPOSITION TO S.J. RES. 32, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "SMALL BUSINESS LENDING UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT"

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to S.J. Res. 32. [The Provision on Congressional Disapproval of The Rule Submitted By The Bureau Of Consumer Financial Protection Relating To "Small Business Lending Under The Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Mr. Speaker, the beginning of so many great American stories is built around starting a small business in your family name, becoming a foundation in your local community—making it in America.

Small businesses are major drivers of wealth creation in our overall economy. They account for two-thirds of net new jobs and nearly half of our U.S. economic activity.

For many of them, that dream stalls with going to a bank and getting a small business loan. For many Americans, the sound of their name, the color of their skin, the language that they speak or who they love can doom that dream if a bank says that they are at risk.

This isn't hypothetical. I, too, was born and raised in south Texas, I can tell you that when I go home and I see some businesses that have closed, I ask my family whether it was due to the pandemic, or no demand for the

cost of services that they had. I am told that they just had trouble with finances, and they couldn't get a loan.

In some small rural areas, like where I grew up, there aren't credit unions everywhere like there are in the city of Houston where I live now.

Even in the city of Houston, many small businesses during the pandemic couldn't secure a PPP loan in round one. We [as Congress] had to go in and do a carve-out to literally force the banks to provide loans to small businesses.

I am glad that one of my colleagues was openhearted and gave people a lot of loans. I just hope that that included loans to minority small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this is real. It is not hypothetical. We know that minority-owned small businesses were less likely to receive a loan during the pandemic compared to White firms. Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, racism and discrimination flourish in the darkness. We need to shine a light and allow the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to make lending more transparent.

Mr. Speaker, a transparent market will be a competitive market.

With transparency in lending, banks are driven to compete and offer better terms.

With this resolution, extreme MAGA Republicans are protecting the secret discriminatory practices of big banks and lenders. Repealing this rule would harm all those who stand to benefit from much-needed transparency.

Make no mistake, extreme MAGA Republicans continue to put the interests of the big bank CEOs and corporate lobbyists ahead of their constituents. It is they who, time and time again, put profits over people. House Democrats will continue protecting everyday consumers and small business owners, while holding corporations accountable.

We will always put people over corporate profits. We will always put light over darkness.

For additional information on an April 19, 2022 Report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau titled "Data Spotlight: Challenges in Rural Banking Access." Please see (<https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb-data-spotlight-challenges-in-rural-banking-2022-04.pdf>).

I include in the RECORD an April 4, 2021 New York Times article by Stacy Cowley titled "Minority Entrepreneurs Struggled to Get Small-Business Relief Loans." (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/04/business/ppp-loans-minority-businesses.html>).

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution.

[From the New York Times, April 4, 2021]

MINORITY ENTREPRENEURS STRUGGLED TO GET SMALL-BUSINESS RELIEF LOANS

(By Stacy Cowley)

A year after the Paycheck Protection Program started, studies show how its design hurt Black- and other minority-owned businesses.

Southern Bancorp is a lender serving the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta, where poverty rates are among the highest in America and decades of redlining shaped neighborhoods with little generational wealth.

When the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses started last April, so many of Southern Bancorp's customers didn't qualify for the relief money that the Arkansas bank's chief executive, Darrin Williams, turned to donors to raise money for

\$1,000 grants so it wouldn't have to turn applicants away empty-handed.

The bank made 128 such grants, giving more than 100 of them to businesses run by women or minority owners. One let a nail salon owner buy plexiglass so she could reopen. Another allowed a small cafe to buy safety gear for its staff. A day care used the money for the new sanitizing equipment it needed.

"So many companies will never come back, and disproportionately more of those that will be lost are Black and brown businesses," Mr. Williams said.

Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program in March 2020 as an emergency stopgap for what lawmakers expected to be a few months of sharp economic disruption. But as the pandemic raged on, the program—which made its first loans one year ago this past week—has turned into the largest small-business support program in American history, sending \$734 billion in forgivable loans to struggling companies.

The program helped nearly seven million businesses retain workers. But it has also been plagued by complex, changing rules at every stage of its existence. And one year in, it has become clear that the program's hasty rollout and design hurt some of the most vulnerable businesses.

A New York Times analysis of data from several sources—including the Small Business Administration, which is managing the loan program—and interviews with dozens of small businesses and bankers show that Black- and other minority-owned businesses were disproportionately underserved by the relief effort, often because they lacked the connections to get access to the aid or were rejected because of the program's rules.

