United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 No. 204

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 12, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID KUSTOFF 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.

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR GAZA

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the safe, timely, and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The actions that Hamas took on October 7 were horrific and led to the tragic loss of life and displacement of millions.

When I talk to the families of victims of the October 7 tragedy who were killed or taken hostage, you can hear the agony and despair in their voices. I also hear that same agony and despair when I talk to my constituents who are Palestinian Americans who have lost relatives in this war.

Now, I can't change the prosecution of this war. Israel has a right to defend itself. Israel has a right to make sure Hamas no longer presents a security threat to its civilians. It also has the right to degrade Hamas' ability to be a viable governing and political entity if we ever want to find a lasting peace.

That is the horror of war. I can't prevent that. What we can do is prevent what we are watching unfold in front of our eyes right now.

I am a doctor, and I am hearing horrific reports of the humanitarian and public health crisis that is taking place—the lack of clean water, the lack of food, and the starvation that is unfolding in front of us. Winter is coming.

We must do everything we can to prevent the humanitarian crisis if we ever want to find eventual peace in the region. That is something that we can do. That is not about war. That is about relieving the suffering of individuals and civilians. The folks who are most vulnerable are infants and the elderly. Let's get them that clean water.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I am introducing my resolution calling for the safe, timely, and sufficient delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in the Gaza Strip.

This resolution urges the Biden administration to facilitate a scale-up of the safe and continuous flow of aid to civilians that includes medications, food, and clean water. It asks for the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver this aid in Gaza without impediment or interference. It encourages the distribution of fuel to humanitarian organizations working in Gaza and for the proper oversight to ensure the aid is appropriately delivered and not commandeered by Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize the urgency of passing President Biden's supplemental funding because it does contain funding for humanitarian aid.

We have to get this done. We must do everything we can to pass this funding request to support our allies and prevent this humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, in this time when many religions and faiths are reflective, let's do everything we can. We are all God's children here.

We can do this. This is not about war. This is about saving lives. This is about allowing humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza on a continuous basis to provide food, clean water, medications, fuel to keep hospitals operating, and energy to make sure we save these lives.

CONGRATULATING CAMPBELL STEWART

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Campbell Stewart, a student from Pusch Ridge Christian Academy in Oro Valley who was named to the 2023 National Youth Orchestra.

Campbell's passion for the timpani, also known as the kettledrum, started when he was just in third grade. This program allowed Campbell to perform at Carnegie Hall with 89 talented students over the summer.

This is not his first prestigious recognition. Over the years, Campbell has earned numerous awards for his accomplishments with the timpani, including receiving gold medals from the Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Tucson, and the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra.

Additionally, Campbell also had the privilege of participating in the 2021 Juilliard Percussion Seminar, the Hilton Head Jazz Camp in South Carolina, and the Brevard Music Center festival.

Printed on recycled paper.

Once again, I congratulate Campbell Stewart for his achievement and for being part of the National Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. His unwavering dedication and commitment to the world of music does not go unnoticed.

CELEBRATING LOU-ANN PREBLE

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life and achievements of Lou-Ann Preble. Born in 1929 in South Carolina, Lou-Ann's life has been nothing short of inspiring.

After completing her high school education, Lou-Ann went on to become a registered nurse, where she met William Preble, a young Air Force pilot stationed at the nearby Shaw Air Force Base.

As Bill's Air Force career took off, Lou-Ann raised their 11 children, creating a warm and loving home wherever they were stationed.

Upon retiring in Tucson, Arizona, Bill and Lou-Ann did not slow down. Instead, they immersed themselves in their community and church, embodying the spirit of service that defined their lives.

In 1992, Lou-Ann Preble was elected to the Arizona House, where she served until 2001. Her passion for healthcare and a commitment to the unique health challenges faced by those living in rural areas of Arizona set her apart from anyone else.

As the vice chair of the Arizona House Health Committee, Lou-Ann played a huge role in the creation of the Rural Health Committee.

Lou-Ann partnered with the University of Arizona Health Center and Dr. Ronald Weinstein to create two programs, the Arizona Telemedicine Program and the Rural Health Professions Program. The ATP connected remote and prison clinics with healthcare professionals at the UofA, revolutionizing healthcare access for those in underserved areas. The Rural Health Professions Program sought to address the shortage of physicians in smaller communities by establishing rotations for medical students throughout various Arizona locales.

Today, Lou-Ann Preble enjoys a well-deserved retirement in Tucson, surrounded by the love and warmth of her children.

I thank Lou-Ann Preble for her tireless service throughout her life. It has been an honor for me to know her and to be able to call her a friend and an inspiration, as well. God bless her.

CONGRATULATING NAMI OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Southern Arizona as they mark four decades in operation.

NAMI of Southern Arizona was founded in 1983 to focus on bringing awareness to mental health while providing invaluable assistance to individuals struggling with their mental health. Their mission is to educate and support anyone affected by mental illness.

In February 2021, a staggering 40 percent of Arizonans reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety or depression, with 27 percent unable to access the help they needed. On a bigger scale, one in five people across the United States face challenges to their mental health.

NAMI provides an array of support groups in both English and Spanish that focus on almost every area of mental health, from postpartum depression to teen and adolescent concerns.

NAMI of Southern Arizona has been a beacon of hope, helping individuals in managing their mental health effectively. We need more nonprofit organizations like this in the world. The impact of NAMI's efforts over the past four decades is truly remarkable. I am honored to highlight all the good work they do to help our community thrive today.

CONGRATULATING PHYLLIS SMITH

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been told that service is the rent that we pay for living in a free and democratic society.

Such has been the life and the legacy of Ms. Phyllis Smith, regional commissioner of Social Security for Region 5, who is retiring after 45 years of service with the agency.

Commissioner Smith has worked with thousands of individual clients, and her supervisory and leadership roles have placed her in positions to positively impact the lives of thousands of others.

Commissioner Smith started work for Social Security in 1978 as a title 16 claims representative in the Chicago East Field Office. She stated that her initial plan was to work with SSA until she could decide what her long-term work plans were. She stated and has written that, ''When I saw firsthand the impact of SSA on people's lives, the fact that we are the country's financial safety net, and my hard-working, dedicated, compassionate coworkers, I was hooked,'' and she was. As a matter of fact, she moved through the ranks to become the regional commissioner.

If you can imagine working 45 years for one agency, you come in contact with many clients, and she also had a great impact on improving and enhancing the quality of life for thousands of individuals.

Commissioner, you have done exceptionally well. You have done your job—more than your job. You have given unselfishly of yourself for the benefit of others.

I commend you for your outstanding career, and as you leave, I ask that you take with you an Irish prayer. It says: May the sun shine warmly upon your face. May the wind always be at your back. And until we meet again, may the good Lord hold you in the hollow of his hands.

Congratulations. It is time. You have done well.

HONORING CHARLES STEWART

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Charles ''Charley'' Stewart, who passed away this past October in Brunswick, Georgia.

Charley was born here in Washington, D.C., where his life of service began. He spent time here working in the National Science Foundation.

After college, he joined the Air Force Reserve and was based at Andrews Air Force Base, where he achieved the rank of sergeant.

Charley eventually moved down to St. Simons Island in 1975, where he continued his military service in the Air National Guard and achieved the rank of master sergeant.

In addition to his service in the military, Charley also served his community through time in government. Charley served as the finance director for Glynn County, and he served as a Glynn County administrator for a combined two decades.

Charley will be remembered for his life of service. Whether it was the country, community, or his family, he always put others first. He is an example we should all strive to emulate.

CELEBRATING RON ADAMS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of my friend Ron Adams. Ron is retiring after a fruitful career as clerk of Glynn County Superior and Magistrate Courts.

When Adams first took office back in 2017, it was a very difficult time for the courts as a former clerk had stolen more than $1 million. Ron ensured that the court continued to operate smoothly under his leadership while efforts to secure the money were made.

Throughout his career, he overcame challenges, including the high-profile Ahmaud Arbery murder case.

□ 1015

Adams' hard work made sure that this very emotional case could proceed smoothly and effectively.

Adams' dedication and loyalty to his community will continue to serve as a blueprint on how to be an effective clerk, a position that is essential to our justice system's success.

I congratulate Ron on his achievements and on his recent retirement.

COMMEMORATING WADE BENSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Wade Benson as he retires after 27 years as a Young Harris College chief financial officer.

Wade began at Young Harris College in 1986, coming to the college as an

auditor with his father's accounting firm. He joined the Young Harris College administration in 1996 and has had various titles, including business manager, vice president for finance, chief financial officer, and board treasurer.

The business office at Young Harris has been renamed The Benson Business Center in honor of Wade's career and service to the institution.

Wade oversaw a number of areas in the institution and acted as his project manager for the many construction projects on campus. He balanced operating budgets, reconciled financial statements, and always worked with integrity and accuracy.

Wade Benson was the go-to person, but most importantly, Wade exhibited a true love for the college, its staff, faculty and students, and always performed his duties in the best long-term interest of these constituents.

I congratulate Wade on a great career. Enjoy your retirement.

RECOGNIZING GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent success of the Glynn County School System.

Glynn County's graduation rate has increased from 95.2 percent in 2022 to 96.5 percent this year. This is much higher than our State-wide average of 84.4 percent.

This improvement is not a fluke either. Glynn County is focused on tailored school improvement plans for individual schools and broad-based foundational structure changes to address the needs for all students.

None of these changes could have been implemented without the help of individual teachers, students, and administrators throughout Glynn County.

I am very proud of Glynn County's achievements, and I look forward to seeing continued improvement.

PREVENTING OVERDOSE DEATHS WITH EDUCATION AND TOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, too many American families know the immense heartbreak of losing a loved one to an overdose, but overdose deaths are preventable, and we have a responsibility to do everything we can in this body to save lives.