#### ROLLOUT WAS SPEEDY

After Congress created the program in last year's CARES Act, President Donald J. Trump's administration—especially his Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin—put a priority on getting money to needy businesses fast. Just seven days after the law was signed, the earliest applicants received their checks.

But the haste meant the rules were mostly written on the fly. Reaching harder-to-serve businesses was an afterthought. Lenders and advocacy groups warned that the relief effort had structural challenges that were likely to inadvertently but disproportionately harm women and minority business owners. Reaching the most vulnerable businesses required determination, they said, and the program gave lenders no incentives to put in that effort.

The government relied on banks to make the loans, creating an obstacle for borrowers who didn't have established banking relationships. Some banks favored their larger and wealthier clients, which pushed ordinary customers to the back of the queue. "Mystery shopper" studies found that Black applicants were consistently treated worse than white counterparts.

The program also largely locked out sole proprietors and independent contractors—two of the most popular structures for minority-owned businesses. Those companies weren't eligible to apply for the program's first week. When they got access, a rule barring loans to unprofitable solo businesses—a restriction that didn't apply to larger companies—prevented many from getting help. Most nonbank lenders, including those that specialize in underserved communities, were shut out for weeks while they waited for the Small Business Administration to approve them.

"The focus at the outset was on speed, and it came at the expense of equity," said Ashley Harrington, the federal advocacy director at the Center for Responsible Lending.

In the program's final weeks—it is scheduled to stop taking applications on May 31—President Biden's administration has tried to alter its trajectory with rule changes intended to funnel more money toward women- and minority-led businesses, especially those with only a handful of employees.

Mr. Biden took a swipe at his predecessor's track record last week as he signed a bill extending the program's deadline. "Many small businesses, as you know, particularly Hispanic as well as African-American small businesses, are just out of business because they got bypassed the first time around," the president said.

But Mr. Biden's revisions—which, most prominently, expanded lending to independent contractors and others who work for themselves—have run into their own obstacles, including the speed with which they were rushed through. Lenders, caught off guard, struggled to carry them out, with little time left before the deadline.

"The rules are complicated and constantly changing, and that alone creates an access barrier," Randall Leach, the chief executive of Beneficial State Bank in Oakland, Calif.

#### BLACK AND MINORITY BUSINESSES SUFFER

Because lenders are not required to collect demographic details on their borrowers, data on the Paycheck Protection Program's racial breakdown has been scarce, but economists have consistently found signs of gaps.

An analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York noted that some counties with large numbers of Black-owned businesses—most notably the Bronx, Queens and Wayne County, Mich., which includes Detroit—had strikingly low concentrations of the relief loans. Majority-white ZIP codes in several metropolitan areas had higher loan coverage than ZIP codes with heavily minority populations, according to a San Francisco Fed analysis released last month.

And data from the Small Business Administration shows the relief effort's tilt. The vast majority of lenders did not report demographic data on the 3.6 million loans they made this year, but of the 996,000 that included information on the borrower's race, 71 percent of the dollars went to white-owned businesses.

Pilar Guzman Zavala founded Half Moon Empanadas, a small chain of restaurants, in Florida 12 years ago. She employed 100 people before the pandemic and had established bank accounts and years of detailed business records. But Ms. Zavala's application stalled at the first two lenders she tried, forcing her to spend a month hunting before she finally found a local bank that would process her loan.

She's grateful for the aid, which helped her hold on to 50 workers, but found the process infuriating.

"The financial system doesn't get to truly small business, Hispanic businesses, women-owned businesses. It just doesn't," she said.

Of the 1,300 Paycheck Protection Program loans that Southern Bancorp made last year, many went to customers who had been turned away by larger banks, Mr. Williams said.

In a recent Federal Reserve survey, nearly 80 percent of small-business owners who are Black or of Asian descent said their companies were in weak financial shape, compared with 54 percent of white business owners. And Black owners face unique challenges. While owners from all other demographics told the Fed that their main problem at the moment was low customer demand, Black respondents cited a different top challenge: access to credit.

When Jenell Ross, who runs an auto dealership in Ohio, sought a Paycheck Protection Program loan, her longtime bank told

her to look elsewhere—a message that large banks like Bank of America, Citi, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo delivered to many of their customers in the program’s frenzied early days.

Days later, she obtained a loan from Huntington Bank, a regional lender, but the experience stung.

“Historically, access to capital has been the leading concern of women- and minority-owned businesses to survive, and during this pandemic it has been no different,” Ms. Ross, who is Black, told a House committee last year.

#### COMMUNITY GROUPS STEP IN

Community lenders and aid organizations took a shoe-leather approach to filling the gaps.

Last year, the American Business Immigration Coalition, an advocacy group, worked with local nonprofits to create a “community navigator” program that sent outreach workers to Black, minority and rural businesses in Florida, Illinois, South Carolina and Texas. They plowed through roadblocks, Whac-a-Mole-style.

Language barriers were common. Many business owners had never sought a bank loan before. Several didn’t have an email address and needed help creating one. Some hadn’t filed taxes; the coalition hired two accountants to help people sort out their financials.

“Our folks literally went door to door and walked people through the process,” said Rebecca Shi, the group’s executive director. “It’s time-consuming.”

The group’s work netted \$8 million in Paycheck Protection Program loans for 219 businesses. For those companies, the help made a profound difference.

TruFund Financial, a New York lender that focuses on historically disadvantaged communities, spent two hours of staff time, on average, on each of the 490 loans it made last year—far more than larger lenders put in. Dozens of its applications took 10 hours or more to complete, said James H. Bason, TruFund’s chief executive.

Many of TruFund’s customers walked in the door after being turned away by large banks, where “not being able to speak to anybody at the bank, sitting around waiting to hear, and then not hearing anything for weeks—all of that created a lot of anxiety for our small-business borrowers,” Mr. Bason said.

Shaundell Newsome, a Las Vegas business owner and a co-chair of Small Business for America’s Future, an advocacy group, said improving outcomes for Black business owners would require deliberate, sustained changes throughout the banking industry.

“The solution is intentionality,” he said. “What I mean by that is making sure bankers, regulators and policymakers stay intentional on building Black businesses and helping us get access to capital.”

That’s a message Mr. Newsome passed on to Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen in a recent meeting. Ms. Yellen has pledged to increase support for minority-focused lenders and make other changes to alter a financial system that, in her words, still produces outcomes unacceptably similar to those of the days when Jim Crow laws were in effect.

Economic crises like the one now gripping the country “hit people of color harder and longer” and intensify economic inequality, Ms. Yellen said at that meeting. “I am worried the current crisis will do this again. In fact, I know it will, unless we act.”

HONORING OFFICER MARK FROST UPON HIS RETIREMENT FOR 27 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

### HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Mark Frost, upon his retirement on December 1, 2023 for 27 years of dedicated service to the people of the State of California as a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer.

Officer Frost began his journey in law enforcement in Sacramento at the California Highway Patrol Academy on December 2, 1996, and successfully graduated on June 6, 1997. Following his graduation, he was assigned as a California Highway Patrol Officer to the CHP Hayward Office.

He later transferred to the Merced Office on October 1, 2001, where he served in various roles such as the union representative in the California Association of Highway Patrolmen (CAHP) for the CHP Merced Area, and as the CAHP District 3 Defense Representative.

Additionally, Officer Frost was certified as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and served as a CPR instructor. His expertise also extended to firearm safety as the Weapons Range Safety Officer.

Showcasing his attention to detail and commitment to maintaining the integrity of the law enforcement process, he served as the Evidence Officer for the CHP Merced Office. His leadership qualities were further recognized as he assumed the responsibilities of Officer in Charge (OIC) and Acting CHP Sergeant for the Merced Area.

Officer Mark Frost exemplifies the highest standards of duty and commitment to public service with his 27-year career as a California Highway Patrolman. Every day, he tirelessly strived to serve the people of the State of California, earning the admiration of myself and his local community in the Central Valley.

#### RENEWABLE FUEL FOR OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ACT

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to co-sponsor the “Renewable Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Act” (H.R. 6681), with Representatives MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS (R-IA01), NIKKI BUDZINSKI (D-IL13), and CARLOS A. GIMENEZ (R-FL28). This bipartisan bill would make maritime biofuel fully eligible under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Renewable Fuel Standard, which currently only applies to biofuels for motor vehicles, airplanes, locomotives and, in limited circumstances, recreational boating or vessels on inland waterways.

Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–58), Congress authorized the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which works to simultaneously reduce transportation-related emissions from fossil fuels and support do-

mestic agriculture, forestry, and biofuels manufacturing. However, current law excludes otherwise eligible biofuels for ocean-going vessels. No rationale was ever provided for this exclusion in the Congressional hearing record or Committee reports for the 2005 and 2007 Energy Bills.

This arbitrary, counterproductive exclusion denies the burgeoning advanced biofuels and renewable natural gas industries in the United States important maritime customers. Our bipartisan bill would fix this problem by simply striking the exclusion, allowing domestic biofuels producers to obtain an RFS credit for selling to customers in the Jones Act and global maritime industries. The United States Navy has even sought to use renewable maritime fuels but has so far been stymied as domestic blenders simply do not make renewable maritime fuel because of this unnecessary exclusion.