That is why I introduced my bill, the bipartisan RECONNECTIONS Act, to get overdose education and prevention tools like naloxone into the hands of all of those who need it and to ensure that the opioid crisis is treated like the public health crisis it truly is.

I am proud that my colleagues have recognized the urgent need to expand access to these lifesaving overdose prevention resources, but we must continue our bipartisan work to keep our community safe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank so much my mental health and substance use advisory council, a group of law enforcement officers, educators, parents and community members who I work with regularly to find ways to address the opioid crisis in our home communities and across this great country.

Your stories, and especially the memories of your loved ones, that you have shared with me over the years have truly touched my heart. It is these stories and memories that have informed the policies that we champion here and are at the top of my mind as this bill stands on the House floor today.

Thank you for your tireless drive and dedication. You are helping to make our community safer.

We have so much more work ahead of us as a community in Minnesota 2 and as a Nation. If it helps to save just one life, it is worth doing the work.

Thank you to the Members who are coming together on both sides of the aisle today to support this important bill.

RECOGNIZING JAGO ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 9 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the career and retirement of a special member of the University of Iowa's Police Department.

Jago, the university's longest serving canine, recently retired after 9 years of service.

During his decade on the force, Jago provided security for 2 U.S. sitting Presidents, 4 Governors, 17 Secret Servicemembers, and countless guests at Kinnick Stadium.

Jago also provided security for Major League Baseball games at the Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, and has assisted in collecting and locating key evidence in numerous investigations.

After nearly a decade on the force, Jago deserves all the treats that retirement has to offer him.

I thank Jago for his service, and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, last month, the University of Iowa's Women's Soccer team earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament after securing a win in the Big Ten Championship.

For the first time in Big Ten Championship history, an eight-seed team won it all. In a nail-biter of a game, the Hawkeyes defeated the Wisconsin Badgers 1–0.

The sole point scored during the game came from a penalty kick from midfielder Josie Durr in the first half.

Needless to say, the University of Iowa's Women's Soccer team made us all very proud this season, and I cannot wait to see what they accomplish next year.

Keep it up, Hawkeyes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RILEY KRAMER OF TROOP 89

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Riley Kramer of Troop 89 from Bettendorf, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout is the highest and most prestigious achievement a Scout can obtain.

To earn this rank, Scouts must fulfill leadership roles, exemplify the Scout oath and law, display exemplary outdoor skills, speak better than their Congresswoman, earn at least 21 badges, and complete a comprehensive service project for their community.

For Riley's Eagle Scout project, he worked with the mayor of Riverdale on a half-mile trail for the city. This trail supports our community and gives people space to exercise and get out and enjoy nature in Scott County.

I congratulate Riley on this honor, and I congratulate Riley's family and everyone who supported him on his journey to become an Eagle Scout.

HOLIDAY SHOUT-OUT TO SIMPSON STORMIN' RED ALE AND WEST HILL BREWING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise for a cheers-worthy holiday shout-out.

This month, Simpson Stormin' Red Ale has its official launch party at West Hill Brewing in Indianola, Iowa.

The idea for this beer was brewed up between West Hill owners and Simpson College.

Aspiring graphic designers and artists were given the opportunity to design this year's logo.

This year, Madison McDonald, a graphic design major from Winterset, Iowa, created the winning design.

Moving forward, there will be an annual redesign contest, and West Hill also plans to donate a portion of all profits from Simpson Stormin' Red Ale to support student scholarships at Simpson College.

Nothing quite brings people together like the holidays.

I congratulate West Hill Brewing and Simpson College on another successful collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, I wish everyone a very merry Christmas.

RECOGNIZING MONICA LEE SILBAS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Monica Lee Silbas and her successful career serving others. She is a Santa Ana girl, I am proud to say, who made it big in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, we back home are very proud of Monica. Her passion for advocacy has made her work a defining voice within the labor movement. As part of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, her labor leadership led to the development of their Spanish leadership program.

She currently serves on the boards of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the IndustriALL Global Union where her voice impacts the lives of millions of workers across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Monica for her dedication to the community and to the global labor movement.

I congratulate Monica on her retirement, and I wish her the best of luck. I know she is not done, and she will continue to work like all good Santa Ana girls do.

HONORING THE CAREER OF GUADALUPE GOMEZ

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Guadalupe Gomez, my good friend and president of La Federacion de Zacatecanos del Sur de California.

Lupe has spent 31 years working for the federation, as an organizer in a group that aims to help people on both sides of the border, the United States and Mexico, through economic development.

In the past 2 years as president of La Federacion, Lupe has renewed a call for cooperation and mutual assistance across the border.

From establishing new outreach programs for young people to strengthening programs like food banks to building up communities and relationships here in the U.S., Lupe has been very impactful on both sides of the border.

Lupe is my very good friend, and we thank her for her service and dedication to the wonderful community of Zacatecanos, both in the United States and in Mexico.

Let's keep that good work up.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special tradition taking place this Saturday, December 16.

Every year on the third Saturday of December, thousands of volunteers set out across the country and the world in a coordinated wreath-laying ceremony.

This ceremony is known as National Wreaths Across America Day.

In 1992, Morrill Worcester from Harrington, Maine, noticed he had an abundance of holiday wreaths and decided to take the opportunity to honor our country's fallen soldiers.

After contacting his Senator, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in an older section of the cemetery. This tradition would quietly continue until 2005 when a photo of the tombstones decorated with wreaths and covered with snow went viral.

From there, this quiet annual tribute to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice transformed into a mission to remember, honor, and teach.

Since the viral photo, Wreaths Across America continues to grow. This Saturday volunteers will lay wreaths at more than 2,500 locations in the United States, abroad, and at sea. This simple gesture is a way for all of us to express our appreciation during the holiday season.

Earlier this week, what has become known as the country's longest veteran's parade, Wreaths Across America's annual Escort to Arlington kicked off.

The official route will travel down the East Coast, stopping at schools, memorials, and other locations along the way to remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Stops with public events will be held in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., before arriving at Arlington National Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, December 16, National Wreaths Across America Day.

This pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery represents the very best of our Nation. Tractor trailers will haul more than 250,000 wreaths to their destination.

Mr. Speaker, as many Americans will volunteer this weekend, it is a reminder that our freedom is not free. These men and women paid the ultimate sacrifice, and this small gesture is one of the many ways we are able to thank them for their service.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit wreathsacrossAmerica.org.

□ 1030

PLIGHT OF THE TAMIL PEOPLE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I stand with the Eelam Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Following the British departure in 1948, the unification of these kingdoms under a Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka led to the marginalization of the Tamil people.

This process disregarded the Tamils' right to self-determination. State-sponsored discrimination and violence against Tamils sparked a tragic 30-year ethnic conflict, resulting in the 2009 Tamil genocide.

Despite the United Nations Human Rights Council's efforts for accountability, Sri Lanka, with China's support, withdrew in 2020, further blocking justice for the Tamil community.

The recent arrest of Tamils for participating in peaceful events under the Prevention of Terrorism Act are deeply troubling.

Therefore, I call upon my colleagues in Congress to recognize and address the ongoing oppression of the Tamil people. We must support a permanent solution that ensures stability and peace in this vital part of the Indo-Pacific. We must honor our commitment to human rights, and we must honor democracy.

CELEBRATING AN IMPORTANT DAY IN GUAM'S HISTORY

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and recognize a very important day in Guam's history, December 10, 1898. On this day, the United States and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris, officially handing over Guam to the United States and ending the Spanish-American War. This year, we celebrate the 125th year Guam has been part of our great Nation.

Following the United States' acquisition of Guam, it established America as a global superpower and ensured our position in the Indo-Pacific region. Now, 125 years later, the U.S. remains a global superpower and the strongest force in the Pacific and the world, and Guam is a developed and thriving community.

Since 1898, Guam has proven to be an essential piece of America that is filled with patriotism and faith. From being a vital military center in the region during World War II to being the tip of the spear against China today, Guam is a hub of American success.

Guam is a beacon of hope and American values in the middle of the Pacific. Our American flag is a symbol of liberty and freedom in the region. It is also a warning to all people who seek to provoke violence. The United States and Guam are forces that are not to be reckoned with.

Let us take this day to reaffirm the United States' commitment to protecting freedom, peace, and democracy across the Indo-Pacific while maintaining the strong ties that connect Guam and our amazing country.

RECOGNIZING MARSHALL WALTER ''MAJOR'' TAYLOR

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to honor Marshall Walter ''Major'' Taylor and would finally recognize him as America's first international sports champion.

Marshall Taylor was affectionately known as Major Taylor, and he remains in death as he was in life; namely, America's first sports superhero, a feat that took place in the late 1800s and makes what he accomplished all the more extraordinary and astounding.

Consider, if you will, the fact that here is an African-American man born in 1878 amid the sound and fury of post-Civil War America.

For those who missed the significance of this, it means that Major Taylor came into being at a time when the old resentments of the defeated Confederacy were beginning to push the Nation back into the clutches of a desperate and cynical racial antipathy.

Major Taylor did not come of age at a moment in American history when it was easy to be African American. In fact, he dared to be great at a time when the color of his skin was a crime; that is to suggest a punishable offense for which millions of Black people were persecuted without justification or cause. Yet, in spite of the indignities assigned to him because of his race, in 1899, Mr. Taylor went on to become the fastest man in the world on a bike and an international world champion in the sport of cycling.

Yet oddly, Mr. Speaker, very few people in this country know anything about him. Very few people know the biggest sport in the latter half of the 19th century was cycling and that an African American was the first great international champion in this country and in this sport.

One wonders today: How is such a thing even possible that Mr. Taylor can be forgotten? Why has it taken so long to honor a man who never should have been forgotten in the first place? How can it be the case that most people know little or nothing about the extraordinary contributions of this man to the American experience, to say nothing of his quantifiable greatness with respect to American sports?