To be clear, although modern engines for large vessels are increasingly capable of burning advanced biofuels instead of heavy bunker fossil fuels, our bipartisan bill would not require the use of renewable fuel in all ocean-going vessels. Instead, our bill would merely expand the potential market for biofuels and remove a statutory disincentive for developing renewable maritime fuels.

According to the USEPA’s Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks from 1990 to 2021, the transportation sector accounted for approximately 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions nationally, the largest of any economic sector. Tackling the climate crisis requires every industry to transition to cleaner, renewable fuels including the international ocean shipping and cruise industries. In July 2023, the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted new global standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from commercial cargo vessels and cruise ships. Our bipartisan “Renewable Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Act” (H.R. 6681) would support the global maritime industry’s transition to alternative fuels like advanced biofuels and renewable natural gas from methane capture.

Mr. Speaker, the federal Renewable Fuel Standard’s exclusion of fuel for ocean-going vessels, without any stated rationale, has created unnecessary regulatory complexity, hindered the advanced biofuel and renewable natural gas industries, and undermined the global effort to reduce maritime emissions. I encourage all Members of Congress to join me in removing this outdated restriction by co-sponsoring our bipartisan “Renewable Fuel for Ocean-Going Vessels Act” (H.R. 6681).

HONORING CAROL WOOD FOR HER DEVOTION TO THE CITY OF LANSING

### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and community leader who has been a constant voice and a steadfast advocate for the city of Lansing, Michigan, for decades. Carol Hallman Wood was first elected to Lansing’s City Council in

1999, but has been involved in neighborhood and community issues her entire life. As she now steps back from elected office, I offer my deep gratitude for all she has done to make Lansing a better, stronger place.

Carol was just a toddler when her parents and two siblings moved across the country from Colorado to Michigan. They settled in Lansing and quickly instilled in their children the notion that there was nothing more important than being part of a community and helping the people in it. A proud product of Lansing Public Schools, Carol attended Michigan Avenue Elementary School, Genesee Street Elementary School, West Junior High School, and graduated from J. W. Sexton High School. After high school she made a big move to Anchorage, Alaska, where she worked for the state's public school library system, but returned to Michigan following the death of her sister in a plane crash. This would unfortunately not be the only time Carol and her family experienced profound tragedy.

Upon her return to Lansing, Carol picked up where she left off, working alongside her mother, Ruth Hallman, to build up the community. The two were so close Carol eventually moved right next door, living in the very same neighborhood where she grew up. In partnership with community groups, the two spearheaded the effort to change the city's housing code, turning rentals back into ownership opportunities for low to moderate-income residents. They also worked with local law enforcement to implement team policing, and in collaboration with Neighborhood Watch and the Genesee Neighborhood Association, brought the number of homes in the community with documented drug activity down from a high of 137 in 1988 to just 6 today.

But the neighborhood that made Carol who she is also brought her greatest pain, when her beloved mother was brutally attacked in her home in July of 2007, and died a few days later of her injuries. Devastated but unbroken, Carol refused to let this horrific incident drive her from her home, and instead redoubled her efforts to fight for her community, an angel no doubt fighting right alongside her.

Six times the voters returned Carol to the Lansing City Council, and during her nearly quarter-century tenure she has chaired every committee and held virtually every position, including Council President on five occasions. She continues to give back to the community by serving on various boards and commissions, and as executive director of Retired & Senior Volunteer Programs of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties. She is the proud mother of two sons, and a grandmother to four.

Carol personifies the ideals of service, and has shown us all the power and true definition of living in community. I thank her for her extraordinary devotion to Lansing.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SALARY HOME RULE ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer

Act, which would give the District of Columbia the authority to increase the pay of its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). The D.C. CFO is a local D.C. official and is paid with local D.C. funds. D.C. should have the authority to set the pay of all its employees. Last Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability passed this bill.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, Congress established a maximum rate of pay of the CFO, and the D.C. Council has no authority to increase that rate. Congress does not cap, or otherwise establish, the pay of any other D.C. employee. Under this bill, the CFO would be paid at the greater of a rate equal to the current maximum rate of pay or a rate established in law by D.C.

D.C. requested that I introduce this bill to enable it to retain and recruit the best CFOs. The D.C. CFO was established by Congress in 1995. Congress vested the CFO with extraordinary powers and designed the CFO to be independent of the D.C. Mayor and Council. D.C. cannot obligate or expend funds without the CFO's approval. The CFO manages an approximately \$20 billion budget that consists of state, county and city functions, and the CFO has more than 1,700 employees. The CFO may be removed only for cause by the Mayor, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the Council and a 30-day congressional review and comment period. This bill would help maintain the independence of the CFO by establishing a permanent floor on the CFO's pay and by prohibiting the Council from reducing the CFO's pay during the CFO's term.

Although the D.C. CFO is the most powerful non-elected official in D.C., more than 20 D.C. employees are paid more than the CFO. D.C. must compete with both the private and public sectors for high-quality CFOs, and there are many private- and public-sector CFOs who are paid more than the D.C. CFO.

This bill is critical to the financial operations of D.C. and is an important step to increase home-rule authority for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE VENTRIS C. GIBSON UNITED STATES MINT DIRECTOR, GREATEST GENERATION COMMEMORATIVE COIN DESIGN DISPLAY

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 11, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks by the Honorable Ventris C. Gibson.

Good Afternoon. It is a pleasure to be here to introduce the designs for the 2024 Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin Program. Every day, across the Nation, the Mint connects Americans through coins. Next year, it will be our great privilege to connect America to the service and sacrifice of American soldiers and civilians during the Second World War.

The National World War II Memorial stands as an important symbol of America's national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and power that flows when free people are at once united and bonded together in a common and just cause for liberty. This is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World

War II and acknowledges the commitment and achievement of the entire Nation. It honors the more than 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Their legacy is part of our American story.

Since the Mint's establishment in 1792, the women and men of our workforce have taken great pride in rendering the story of our nation through enduring examples of numismatic art.

As the largest mint in the world, the United States Mint produces the coinage required by our Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. In addition, Congress authorizes a maximum of two commemorative coin programs annually to celebrate and honor American people, places, events, and institutions. I would like to thank Senator Browne, Representative McHenry and Representative Waters for their work to get the Greatest Generation out of their respective committees and working with the sponsors, leadership and Mint to ensure the language was correct and passed in time for 2024.

Since the beginning of the modern commemorative coin program in 1982, the United States Mint has raised more than \$522 million in surcharges authorized to help build or enhance new museums, preserve historical sites, and support important national programs. In accordance with legislation, the Mint includes a surcharge as part of the price of each commemorative coin. These surcharges are authorized to be turned over to the sponsoring organizations for projects that benefit the community. In this case, surcharges are authorized to be awarded to the Friends of the National World War II Memorial to support the National Park Service in maintaining and repairing the memorial, and for educational and commemorative programs.

I'd like to tell you a little about the designs. The gold obverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Heidi Wastweet and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist Eric Custer, depicts the Wall of Stars at the World War II Memorial with an olive branch. The inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," "2024," and "WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL."

Designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Ben Sowards and sculpted by United States Mint Chief Engraver Joe Menna, the gold reverse depicts a folded flag with the inscriptions "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "WWII MEMORIAL," "TO UNITE THE GENERATIONS OF TOMORROW," and "FIVE DOLLARS."

The silver obverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Beth Zaiken and sculpted by United States Mine Medallist Artist Phebe Hemphill, features an allegorical tableau of figures supporting a globe. Each figure represents a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII (Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy, Army, and Marine Corps) plus a figure representing the critical work of the Merchant Marine. The inscriptions are "1941-1945," "WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL," "DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM," "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "2024."

Designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Ben Sowards and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist Renata Gordon, the silver reverse design depicts a view from beneath a baldacchino, a sculptural canopy, inside a victory pavilion in the World War II Memorial featuring four eagles holding a laurel wreath. Inside the wreath is a globe centered on the Pacific Ocean. The inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," "VICTORY," "IN THE AIR," "AT SEA," "ON LAND," "WWII MEMORIAL," and "ONE DOLLAR."

The half dollar obverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Elana Hagler and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist Craig Campbell, features a reimagining of the figure of Liberation on the World War II Victory medal, awarded to all who served in the Armed Forces during the War. The inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," "WORLD WAR II" "2024," and "WE ANSWERED THE CALL."

The half dollar reverse, designed by Artistic Infusion Program Designer Matt Swaim and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artist John McGraw, depicts the World War II Memorial from the point of view of a person walking up a ramp leading to one of the towers. The inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "E PLURIBUS UNUM," and "HALF DOLLAR."