Let me put a final point on this. Before there was a Jack Johnson, before there was a Jackie Robinson, before there was a Joe Louis, before there was a Jesse Owens, there was a Marshall Taylor, the son of an enslaved family, the son of a veteran of the American Civil War, our first international superstar, the first Black athlete to have a corporate sponsorship, the fastest man in the world at his time.

He was a man so committed to his faith that he would not race on Sundays, so subsequently the governing body of the international cycling community changed racing day to Saturday in order to accommodate the discipline and dedication of his faith.

Major Taylor was the first African-American world champion of any sport, and yet most people don't even know who he is because he has been conveniently erased. That is to say, he has been rendered invisible and, therefore, condemned to exist on the peripheries and in the margins of the historical memories of what he was and soon to be forgotten and was not of any note. He had no value in our history, tragically insignificant and unimportant, but nothing could be further from the truth.

With the heel of an entire nation pressing down upon his neck, after 280 years of enslavement in America, here arose Mr. Marshall ''Major'' Taylor. He had no one to look up to. He had to set a precedent. He had to exemplify greatness and carry that great burden of the race on his shoulders, and he did so magnificently.

The recriminations of an entire culture withholding him from the support he deserved, when he won in America, they played ''Dixie.'' When he won abroad, internationally, they played ''The Star-Spangled Banner.'' Marshall ''Major'' Taylor said that made him so proud to be an American.

Marshall Taylor strived in spite of it all. He didn't just win. He won in spite of the facts. He didn't just succeed. He succeeded against the odds. He didn't just achieve, but impressively, he achieved with one hand tied behind his back, and he would not be stopped.

Frederick Douglass said that a man should not be judged by how high he climbs but rather he should be judged by the depths from which he has had to climb from.

Marshall ''Major'' Taylor is a quintessential example of the American spirit and African American capacity for resistance and excellence in the midst of it all.

I rise today in support of legislation that would posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal to Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor.

And would finally recognize him as the first American international champion.

Marshall Taylor was affectionately known as Major Taylor, and he remains in death as he was in life, namely, America's first sports hero—a feat that took place in the late 1800s and makes what he accomplished all the more extraordinary and astounding.

Consider, if you will, the fact that here is an African-American man born in 1878 amid the sound and fury of post-Civil War America.

And for those who miss the significance of this, it means that Major Taylor came into being at a time when the old resentments of the defeated Confederacy were beginning to push the nation back into the clutches of a desperate and cynical racial antipathy.

Major Taylor did not come of age at a moment in American history when it was easy to be black.

In fact, he dared to be great at a time when the color of his skin was a crime.

That is to suggest a punishable offense for which millions of black people were persecuted without justification or cause.

And yet, in spite of the indignities assigned to him because of his race, in 1899, Mr. Taylor went on to become the fastest man on a bike and an international world champion in the sport of cycling.

And yet, oddly, Mr. Speaker, very few people in this country know anything about him.

Very few people know that the biggest sport in the latter half of the 19th century was cycling, and that an African-American man was the first great international champion in that sport.

One wonders today: how is such a thing even possible?

Why has it taken so long to honor a man who should've never been forgotten in the first place.

How can it be the case that most people know little to nothing about the extraordinary contribution of this man to the American experience—to say nothing of his quantifiable greatness with respect to American sports?

Let me put a finer point on it . . .

Before there was Jack Johnson,

Before there was Joe Louis,

Before there was Jesse Owens,

Before there was Jackie Robinson,

There was Marshall Taylor.

The Son of an enslaved family

The son of a veteran of the civil war.

The first international superstar.

The first black athlete to have a corporate sponsorship . . .

The fastest man in the world . . .

A man so committed to his faith that he would not race on Sundays, so subsequently, the governing body of the international cycling community changed racing day to Saturday in order to accommodate the discipline and dedication of his faith.

Major Taylor was the first African-American world champion of any sport.

And yet most people don't even know who he is because he has been conveniently erased.

That is to say, rendered invisible,

And therefore, condemned to exist on the peripheries and in the margins of historical memory as if what he accomplished was not of any note.

Not valuable.

Tragically insignificant and unimportant.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

With the heel of an entire nation pressing down upon his neck—and with the recriminations of an entire culture withholding from him the support he deserved . . . Marshal Major Taylor did it anyway.

He didn't just win; rather, he won in spite of the facts.

He didn't just succeed; he succeeded against the odds.

He didn't just achieve, but impressively, he achieved with one hand tied behind his back.

And he would not be stopped.

Frederick Douglass said that a man should not be judged by how high he climbs, but should rather be judged by the depths from which she has had to climb from.

Marshall Major Taylor is the quintessential example of the American spirit, and the African-American capacity for resistance and excellence in the midst of it all.

I rise today in support of this legislation because the awarding of this medal is an act long over due.

To bestow this honor is the least a grateful nation can do for someone denied the recognition and respect he deserved.

And so . . . . it is all together fitting that we memorialize the achievements and legacy of this extraordinary American.

And each of us should take pride in knowing that the time has finally come for this nation to honor one of its most accomplished sons.

A Trailblazer,

A Pioneer,

A man of dignity,

An American,

An African-American,

A Champion.

And perhaps most of all, a man of remarkable faith.

The first great African-American world champion in any sport should not be relegated to the ash-heap of history—and today, with this legislation, we endeavor to put Major Taylor back where he belongs.

In the winner circle.

And alongside the best of what this nation has to offer. I yield back the remainder of my time.

WHY SECTION 702 IS ESSENTIAL

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members of Congress who are here today.

Today, we stand on the forefront of America's capability to collect and protect our Nation's most critical intelligence. This is known as the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, specifically section 702.

Now, some have asked: Why is 702 essential? I answer in no uncertain terms, it has saved thousands of American lives. It is a powerful tool to safeguard hundreds of millions of Americans from the attacks coming from terrorists, foreign agents, and vicious attackers.

Some have rightfully asked: Are we willing to sacrifice America's liberty for the sake of security?

With this, I will not abide. For too long, the failures to reform section 702 have led to abuse, nowhere more clear than our own Department of Justice where spies against America are not just overseas but right here in the United States.

Americans should rightly ask: What is Congress' role and what will be our aim, Mr. Speaker? To this, I answer directly: We must protect this Nation, we must reform section 702 of FISA, and we must hold our adversaries accountable, both in our government and those overseas.

Now, there is broad recognition that section 702 offers intelligence value on a range of evolving priorities, including terrorism, cybersecurity, and espionage. In fact, 702 serves as the foundation for much of the Nation's most important intelligence, providing decisionmakers critical information at their time of need. Nearly 60 percent of the ''President's Daily Brief,'' a briefing book that I have in my time as a counterintelligence officer helped brief and prepare, comes from FISA 702.

Before us, you see one of the greatest threats to America, the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks. The drone strike, which I have flown over watch for and supported operational units like this, was the weapon that we used to take out just last year, 2022, the terrorist al-Zawahiri. The targeting unit that ensured that we didn't have collateral damage was provided with acute intelligence to ensure that innocent loss of life did not occur. I know this, being a commander of a targeting unit that has executed missions almost identical to this. I also know that flying aboard recon aircraft, we have been the collectors of some of the most important intelligence, including that that provides section 702 its ability to be successful.

From 2018 to 2022, FISA section 702 collection played a critical role in 70 percent of successful CIA-supported weapons and counterproliferation disruptions, weapons that would have ended up in the hands of terrorists like we have just seen in the attack on Israel.

Last year, section 702 collection played a role in more than 50 percent of the CIA counternarcotic disruptions, that same fentanyl entering the United States today.

Additionally, declassified examples of 702, which I can share on the homeland today, make sure that foreign actors' illicit plans to smuggle methamphetamines across the U.S. borders, the quantities and potencies of fentanyl destined for illegal transfer to the United States, as well as specific smuggling techniques used to avoid them, techniques, when breached, are actually able to save Americans.

The involvement of a foreign official in one of these narcotic trafficking schemes to transport fentanyl pills to the United States was thwarted because of intelligence capabilities to do this.

Section 702 resulted in the identification disruption of hostile foreign actors' attempts to recruit spies in the United States, including right here on U.S. soil where operations were conducted to kidnap and assassinate U.S. senior leaders. The timely identification of foreign intelligence government's plans and the intent was revealed by 702.

Law enforcement across the country are asking for us to maintain the ability to provide them the tools to safeguard our country. Our first responders demand this and Congress must act.

Simply put, 702-acquired information is used daily to disrupt threats to the United States. However, given the FBI's unacceptable compliance failures, there is also a responsibility that Congress must include safeguards to uphold the privacy, civil liberties, and international trade in a digital world, including criminal punishments for those in our own government who continue to this day to go unchallenged.

As a Member of Congress, we must work together to reform and reauthorize 702. It should be our overarching goal to protect the United States from foreign threats while simultaneously protecting the Fourth Amendment rights of private citizens.

Importantly, any lapse or significant change that hinders the use of 702 unnecessarily blinds the United States to a range of threats, meanwhile taking dangerous risks to allow foreign terrorism to occur right here on our soil.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the threats we face in the 21st century are both multifaceted and ever-evolving: terrorism, cybercrime, the activities of hostile actors, and a demand for sophisticated, adaptive response.

Therefore, we must move forward in holding not only the FBI accountable but making sure that Americans have the ability to protect themselves from threats overseas and within our own government.

□ 1045

END HYPE OVER CO_2

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, several hundred private aircraft have left Dubai after a couple of weeks of wining and dining in the hot climate there in order to tell us how we should live our lives. They want to tell us how we should cut back or eliminate meat in our diets and how we should change our agriculture in this country to just be less of it. I guess they want to put us all on a forced diet, according to their view of the world.

What does that really mean for us here? Less agriculture and fewer products grown in this country and in the European countries that want to play along with the Paris accords and such.

One interesting little fact that gets in the way of all that is that the U.S. and Europe have already reduced their CO_2 emissions down 10 to 15 percent in the last 2 years. This is without the Paris accord even having come fully into effect yet.

It is other countries, like Asia, where numbers are dramatically increasing on CO_2.

That assumes that CO_2 is actually a problem. CO_2, carbon dioxide, is only represented by 0.04 percent of our atmosphere. That is 4/100ths of 1 percent is what CO_2 makes up.

I talk to people on the street or at gatherings and events where I am speaking. How much of the air do you think is actually CO_2? They have been hyped so much since grade school. They have kids scared to death. They say that CO_2 is somewhere between 20 and 50 percent. No. It is 0.04 percent.

It is not a poisonous gas. I have had the argument of, well, it is like having fentanyl in your cereal or something like that. No, it is a necessary gas for plant life. We are all breathing it in right now. We are exhaling it right now. There are plants somewhere gladly absorbing it.

If we go below 0.02 percent, plant life starts dying off. We would be in a pretty bad way. Yet, the hype over CO_2 continues as they have the COP28 in Dubai. They sit there hatching plans to control our lives, especially in the Western countries.

The plans for China and places like that continue to ramp up with more coal power plants and much more use of oil and gas. Oil and gas have been villainized by California, the EPA, and so many, including an idea over there that the Arab countries have produced so much petroleum, so they were supposed to have that conversation at COP28. They kind of put that off as getting rid of oil and gas.

If we were even to contemplate that, you couldn't do it for at least four or five decades because we are so engrained with using that product to do anything—planting crops or transporting anything. If you got it, a truck

brought it. It is probably a diesel-powered truck.

You see so many failed efforts to electrify vehicles, cars, trucks, et cetera. There are a few out there getting around, yes, but not on a dependable basis to keep our supply chain going.

What we keep learning is that you have elites over at conferences like this saying that we need to cut back on meat, cut out agriculture. They want us to cut 30 percent of our agriculture. There is already a food shortage in much of the world, and even in some of our urban areas in this country, what we call food deserts.

What is their reality with that? There is no reality to this. This is a way to control our lives, our choices, as they want to phase out meat and agricultural products grown in this country.

Do you want to depend on it coming from somewhere else? That works really great. Wait until they have a food embargo like the fuel embargoes we had in the 1970s. The rest of the world does not look out for the needs of the United States like we do ourselves.

It is about time we put aside this nonsense of getting to some kind of zero output of carbon by 2035 or 2050 or whatever round number they dream up as a goal. Like my home State of California, they do it all the time.

At the same time that they are saying less carbon, they are also taking away the means to produce carbon-free electricity, such as tearing out the dams on the Klamath River and other dams up in Oregon and Washington that make clean hydroelectric power, low-cost power.

Why do we need to have our electricity cost so much because of some people's wild dream, and controlling dream, on eliminating CO_2, which is really not a problem? It is not a poisonous gas. It is not negative. Carbon is a building block of all of what we have and what we do.

That isn't talked about a lot. Instead, we hear this side of the room half the time—it is all about carbon. Every conversation, every committee has to filter something through climate change. Climate change is a constant in our lives and on our planet. That reality doesn't get talked about, it is just hype, hype, hype.

Czar Kerry comes back with more and more ideas on how to control us and take away the basic sustenance that makes this country strong with its energy and self-provision of food that keep us strong.

PROTECTING THE UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—the unborn.

Since 1973, over 60 million American children have lost their lives to the atrocity of abortion, the greatest human rights violation in history.

We often boast that we are a nation of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Yet, we deny this sacred right to the most innocent among us.

Last year, the Supreme Court gave the unborn a monumental victory with the Dobbs ruling, returning the issue of abortion to Congress and the States. That is why today I am introducing a series of three bills designed to further protect the most vulnerable among us—the unborn.

First, the Love Them Both Act would prevent the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from exploiting the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act to cover abortion or abortion-related services. The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act is designed to protect pregnant women from discrimination in the workplace, and it should not be used for political purposes.

We have a responsibility to ensure both women and their unborn children are treated equally and fairly, and the Love Them Both Act does exactly that.

Second, the Pregnancy Is Not an Illness Act would correct a longstanding but erroneous conclusion of the FDA. In 2000, the FDA fast-tracked approval of dangerous abortion-inducing drugs. To do so, they declared abortion to be a life-threatening illness. As a mother of seven, I can assure you that pregnancy is very much not an illness or disability, but rather, nothing short of a miracle from the hand of God. The Pregnancy Is Not an Illness Act would prohibit the FDA from ever calling pregnancy an illness again for the purpose of approving abortion-inducing drugs.

Lastly, I am introducing the Woman's Right to Know Act so that women seeking abortions are fully aware of the consequences of their actions. This bill would require an abortion provider to perform an ultrasound and then describe the development of the unborn child to the mother. My bill would also ask for a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion is performed. These are simple, commonsense steps aimed to prevent a woman from making a decision she will regret for the rest of her life.

In Psalm 139:13–16, David writes: ''For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the Earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.''

Life is the most precious gift we have. Without it, we have nothing. If we don't protect the right to life, all of our other rights are in danger of being taken away. We cannot call ourselves a nation of liberty and justice for all when we deprive this most sacred right from the most vulnerable among us.

We are in the midst of the most joyous time of year, Christmas. Although this is the season of parties, concerts, and family time, that is not why we celebrate. We celebrate Christmas because of God's greatest gift to mankind, Jesus. Without him, there would be no Christmas. What better time to protect the cause of life than this special season of Christmas?

Make no mistake, the world is watching, and so is Almighty God. They are watching to see if we will live up to our promise of providing freedom and a bright future to anyone born here. They are watching to see if we truly want everyone to achieve the American Dream. They are watching to see if we really are that shining city set on a hill that John Winthrop and Ronald Reagan proclaimed us to be.

To quote one of my favorite Presidents, and accurately, I might add, Ronald Reagan famously said: ''I have noticed that everybody that is for abortion has already been born.''

Mr. Speaker, you and I had the chance at life. We have been given the chance to live fulfilling lives, and I believe God has called each one of us to this body for a specific purpose.

Mr. Speaker, 60 million of our children have not had that chance, and if we really want to create a bright American future, that is the least they deserve.

I believe these three bills will go a long way toward protecting the most vulnerable among us, and I urge the House to act swiftly in passing them.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. LES GUICE, PRESIDENT OF LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a dear friend and respected member of the Ruston, Louisiana, community, the president of Louisiana Tech University, Dr. Les Guice.

President Guice has tirelessly served Louisiana Tech in multiple capacities over the course of 45 years and recently completed his 10th year as the university's president.

He graduated from Louisiana Tech in 1976 with a bachelor of arts in architecture, earning a master's degree in civil engineering in 1978, and served as an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. He was promoted to associate professor in 1981. After obtaining his Ph.D. in civil engineering from Texas A&M in 1988, he earned a full professorship and became the permanent department head of civil engineering.

President Guice impacted countless students in the classroom before serving as the dean of the College of Engineering and Science in the late 1990s. His extensive and impressive list of accomplishments at Louisiana Tech

speaks to President Guice's dedication to students and faculty, as well as his unwavering commitment to excellence and higher education.

His leadership facilitated groundbreaking faculty and student research, multiple national and global rankings, historic enrollments and graduations, notable philanthropic campaigns, and the innovative expansion of the school's campus.

President Guice kindled public and private partnerships, bridging the gap between government resources and private-sector efficiency. He truly understood the concept of ''town and gown'' by working diligently with Ruston local officials to make sure it always felt like that special college town where students could enjoy both the campus as well as the beautiful amenities the city of Ruston has to offer.

He consistently inspired both students and faculty to seize their potential, ultimately enabling the university to achieve higher goals year after year. He promoted diverse perspectives among his teams and encouraged each person around him to pursue their passions, and then he would give them the runway to fly.

I remember attending an event where President Guice was giving a campus update to the community. He asked all of his faculty and staff to stand up. He gave all the credit for every success that Louisiana had under his presidency to them. That is the kind of man President Guice is: always working behind the scenes, giving credit to others, and delighting in their successes.

There is a reason people call Louisiana Tech a family. You can't help but feel it when you are on their campus. That kind of culture comes from the top down.

Kristi Stake, a professor at Louisiana Tech, said it best when I asked her about him. She said that Dr. Guice never wanted the focus to be on him. He always put the spotlight on the people around him, especially the students. He accomplished a lot that people will probably never know.

President Guice continuously put students' success as his top priority as he created a thriving environment where students felt welcome. He supported the development of strong academic programs, a robust school culture, and a place where students could be successful.

We know that beside every strong man is often an equally strong woman. Kathy Guice has served selflessly by his side as the first lady of Louisiana Tech. They have opened their home to countless students, faculty, and staff, helping to cultivate that warm family environment.

□ 1100

Also not lost on me are the sacrifices a person makes when they are in public service, especially the toll it takes on your family life. Nevertheless, Kathy was always up for the challenge, making everyone feel welcome. She is the ultimate steel magnolia, and I thank her for her service.

Today, I echo thousands of Louisianians in celebrating President Guice's retirement from his influential career at Louisiana Tech University and his extensive legacy that will continue to grow and thrive because of programs, innovation, and partnerships that he helped to form during his tenure. He will be fondly remembered by friends, faculty, and students, and his work will continue to benefit the community. He may be retiring, but we know he will always be there cheering on the Bulldogs.