The Greatest Generation commemorative coin designs are emblematic of the National World War II Memorial and the service and sacrifice of American soldiers and civilians during World War II. We hope this program will honor their courage and their spirit. It is our pleasure to assist the Friends of the National World War II Memorial in their efforts to teach the lessons of yesterday to unite the generations of tomorrow.

Thank you all very much.

**SALUTING THE SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT R. GOSNEY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED**

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 11, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary career of Colonel Robert R. Gosney, U.S. Army, Retired. Throughout his life, he has dedicated himself to his country, fellow warriors, and neighbors. I am proud to present him with the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

During his years of service in the U.S. Army, he went above and beyond to serve his country. COL Gosney was a master of many assignments and responsibilities during two tours in Vietnam (where he served alongside his brother), including various field artillery, army aviation assignments, and commanding the 25th Infantry Division Aviation Battalion. COL Gosney also served as Chief of the U.S. Military Mission in Monrovia, Liberia.

His commitment to service didn't end when he left the military as he remains active in numerous community organizations. COL Gosney was a member of the Temple Founder Lions Club for 38 years, serving his neighbors by identifying and responding to the needs of the community as their main goal. He also is a valued member of the Christ the King Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus in Belton, TX. He's made lasting and indelible contributions that make Central Texas a place we're all glad to call home.

COL Gosney's life tells the story of a man unafraid to contribute both his time and energy to the defense of our nation and the betterment of his community. His devotion to service before self reflects the best of the generous American spirit.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### DECEMBER 13

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Space and Science  
To hold hearings to examine government promotion of safety and innovation in the new space economy. SR-253
- Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 3 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights  
To hold hearings to examine the impact of algorithms on competition and consumer rights. SD-226

##### DECEMBER 14

- 9 a.m.  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress, S. 461, to make certain irrigation districts eligible for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 1118, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic

rivers, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1662, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, S. 1776, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, S. 1955, to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2247, to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the "Mount Blue Sky Wilderness", S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees. SD-366

- 9:30 a.m.  
Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine substance use trends among older adults. SD-106
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the diabetes epidemic. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions. SD-562

1 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Human Rights and the  
Law

To hold hearings to examine protecting  
the human rights of foster children.

SD-226

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S5883–S5899*

**Measures Introduced:** Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3458–3463, and S.J. Res. 53. **Page S5897**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 61, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational criminal organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit activities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–123)

S. 1798, to establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and an Office of Health Security in the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–124)

S. 2260, to require transparency in notices of funding opportunity. (S. Rept. No. 118–125)

S. 2286, to improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–126)

Report to accompany S. 1381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend. (S. Rept. No. 118–127)

Report to accompany S. 2395, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs. (S. Rept. No. 118–128) **Page S5897**

**Edwards, Jr. Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. **Page S5894**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition

of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Page S5894**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5894**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5894**

**Long Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brandon S. Long, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. **Page S5894**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jerry Edwards, Jr., of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana. **Page S5894**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5894**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5894**

**Coker, Jr. Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director. **Page S5894**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, December 12, 2023; that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 7, 2023, ripen at 11:45 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that following the vote on confirmation of the nomination, there be up to 15 minutes for debate prior to the vote on the motion



to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Page S5899**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 61 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 336), Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

**Pages S5883–94, S5899**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S5896**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S5896**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S5896–97**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S5897–98**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S5898–99**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S5895–96**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—336) **Page S5894**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3:02 p.m. and adjourned at 7 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5899.)

## *Committee Meetings*

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

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# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 26 public bills, H.R. 6691–6716; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 920–921 and 923, were introduced.

**Pages H6813–14**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H6815–17**

**Reports Filed:** A report was filed on December 8, 2023, as follows:

H.R. 6611, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to make certain reforms to the authorities under such Act, to reauthorize title VII of such Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–302, Part 1).

**Reports were filed today as follows:**

H.R. 5119, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide small businesses with additional time to file beneficial ownership information, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–303);

H.R. 5524, to amend the start date of the pilot program on sharing with foreign branches, subsidiaries and affiliates, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–304);

H.R. 5473, to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–305);

H.R. 6093, to improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather research, sup-

port improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–306);

H.R. 6570, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–307, Part 1); and

H. Res. 922, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1147) to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program under such Act to serve whole milk; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 357) to require the head of an agency to issue and sign any rule issued by that agency, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–308). **Page H6813**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Van Orden to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6745**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:14 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H6746**

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rear Admiral Gregory Todd, Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, Washington, DC. **Pages H6746–47**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2023:* H.R. 3315, to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days; **Pages H6747–48**

*Amending the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations:* S. 2747, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations; **Pages H6748–49**