I thank Dr. Guice. He transformed an entire region, and for that we will be forever grateful.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Yours is the spirit, O Holy One, that at creation brought order from chaos, that separated the waters from the dry land, and breathed Your very breath into humanity.

On this new day, inspire us anew. Open our hearts to Your transforming power in our lives and in this place. Where there is disorder, reveal Your direction. Where there is darkness, shed Your light. Where there is indifference, stir us with purpose. Divide all bitterness and allow civility to establish a foothold.

Create a new heart within us, O God, our creator. Renew a steadfast spirit within us. Do not cast us from Your redeeming spirit but restore to us the joy of Your salvation. Grant us a willing spirit to sustain us in our service to You and to this Nation and to Your people.

To You, O Lord, does everything on Earth owe its life. May all that lives and breathes, glorify Your holy name this day.

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 Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI 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 will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BORDER SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

(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, it should be obvious and common sense, but border security is national security. President Biden's open border policies have incentivized this historic surge in illegal immigration at our southern and northern borders.

Since taking office, over 6.4 million illegal crossings have happened at our southern border; 1.7 million known gotaways have evaded U.S. Border Patrol and are now in our country.

Every State is now a border State. Every town is now a border town. They are living in New York. Democrats are proposing that our national parks be used not for people to enjoy but to house illegal immigrants, which will only further encourage this crisis.

Republicans and Democrats alike have condemned Biden's border crisis, but we must stop incentivizing further waves of illegal immigrants by providing them with free housing.

House Republicans will continue to fight to secure our border and eliminate the financial burden illegal immigrants are putting on American taxpayers and our institutions, our towns, our States. That is why we passed H.R. 2 to secure the border, which is the strongest border security package in American history.

SUBMINIMUM WAGE PAID TO AIRPORT WORKERS

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, thousands of janitors, bag handlers, wheelchair attendants, and others at our Nation's airports work for wages as low as $2.13 plus tips.

That is not a typo. This is called the national subminimum wage, and it is unacceptable. Workers who help more

than 3 million airport travelers every day deserve better.

In Chicago, more than 6,000 such workers represented by SEIU Local 1 now get a living wage and decent benefits, but far too many workers still depend on the luck of a tip jar to augment their measly $2.13 hourly wage. A $2.13 hourly wage will not fly.

Let's ground a $2.13 hourly wage once and for all. Let's pass the Good Jobs for Good Airports Act now.

RECOGNIZING HAYLEY AND STEPHANIE PAINTER OF PAINTERLAND SISTERS YOGURT

(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 today to recognize Hayley and Stephanie Painter of Tioga County. The Painter sisters are fourth-generation farmers who started an organic skyr yogurt brand to preserve their family's Pennsylvania farm in 2020.

Painterland Sisters Yogurt now sells across nearly 2,000 locations at grocery stores, including Giant, Whole Foods, Sprouts, and Gristedes.

They also sell the cream left over when making yogurt to make ice cream.

Earlier this year, Painterland Sisters was named on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Food and Drink List. The Painter sisters, like many younger-generation farmers, were looking for a way to carry on their family's agricultural legacy while making it their own.

Their family's farm is home to 400 cows who graze all over the property. The Painter sisters' dedication and passion for the family farm and business have led to tremendous success.

I congratulate the Painter sisters on this magnificent accomplishment. Keep making delicious and nutritious yogurt.

Farmers feed. Nutrition matters. Whole milk heals.

LIBERIA 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year legacy of Liberia, a historically Black neighborhood, rich with culture, art, faith, strong families, and a rich legacy nestled in the city of Hollywood, Florida.

This diverse community is filled with people of all backgrounds today, but there was a time when Black residents were only afforded one option: the Liberian neighborhood.

The Liberia name is fitting, as it represents freedom.

With this spirit of freedom imbued within the people, the community was inhabited mostly by Black people from The Bahamas and the Southern United States.

Through determination, faith, and resilience, the residents of Liberia built a community with a strong foundation where they not only could live but thrive.

Some of the early residents, such as Robert Mitchell and Henry Graham and fourth-generation Liberia resident Commissioner Linda Hill Anderson, were and are pioneers for progress for countless individuals who emerged from Liberia to become successful professionals, elected officials, athletes, artists, and role models.

I celebrate the perseverance and brilliance of this community today and for generations to come.

I congratulate Liberia on 100 years. Here is to 100 more.

CONGRATULATING HOT SPRINGS VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD ON THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Hot Springs Volunteer Rescue Squad for 60 years of serving the people of Bath County.

Since 1963, the Hot Springs Rescue Squad has provided emergency medical services to its citizens including cardiac care, cave rescue, vehicle rescue, search and rescue, and water rescue, along with treatment and transport for medical and trauma patients.

With 1 paramedic, 3 intermediate, 6 advanced, 5 drivers, and 20 basic providers, the squad responds to multiple calls for service weekly, and each one of the team members conducts their job professionally and swiftly.

Throughout its history, the Hot Springs Rescue Squad and its members have been nominated and received multiple awards, including the first-place trophy at the State EMT competition in Roanoke.

The Squad's longevity stands as a testament to the civic spirit of the town and an example we should all follow: to always lend a helping hand.

I congratulate again the Hot Springs Volunteer Rescue Squad on their 60th anniversary, and I wish them many more years of success.

EXPANDING MILK OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, as a pediatrician, I understand that sometimes competing concerns about making sure that children who are food insecure get enough good-quality food to eat at school, and at the same time making sure those meals do not contribute to our epidemic of childhood obesity and its accompanying diseases.

It was trying to balance those priorities that led to 2012 guidelines that prohibited schools from offering 2 percent and whole milk.

Interestingly, data compiled and analyzed from multiple studies since then does not show a correlation between whole milk and increased obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease when compared with other milks. In fact, some studies show the opposite.

In addition, milk is packed with nutrients like calcium and vitamin D. As a consequence of the drop in milk consumption since these restrictions, many children lack sufficient vitamin D and calcium intake.

Vitamin D deficiency is known to adversely affect bone growth and bone density. It may also play a role in increasing the risk for autoimmune diseases. Many of my patients had very low vitamin D levels.

While some children will choose water instead of the lowest fat milks, many others will choose juice or other sugary drinks which carry zero nutritional value and pose known health risks.

I am proud to have introduced the Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act, and I encourage my colleagues to vote with me in passing this bill.

SECURING THE BORDER

(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, I have warned over 110 times that the global war on terrorism is not over with appeasement in Afghanistan leading to terrorist attacks on American families with Biden open borders.

The threat is clear. We see the shocking number of trained, well-financed mass murderers invading America, this year reaching 169. Ukraine was invaded, then Israel was invaded. Now America invaded.

House Republicans addressed the border issue earlier this year with the Secure Borders Act, blocked by Senate Democrats. It promotes restarting wall construction, advancing technology, adding border patrol, ending catch and release, and reversing executive authorities.

Each Congressional office has a rally point in the event of an attack.

I urge all families to plan a rally point. Communications may be disrupted, and every family member should know where to gather for safety before the roads are closed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years. It is sadly clear, there will be more 9/11 attacks across America, imminent as the FBI has finally revealed last week.

BRIDES MARCH

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the women of the Brides March, who for 24 years since Gladys Ricart's tragic death on her wedding day, have held the annual Brides March in her memory to speak out against domestic violence.

Each year, I host the brides in Washington to honor Gladys' life and legacy. During this past National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I reintroduced my Gladys Ricart Resolution, which fights back against domestic violence.

I will not rest until Gladys Ricart's story is told across America and is a thing of the past. We will continue to fight to prevent domestic violence. Every State in the Union must have a code of laws against domestic violence.

We will always remember Gladys Ricart.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

SECURING OUR OWN NUCLEAR SUPPLY CHAIN

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, there is no reason our Nation should be importing natural resources from Russia as we have an abundance of untapped energy resources right here under our feet.

H.R. 1042, the Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act, represents a crucial step forward in protecting our national security, safeguarding our interests, and ensuring the responsible use of nuclear energy within the United States.

We must recognize the importance of having safe nuclear energy in our national energy portfolio and the related need for responsible sourcing of critical minerals like uranium.

The risk of relying on Russian imports is just too high. Becoming energy independent will make us stronger in the long run. We must utilize our domestic resources and our trustworthy friends. Let us consider the strategic importance of securing our own nuclear supply chain.

By passing H.R. 1042, we affirm our commitment to energy independence, national security, and responsible governance.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MAYOR FRED YATES

(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 celebrate the retirement of an incredible human being and leader, Fred Yates, who served as the mayor of Winfall, North Carolina, for more than 30 years.

He was the first African American to hold this position. His leadership brought transformative projects, including a new town hall, a sewer system, and public safety for the town residents.

I congratulate Mayor Yates on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his commitment to making eastern North Carolina better. His impact will be felt for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American woman who has served our Nation and my State so admirably throughout many decades.

Sandra Day O'Connor is an American icon and was a trailblazer for thousands of women to pursue and achieve their dreams.

This amazing woman was born in 1930 and grew up on the Lazy B Ranch in southeastern Arizona. She went on to serve in the Arizona Attorney General's office and then as the county's first female State senate majority leader in the Arizona legislature.

After being elected as a judge to the Maricopa County Superior Court, she was nominated by President Ronald Reagan as America's first female Supreme Court Justice.

She always showed courage, leadership, and independence throughout her time in government. Her contributions to the fabric of this Nation will be cherished for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING GREAT PROGRESS BY DEMOCRATS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great progress my Democratic colleagues and I have made for our constituents this Congress. We worked across the aisle to keep the government funded and ensure our servicemembers continue to get paid. We fought against reckless attempts to cut Social Security and Medicare and restrict reproductive freedom.

Despite the endless chaos and political theater, we have never stopped legislating, because at the end of the day, Oregonians sent me here to get things done, and I can honestly say I am sticking to that promise.

I have introduced six bipartisan bills and cosponsored dozens more. Just last month, the House passed my first bill to restore land claims and compensation rights to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

I am proud of the things we have accomplished in 2023, but there is more work ahead of us. In the coming year, I urge my colleagues in both parties to join me in pushing past the gridlock. Working together, we can deliver real, tangible results for the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1147, WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 357, ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGENCY RULEMAKING ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 922 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 922

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union 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. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. 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 in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House 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. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, on any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress before January 9, 2024— (a) the Speaker may dispense with organizational and legislative business; and (b) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved if applicable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 357 and H.R. 1147. It provides a structured rule for H.R. 1147 and makes in order bipartisan and Republican amendments, provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 357 under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Committee on the Judiciary and one motion to recommit.

Under our Constitution, those who make the laws are accountable to those who elect them. Career Federal employees are not beholden to the voters of this Nation, and yet unelected bureaucrats across the Federal agencies—in one case in particular, a single low-level career employee—have been making thousands of rules that impact this country's voters and taxpayers.

According to a recent Pacific Legal Foundation study, career employees and unconfirmed officials issued over 70 percent of the rules at the Department of Health and Human Services between 2001 and 2017. These rules have economic impacts on the people of this country, just as the laws we pass in this Chamber do, yet we are accountable to the voters who elect us. Federal employees are accountable to no one.

Former President Trump addressed this issue with an executive order that required agencies' informal notice-and-comment rules to be initiated and signed by senior appointees, with exceptions. The Biden administration has revoked that. As a result of revoking this order, in 2021, Congress passed just 143 laws while Federal agencies issued 3,257 rules, costing taxpayers $1.927 trillion, or the equivalent of $14,684 per household.

According to the study, only 2 percent of the Food and Drug Administration's rules were issued by principal officers, and 25 of these rules had an impact on the American economy of at least $100 million or had other substantial economic impacts. That means unelected bureaucrats, who are not accountable to the taxpayers, are costing those taxpayers thousands upon thousands of dollars.

This majority has made a commitment to ensuring our Federal Government is held accountable. The Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act would lessen the power of career civil servants who are not accountable to the taxpayer. It would require, with exceptions, that rules be issued and signed by presidentially nominated and Senate-confirmed appointees. This upholds the Constitution by putting decisions in the hands of those who are held accountable to the American people. It improves the ways this government is by the people and for the people.

We are also here to discuss the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. Mr. Speaker, coming from one of the top dairy producing districts in the country, I am proud to stand here in support of this legislation. The bill expands milk options for the school lunch programs under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to include flavored, unflavored, whole, and reduced-fat milks.

Whole milk has been demonized as unhealthy, but it is full of the calcium, potassium, vitamin D, and protein that growing kids need. Since the misguided Obama-era regulations were put in place that the Biden administration has chosen to continue, rather than seeing health improve, we have continued to see child health decline. We also have fewer people participating in the school lunch programs. Like many of the regulations that took place at the time, the milk restrictions are not having their intended effect.

Meanwhile, dairy farmers in my district are struggling. Milk prices and demand remain stubbornly low, in most cases below the margin of your average dairy farm. For what purpose? Because the Federal Government places arbitrary restrictions on the meals our children can enjoy?

This bill is a win-win for children and producers alike. It gets kids the nutrients they need while giving schools more flexibility to meet the needs of their students, and it provides a larger market for dairy farmers to sell their delicious product they stand proudly behind.

Mr. Speaker, I support the underlying legislation, urge all Members to do so, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is here in the Capitol today. The President of Ukraine left his war-torn country to come to the United States to plead for our help in repelling Putin's murderous and unlawful invasion, in protecting his people, and in preserving their democracy.

As he did so, Putin unleashed a devastating missile attack on Kyiv and was captured on video drinking champagne and toasting the downfall of Ukraine if its Western allies falter.

President Zelenskyy came here to ask the United States to stand tall and honor its commitment to an ally, its commitment to democracy, and its commitment to upholding international law. In response, the United States House of Representatives is debating the merits of chocolate milk.

We will not long remember the MAGA majority's great gas stove war of 2023 or their attempts to make it easier to kill the endangered lesser prairie-chicken, but the sad fact is, these bills have consumed weeks of precious floor time this year as the House majority struggles to pass any legislation of note.

□ 1230

The world will, however, remember if the United States fails to support Ukraine in its hour of need.

President Zelenskyy, our NATO allies, and the American people should expect better from this Congress. Under this extremist majority, they are doomed to disappointment, which again brings us here today to debate chocolate milk.

When I was home this past weekend, I had the chance to talk with many of

my constituents. I met with women small business owners to discuss their challenges. I talked to college students about their concerns regarding attacks on reproductive freedom here in the United States. I gathered with people in our community who have lost loved ones, neighbors, and friends to gun violence, and I listened to their calls for action on commonsense gun safety legislation.

Overwhelmingly, people came to talk to me about making our country a place where all Americans, all children, can thrive. That means bringing down the cost of healthcare, childcare, household energy, and high-speed internet so families can care for their kids, heat their homes, and stay connected. This means investing in infrastructure, good-paying jobs, and public education so we can strengthen our economy, lower costs, build safer communities, and create opportunities so everyone has a shot at a brighter future.

These are the things I came to Congress to do.

In these last legislative days of the year, these aren't the things that House Republicans are doing. I would call it unbelievable except we have seen the same story play out over and over again in this Chamber all year.

For months on end, MAGA extremists have dragged our country to the brink of default, nearly shut down the government twice, and even ousted their own Speaker. Pushed by the most extreme members of their Conference, they have brought chaos to the House floor. They have put up bills only for them to tank and have to be withdrawn as they fight among themselves. They spent 25 days just arguing over which one of them should be Speaker. This is all on the American people's dime.

Now, with pressing challenges at home and around the world, they are pushing a completely discredited impeachment inquiry and other naked political stunts, all to distract from their own inability to govern. They have done nothing to deliver for the American people, and Americans deserve better than this.

House Republicans refuse to get their act together. Today, they have brought to the floor two misguided and marginal bills that fail to address any of the major threats or concerns our country or our constituents face. Both bills open the door to the influence of more special interests in our government's functions.

I should note that, today, we were supposed to consider two additional bills impacting our national security and individual rights. Due to infighting among Republicans and their own committee chairs, these measures were pulled last night from the schedule, leaving us with another wasted day of chaos and incompetence.

The first bill we have today is H.R. 1147, which makes changes to school nutrition standards in a way that would undermine science and undo important progress made over the past 13 years.

Schools play an essential role in our kids' health. For so many children, the meals they get at school represent the majority of calories and the most nutritious meals they consume all day.

We saw this reality clearly during the first days of the pandemic when, as schools closed down, the prospect of missed school breakfasts and lunches threatened the health of children across America.

The meals served in schools are based on the most recent set of dietary guidelines as determined by child nutrition experts. These guidelines stay current and are updated at least every 5 years. In fact, in February of this year, the Biden-Harris administration began the latest update.

When I served on my local school board, and before as a Home and School president, I was involved in efforts to improve and implement what was at the time new Federal improved nutrition standards for our district's meals.

Through that experience, I know just how important nutritious meals are to helping students succeed and form lifelong healthy habits. We have seen immense benefits since Congress passed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act in 2010.

The research shows that the millions of children who participate in school meal programs have better overall diet quality than those who do not. Studies prove, despite arguments to the contrary, that students eat and enjoy these meals. When presented with healthy choices, they take them.

Allowing whole milk, particularly flavored whole milk, to be served in schools is against current dietary recommendations and against the recommendation of experts, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Heart Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We know that too much saturated fat can raise bad cholesterol levels, a known cause of heart disease. Most troubling, many varieties of flavored milk that are pushed by this bill contain unhealthy chemicals, such as artificial colors and flavors, and nearly twice the amount of sugar as plain milk.

At a time when one in five school-age children already has adverse cholesterol levels, we should not be making it easier to serve unhealthier meals in schools.

This bill blatantly ignores the science.

Even if you deny these facts, everyone should be able to admit we are long overdue for a comprehensive child nutrition reauthorization. We owe it to students and their families to consistently improve the meals that schools are serving. The last comprehensive reauthorization of the laws governing school meal programs was done 13 years ago.

I wish the Republican majority would spend more time helping to pass comprehensive policies to support our schools as they work to provide healthier and more satisfying meals to our students within current nutritional standards. We should not waste time on this one-off change to serve special interests that circumvent the normal process for updating meal standards.

I think we owe it to our children, their health, and their futures to let the experts guide what we are providing them to eat in schools. We should not allow politicians to make the decisions in what should be a science-based process.

Today, we are also considering H.R. 357, another attempt by the Republican majority to derail the Federal rulemaking process. This is an unnecessary and vague bill designed to undermine the critical work of Federal agencies.

It is part of a MAGA narrative that unfairly and untruthfully paints hardworking Federal employees, nonpartisan experts in their fields, as faceless bureaucrats who are somehow hostile to everyday Americans.

The fact is that the regulatory process that our Republican colleagues seek to frame as a battle against some vast bureaucratic conspiracy is actually an essential part of ensuring that we all have clean air and water to breathe and drink, healthy food to eat, and safe planes, trains, and automobiles to travel in.

The truth is that Congress already has a wide range of ways to exercise oversight and control over rulemaking.

If the majority is so concerned about improving the process, they would join Democratic efforts to ensure corporate interests can't game that process. They would advocate for incorporating more public feedback in those agencies' decisions.

They don't really want to make the process better. Instead, bills like this would create a bottleneck in our government's operations that will prevent rules that the Republican majority doesn't like.