*Amending the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians:* H.R. 2839, to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; **Pages H6749–51**

*Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2023:* H.R. 5473, amended, to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes **Pages H6754–56**

*Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II:* H.R. 6503, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 376 yeas to 15 nays, Roll No. 709; **Pages H6756–59, H6802**

*Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023:* H.R. 3224, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend the authorization of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 394 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 707; **Pages H6759–60, H6800–01**

*Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act:* H.R. 1042, amended, to prohibit the importation into the United States of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation; **Pages H6760–62**

*Lower Costs, More Transparency Act:* H.R. 5378, amended, to promote price transparency in the health care sector, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 320 yeas to 71 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 708; **Pages H6762–89, H6801–02**

*5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act:* S. 2787, to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to process applications for spectrum licenses from applicants who were successful bidders in an auction before the authority of the Commission to conduct auctions expired on March 9, 2023; and **Pages H6798–99**

*PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2023:* H.R. 3226, amended, to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who Deliver Infants Early Act. **Pages H6799–H6800**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:07 p.m. and reconvened at 3:13 p.m. **Page H6754**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:28 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H6800**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

*Duck Stamp Modernization Act of 2023:* S. 788, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue fully electronic stamps under that Act; **Pages H6751–52**

*Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act:* H.R. 5119, amended, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide small businesses with additional time to file beneficial ownership information; **Pages H6752–53**

*Foreign Affiliates Sharing Pilot Program Extension Act:* H.R. 5524, amended, to amend the start date of the pilot program on sharing with foreign branches, subsidiaries and affiliates; and **Pages H6753–54**

*Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act:* H.R. 4531, amended, to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment. **Pages H6789–97**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Ted Lieu wherein he resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. **Page H6804**

**Senate Referral:** S. 3250 was held at the desk. **Page H6748**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H6748.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6800–01, H6801–02, and H6802.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MEMBER DAY

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ezell, McBath, and Porter.

### ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGENCY RULEMAKING ACT; WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS ACT OF 2023; PROTECT LIBERTY AND END WARRANTLESS SURVEILLANCE ACT

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 357, the “Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act”; H.R. 1147, the “Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023”; and H.R. 6570, the “Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1147, the “Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023” and H.R. 357, the “Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1147, the “Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 357, the “Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill shall be considered as

adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Finally, the rule provides that on any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress before January 9, 2024, the Speaker may dispense with organizational and legislative business and that the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved if applicable. Testimony was heard from Chairman Thompson of Pennsylvania, and Representatives Scott of Virginia, Biggs, and Nadler.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine communities in crisis, focusing on what happens when disaster recovery funds are delayed, 10 a.m., SD–192.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 1281, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and S. 1742, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to receive a closed briefing on Iran and its proxy threat to U.S. policy and personnel post-October 7, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* business meeting to consider S. 1840, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, S. 3392, to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine Coast Guard Academy whistleblowers, focusing on stories of sexual assault and harassment, 10:15 a.m., SD–562.

*Committee on the Judiciary*: to hold hearings to examine cleaning up the C-Suite, focusing on ensuring accountability for corporate criminals, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Rules and Administration*: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Publishing Office, 3 p.m., SR-301.

*Select Committee on Intelligence*: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

## House

*Committee on Armed Services*, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “F-35 Acquisition Program Update”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6585, the “Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act”; H.R. 6655, the “A Stronger Workforce for America Act”; H.J. Res. 98, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”; and H.R. 3400, the “Small Businesses before Bureaucrats Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Restricting Rogue-State Revenue: Strengthening Energy Sanctions on Russia, Iran, and Venezuela”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Examining the Agenda of Regulators, SROs, and Standards-Setters for Accounting, Auditing”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled “Reviewing the Bureau of Industry and Security, Part II: U.S. Export Controls in an Era of Strategic Competition”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, hearing entitled “Addressing the Scourge of Anti-Semitism in Europe”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled “Considering DHS’ and CISA’s Role in Securing Artificial Intelligence”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, hearing entitled “From Festive Cheer to Retail Fear: Addressing Organized Retail Crime”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Looking Ahead Series: Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution”, 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 5482, the “Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023”; H.R. 6474, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; and H.R. 6481, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse the fee for an expression of interest if the expression of interest becomes inactive, and for other purposes, 10:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “The Mineral Supply Chain and the New Space Race”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing entitled “Left in the Dark: Examining the Biden Administration’s Efforts to Eliminate the Pacific Northwest’s Clean Energy Production”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Rules*, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 918, 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 [Original Jurisdiction Markup], 10 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Year in Review: The State of Small Business in America”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, business meeting on updated Committee roster, 9:45 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Ensuring Transparency in the Federal Government: An Examination of GSA’s Site Selection for the FBI Headquarters”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Guardians of the Sea: National Security Missions of the United States Coast Guard”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grants: Savings Veterans’ Lives Through Community Connection”, 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party*, Full Committee, business meeting on a committee report addressing America’s economic and technological competition with the Chinese Communist Party, 8 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 12 through  
December 15, 2023