This bill would politicize the process of confirming nominees to administrative agencies even more than it is already. Individual Senators would have even more incentive to block an administration's nomination for partisan and corporate goals. More corporate influence would be allowed to infiltrate the Senate confirmation process. Ultimately, our agencies would be obstructed from doing important work to protect the American people's health and safety and making government function better.

It is clear my Republican colleagues don't want to make our government work better. These aren't traditional conservatives. They are nihilists dedicated to grinding government to a halt.

With this bill and their previous efforts to decimate Federal rulemaking, they prefer to upend the regulatory process, even if it improves the lives of Americans every single day.

The Federal Government has long played an important role in promoting

the health, safety, and welfare of the American people. We should ensure that it is able to continue doing so.

Again and again, we have seen this Republican majority prioritize the wrong things this year, and today is no different. They are using valuable floor time and committee time to pass marginal bills, enable their own infighting, and launch an act of petty political vengeance against the current President. Then, they are going to call it a year and go home for the holidays. This is an unacceptable way to govern. It is not governance at all.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply oppose this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I want to comment that rules and rulemaking is one of the things that I hear from my constituents. It is one of the most important things that they talk about and call me about when they have concerns.

I think H.R. 357 simply makes the process accountable the way it should be. We should not have bureaucrats making rules from D.C. for farms in Minnesota or for a variety of streams and waterways in Minnesota when they are not there seeing it.

I think this is an important part of the government being responsive and accountable to the American people. I find it very important that we need to get the rulemaking under control.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the rule that includes consideration of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, an important step to ensuring America's children have access to healthy, nutritious options in their school cafeterias.

I represent the southern tier of New York, known for its proud tradition of dairy farming. Today, the southern tier is one of the top dairy-producing areas of the country. The entire Nation, including our Nation's children, depend on the ability of farmers to make ends meet and to get their products onto shelves, whether it is in our grocery stores or our school cafeterias.

Time and again, we have listened to the challenges dairy farmers are facing, from regulatory overreach, including from the Biden administration, to the volatility in the marketplace that is putting their long-term survival at risk.

The Biden administration's latest changes to the USDA Dietary Guidelines, restricting access to whole milk for children in school cafeterias, are certainly not helpful either.

Contrary to what this administration claims, the science is indisputable here. Milk provides essential minerals and nutrients for growing children. Sadly, thanks to the overreaching policies of bureaucrats here in Washington, the vast majority of America's children are unable to meet the recommended levels of dairy consumption necessary for their health and growth.

Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that all milk options, including whole milk produced by dairy farmers like those in New York's southern tier, are available to America's kids in school. That starts by passing H.R. 1147 and reversing the Biden administration's scientifically unsubstantiated Dietary Guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I look forward to supporting this legislation and ensuring that we don't take healthy, nutritious whole milk from America's kids.

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

The epidemic of gun violence has touched every corner of America, tragically devastating families, tearing apart communities, and scarring schoolchildren.

In 2022, nearly 50,000 people died by guns, an average of one person every 11 minutes. This includes almost 20,000 homicides. Mass shootings skyrocketed from 272 in 2014 to 645 last year. In 2020, firearms became the leading cause of death for American children and adolescents. From 2013 to 2022, there was a staggering 87 percent increase in the child and teen firearm death rate.

In 2023, the heartbreak has only continued. As of today, there have been over 40,000 lives lost and over 630 mass shootings. Over 800 schoolchildren 11 years old or under have been killed or injured with guns. Over 4,000 school-age teens have been touched by gun violence.

The American people are crying out for Congress to act. Yet, the House of Representatives is using its precious time to debate chocolate milk. The American people deserve better.

House Democrats are ready to work with Republicans to tackle this epidemic. If we defeat the previous question today, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 715, a bipartisan bill to require a background check for every firearm sale.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD, along with any extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1245

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. Like the gentlewoman, I spent my entire weekend in my district, and not one person came to me asking me to change the law on chocolate milk.

We have important work to do, Mr. Speaker, and I rise in support of taking action to end the gun violence epidemic.

This holiday season, there will be another 40,000 empty chairs at the dinner table because that is how many people died from gun violence in 2023.

We have had 636 mass shootings this year so far. We have had more mass shootings than days of the year. On one day in April, there were 11 mass shootings.

In America, the greatest country in the history of the world, guns are the leading cause of death for children and teenagers. American children face the daily threat of gun violence in schools, churches, temples, and mosques. They face the risk of gun violence in grocery stores, shopping centers, and in their own homes.

Instead of taking action to protect our kids from gun violence, House Republicans have used valuable floor time playing political games, and this week is just more of the same.

Recently, a House Republican colleague stood on this floor and begged for anyone in their party to come to the floor and name one accomplishment that the Republicans have been able to do that would allow people's lives to be made better.

There is an accomplishment in reach. Today, I call on Republicans to join Democrats and pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. Background checks are popular. They are supported by over 90 percent of the American people, including a majority of Republicans and even a majority of NRA members.

Mr. Speaker, background checks are effective. Every day, background checks stop more than 160 felons and more than 60 domestic abusers from getting a gun from a federally licensed dealer.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question so we can pass the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, save lives, and help ensure that more American families never have to suffer the loss of a loved one.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, as well, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

With the rule we consider today, the Republican majority ends a failed year in the choke hold of its most extreme members. They are finishing out 2023 as they started: unproductive, ineffective, and unconcerned for the American people. They have ignored the real problems facing our Nation today, issues like the gun violence crisis, ongoing threats to Americans' fundamental freedoms, access to economic opportunity and good-paying jobs, and threats to our national security.

They have filled this Chamber with culture wars and conspiracies and pushed policies that would hurt our children, families, students, seniors, members of the Armed Forces, and workers. They have turned their backs on our allies: democracies standing in the breach against forces that pose serious threats to our own national security. They have wasted days, weeks, and months with cheap political stunts all to the detriment and on the dime of our constituents.

Congress is supposed to work for the people, and this is not what the people sent us here to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to put people over politics and to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I do just want to comment that I was in my district this weekend, and I heard a lot about out-of-control rulemaking at the Federal level by the government in general.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker?

I did hear about whole milk, so I do think the issues we are dealing with are of concern to the American people.

Moreover, I am proud of my colleagues for following through on their commitments to the American people. The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act directly responds to constituents who want to expand the options for healthy drinks in our school. Expanding the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to include flavored, unflavored, whole, and reduced fat milk options decreases the control Washington has over the day-to-day choices Americans make and increases the chance that a kid will reach for a milk over a soda.

The Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act holds the government accountable by requiring rules made in Federal agencies to be issued and signed by presidentially nominated and Senate-confirmed appointees, ensuring the rules made in Federal agencies are beholden to taxpayers' priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 922 OFFERED BY MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to consideration of the bill (H.R. 715) to require a background check for every firearm sale. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 715.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 922;

Adoption of House Resolution 922, if ordered; and

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

S. 788,

H.R. 5119,

H.R. 5524, and

H.R. 4531.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1147, WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 357, ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGENCY RULEMAKING ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 205, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 710]

YEAS—216

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

NAYS—205

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera

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

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt
Cammack
Fry
Luna
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Ruiz
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider
Stansbury

□ 1358

Messrs. GALLEGO, JACKSON of North Carolina, Ms. KAPTUR, Messrs. DAVIS of North Carolina and NICKEL changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 710 on the previous question on H. Res. 922, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yea" when I should have voted "nay."

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 710, motion on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 922.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 215, noes 207, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 711]

AYES—215

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

NOES—207

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

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt
Cammack
Cárdenas
Garbarino
Green (TN)
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1404

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DUCK STAMP MODERNIZATION 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 (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 on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 20, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 712]

YEAS—403

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

NAYS—20

Biggs
Burlison
Clyde
Crane
Davidson
Donalds
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gosar
Harshbarger
Higgins (LA)
Luna
Moore (AL)
Norman
Ogles
Perry
Posey
Rosendale
Roy
Self

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt
Cammack
Hoyle (OR)
Meuser
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1410

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.

Stated for:

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 712 today. I strongly support S. 788, and had I been present I would have voted "yea."

PROTECT SMALL BUSINESS AND PREVENT ILLICIT FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 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. 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, 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 Iowa (Mr. NUNN) 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 420, nays 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 713]

YEAS—420

Adams
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)

Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schiff
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt
Cammack
Duarte
Gonzalez, Vicente
Jordan
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider
Smith (NE)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1417

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.

FOREIGN AFFILIATES SHARING PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION 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. 5524) to amend the start date of the pilot program on sharing with foreign branches, subsidiaries and affiliates, 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 Iowa (Mr. NUNN) 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 396, nays 28, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 714]

YEAS—396

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

NAYS—28

Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Brecheen
Buck
Burchett
Burlison
Cloud
Clyde
Crane
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Harshbarger
Higgins (LA)
Loudermilk
Massie
Mast
McClintock
Nehls
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Self
Steube
Tiffany

NOT VOTING—9

Aderholt
Cammack
Collins
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1423

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.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES REAUTHORIZATION 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. 4531) to reauthorize certain programs that provide for opioid use disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment, 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) 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 386, nays 37, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 715]

YEAS—386

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

NAYS—37

Biggs
Bowman
Brecheen
Burchett
Burlison
Bush
Cloud
Crane
Davidson
Frost
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Harris
Higgins (LA)
Houchin
Johnson (GA)
Lee (PA)
Massie
McClintock
Moore (AL)
Nadler
Norman
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Perry
Pressley
Ramirez
Rosendale
Roy
Self
Spartz
Steube
Tiffany
Tlaib

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt
Cammack
Donalds
Foster
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1429

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. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, on roll-call No. 715, the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4531, the Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "yea."

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGENCY RULEMAKING ACT

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 922, I call up 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 ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LESKO). Pursuant to House Resolution 922, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 357

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 ''Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act''.