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:45 a.m.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, there will be up to 15 minutes for debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, National Defense Authorization Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

### Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Appropriations:* December 12, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine communities in crisis, focusing on what happens when disaster recovery funds are delayed, 10 a.m., SD-192.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* December 13, Subcommittee on Space and Science, to hold hearings to examine government promotion of safety and innovation in the new space economy, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* December 12, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 1281, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and S. 1742, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

December 14, Full Committee, business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress, S. 461, to make certain irrigation districts eligible for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power, S. 594, to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to prioritize the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, S. 636, to establish the Dolores River National Conservation Area and the Dolores River Special Management Area in the State of Colorado, to protect private water rights in the State, S. 1118, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, S. 1254, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1521, to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, S. 1634, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 1662, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, S. 1776, to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 1890, to provide for the establishment of a grazing management program on Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, S. 1955, to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, S. 2160, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation

and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 2169, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 2247, to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the “Mount Blue Sky Wilderness”, S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees, 9 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* December 12, to receive a closed briefing on Iran and its proxy threat to U.S. policy and personnel post-October 7, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* December 12, business meeting to consider S. 1840, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, S. 3392, to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD-430.

December 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the diabetes epidemic, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* December 12, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine Coast Guard Academy whistleblowers, focusing on stories of sexual assault and harassment, 10:15 a.m., SD-562.

December 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* December 12, to hold hearings to examine cleaning up the C-Suite, focusing on ensuring accountability for corporate criminals, 10 a.m., SH-216.

December 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-226.

December 13, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine the impact of algorithms on competition and consumer rights, 3 p.m., SD-226.

December 14, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, to hold hearings to examine protecting the human rights of foster children, 1 p.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* December 12, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Publishing Office, 3 p.m., SR-301.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* December 12, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

December 13, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging:* December 14, to hold hearings to examine substance use trends among older adults, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

### House Committees

*Committee on Armed Services,* December 13, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Recruiting Shortfalls and Growing Mistrust: Perceptions of the US Military”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* December 13, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled “Protecting Workers and Small Businesses from Biden’s Attack on Worker Free Choice and Economic Growth”, 10:15 a.m., 2174 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* December 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Leveraging Agency Expertise to Foster American AI Leadership and Innovation”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* December 13, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Moving the Money Part 2: Getting Answers from the Biden Administration on the Iranian Regime’s Support of Terrorism”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* December 13, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6602, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process; H.R. 6606, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the statement of policy; H.R. 5613, to require a review of whether individuals or entities subject to the imposition of certain sanctions through inclusion on certain sanctions lists should also be subject to the imposition of other sanctions and included on other sanctions lists; H.R. 6614, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency; H.R. 1135, to grant certain authorities to the President to combat economic coercion by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; H.R. 5917, to amend the Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act to modify and extend that Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 3016, to amend

the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 to apply the provisions of that Act to international governmental organizations; H.R. 3569, to provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes; H.R. 6586, to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries to the Taliban, and for other purposes; H.R. 6306, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to prohibit the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity beneficially owned by the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; H.R. 6610, to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes; and H.R. 6416, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose certain tax penalties in connection with the invasion of Ukraine, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* December 13, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, hearing entitled “Censorship Laundering Part II: Preventing the Department of Homeland Security’s Silencing of Dissent”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* December 13, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Digital Copyright Piracy: Protecting American Consumers, Workers, and Creators”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

December 13, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled “Second Amendment Rights Empower Women’s Rights”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability,* December 13, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “Reforming the WHO: Ensuring Global Health Security and Accountability”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,* December 13, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Modal Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

December 13, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2024: Stakeholder Priorities”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means,* December 13, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Growth of the Tax-Exempt Sector and the Impact on the American Political Landscape”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party,* December 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “CCP Transnational Repression: The Party’s Effort to Silence and Coerce Critics Overseas”, 7 p.m., 390 Cannon.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 12

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 12

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:45 a.m.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, there will be up to 15 minutes for debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, National Defense Authorization Act.

*(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of H.R. 357—Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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