SEC. 2. RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—

(1) RULES PROMULGATED BY SENATE CONFIRMED APPOINTEE.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any rule promulgated under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall be issued and signed by an individual appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) INITIATION OF RULEMAKING AND REGULATORY AGENDA.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any rule initiated under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall be initiated by a senior appointee.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) or (2) does not apply if the head of an agency—

(A) determines, on a nondelegable basis, that compliance with the relevant paragraph would impede public safety or security;

(B) submits to the Administrator a notification disclosing the reasons for the exemption; and

(C) publishes such notification, consistent with public safety, security, and privacy interests, in the Federal Register.

(b) OVERSIGHT.—

(1) AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—The head of each agency shall ensure that the issuance of any agency rule promulgated under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, adheres to the requirements of this section.

(2) OIRA GUIDANCE AND COMPLIANCE.—The Administrator shall provide guidance on the implementation of and shall monitor agency compliance with this section.

(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section may not be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

(2) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given that term under section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) RULE.—The term ''rule'' has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, and does not include any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(4) SENIOR APPOINTEE.—The term ''senior appointee'' means an individual appointed by the President, or performing the functions and duties of an office that requires appointment by the President, or a non-career member of the Senior Executive Service (or equivalent agency system).

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

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 357.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 357, the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act. This bill will increase the accountability of policymakers in the executive branch. It is a matter of good governance that will benefit the American people.

This bill should not be controversial.

Madam Speaker, 3,168 is the number of final rules enacted by Federal agencies in 2022. During that same year, Congress passed just 247 laws. This statistic helps to illustrate just how much Federal law comes from unelected officials in the administrative state and not from Congress.

Moreover, under current law, some of the bureaucrats who initiate, enact, and enforce regulations lack direct political accountability. For example, according to one analysis, between 2001 and 2017, more than 70 percent of the rules issued by the Department of Health and Human Services were issued by career employees. That number is more than 98 percent for the Food and Drug Administration over the same period. Ninety-eight percent of the rules issued by the FDA are issued by career employees and not by elected officials or by officials who were confirmed by the Senate. Nonetheless, they impose binding legal obligations on Americans.

This is not representative government working as it should. President Trump had a solution for reining in the rulemaking power of career bureaucrats. Executive order 13979 generally required notice-and-comment rules to be initiated and signed by executive branch officials who were politically accountable, not career civil servants. President Biden, however, revoked this policy within weeks of taking office.

H.R. 357, the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act, would remedy this mistake. The bill generally requires that only politically accountable officials and not career bureaucrats initiate and issue regulations. By codifying this limitation on agency rulemaking authority, H.R. 357 helps to restore the accountability of the administrative state.

The bill will increase political accountability for Federal policymaking and restore the right of the American people to choose who governs them.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the so-called Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act is a misguided proposal that will ensure that the process of confirming nominees to administrative agencies is even more politicized and onerous than it is today, while also blocking the regular work of our executive branch agencies.

This bill would require any agency rule promulgated under the Administrative Procedure Act to be issued and signed by someone who was appointed to their position by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This requirement, on its face, may seem innocuous, but it provides Congress with a weapon it can wield to prevent ongoing work of agencies by blocking a President's nominations and leaving an agency without an eligible person to issue regulations.

In the past few decades, the process for Senate confirmation has lengthened considerably. Although we have passed measures like the Federal Vacancies Reform Act to ease this burden, there are still over 1,000 executive branch roles that would require Senate confirmation, and far too many go unfilled for years at a time as it is.

By requiring that rulemaking must be initiated and signed by a Senate-confirmed leader, this bill will make the confirmation process even more politicized, and it could give individual Senators even more incentive to block nominations for the sake of a partisan goal.

This would add unnecessary delay in the creation, promulgation, and implementation of critical new rules, rules that serve to protect the public's health, safety, and security.

The bill's sloppy drafting also adds ambiguity to the process. For example, the bill requires that any rule must be ''initiated'' by a senior appointee, but what action qualifies as ''initiating'' a rule?

Is it when it is first raised in a meeting at the agency?

Is it when staff starts drafting a notice of proposed rulemaking?

Is it when a proposed rule is put out for notice and comment?

Is it something in between?

We do not know.

Determining the answers to these questions will only lead to years of litigation and yet more delay.

To the extent that the bill's sponsors are concerned about transparency and accountability in the regulatory process, Congress already has many ways to exercise its authority over the administrative process. For example, Congress can disapprove regulations under the Congressional Review Act, a power this majority has not been shy in using. It can limit agencies' rulemaking authority, it can restrict the use of funds to implement regulations, and it can conduct oversight of agency activity, among other powers.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is just the latest effort by Republicans to undermine the regulatory process, a process that protects our health and safety each and every day. Regulations ensure that we have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and safe food to eat. They ensure that children's toys and cribs are safe, that medications are safe and effective, and that the planes, trains, and automobiles we depend on for transportation will keep us safe. They ensure that consumers are protected from fraud and discrimination, that workers are treated fairly, that veterans are fairly compensated for their service, and so much more.

Nevertheless, Republicans want to stop this process in its tracks and put our health and safety at risk.

I urge all my colleagues to oppose this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the gentleman from New York talked about the Senate having to waste its time confirming individuals to positions so that they can address these regulations, but the Senate needs to do their job. They need to advise and consent on the nominees from the administration.

The Senate has a means by which to address whatever challenges the gentleman raises, and the President also has the means by which to address these concerns through the process of recess appointments. Now that is not a very commonly used solution anymore, but the President does have that power. So there are ways to address the gentleman's concerns.

In addition, there is an exception to these requirements in the bill. If the head of an agency determines that compliance would impede public safety or security, all that needs to happen is for them to submit a notification disclosing the reasons for the exemption

to the OIRA administrator in publishing the notification in the Federal Register.

□ 1445

Finally, I would state that the $14,684 figure is the amount per U.S. household each year that agency rules cost American families. That $14,000 is an amount that not a lot of families have right now thanks to the inflation that has been caused by the massive spending of the last Congress and the Biden administration.

To my recollection, 17 percent over the course of the Biden administration has been the cumulative inflation rate over the last 3 years.

This amount of money has hit especially hard, and we would do well to address that and keep that in mind as we seek to reduce the number of regulations that these bureaucracies are promulgating each and every day. We need to try and think of the American people first as we seek to legislate on their behalf here in the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia says that recess appointees could help solve this problem, but a recess appointee is not confirmed by the Senate and, therefore, under the terms of this bill could not approve any regulation. The recess appointee question is irrelevant and doesn't mitigate the harm of this bill in any way.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much and his good friend as well for yielding, and I appreciate their intent, but let me be very clear: What we have here is a complete collapse of a system that is attempting to save lives.

Our administrative process, our administrative APA, these individuals are grounded with the expertise of the particular agencies that they are in.

Under this legislation, what we would have is a complete politicizing of the Presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed appointees because that would be another monkey wrench, if you will, into why they should not be confirmed.

In addition, this will encourage gamesmanship. If you think the confirmation process is slow, wait till this bill becomes law.

Congress already has, and the Republicans have used it quite often, the Congressional Review Act so that we can determine whether or not rulemaking or a particular issue is one that is not only reviewed but should be changed.

In the rulemaking process with experts that we oversee, because we have congressional hearings, we are dealing with clean air, clean water, safe toys, safe cars, and safe workplaces, but, more importantly, as I was sitting in a meeting today, we are dealing with a new initiative dealing with taking lead out of water.

Do we want to stop the process of removing lead from the water that our children drink because we implement this particular procedure that will stop our Presidentially-appointed officials from doing their job, from helping us to ensure that our children are safe?

This is a slowdown. This is where lives are not saved. I would argue to my friends that this legislation, unfortunately, should not move forward because there is too much good work going on and the work that is going on will be thwarted, will be stopped.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the AFSCME, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, who oppose this particular legislation, along with the administration policy statement as well as a number of other agencies.

AFSCME,
December 11, 2023.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRSSENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I write to express our strong opposition to the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act (H.R. 357), because it would deliberately create unnecessary and confusing bureaucratic hurdles for agency officials as they work to promulgate essential rules for public health, environment and worker protections.

H.R. 357 would create uncertainty within agencies and would stifle effective government functioning. While H.R. 357 purports to improve agency accountability, the proposal actively undermines the constitutional authority of agencies to delegate the routine task of signing a rulemaking to subordinates as an efficiency measure. Senior agency appointees already ratify the signing of the rulemaking after the fact to comply with this clause.

In addition to attempting to solve a non-issue, H.R. 357 generates more confusion in the rulemaking process as the bill's requirements do not directly define what action qualifies as ''initiating'' a rule. As agencies are impacted by this uncertainty, significant steps in the rulemaking process could be delayed without clarity, and as a result, even regulations that streamline compliance for regulated entities could be stifled.

Congress should seek ways to support and fully staff agencies that are responsible for designing rules that protect our workers, public health and environmental safety. We oppose H.R. 357 and urge you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

EDWIN S. JAYNE,
Director of Federal Government Affairs.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 357—ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGENCY RULEMAKING ACT—REP. CLINE, R–VA AND 19 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 357, a bill that would require that notice-and-comment rulemaking be initiated by a ''senior appointee'' and be issued and signed by a Senate-confirmed Presidential appointee. This bill would result in unnecessary delays in the regulatory process when Senate-confirmed positions are temporarily filled by senior officials while nominees await confirmation. It would add unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles that would encumber the rulemaking process without providing any additional benefits, as there are procedures already in place that provide for engagement, oversight, and accountability by Executive Branch agency leadership, such as review of significant rules by the interagency under Executive Order 12866. H.R. 357 would also limit the flexibility of Senate-confirmed officials to delegate signature authority to experienced subordinates who have the requisite authority and experience to oversee regulatory development.

If the President were presented with H.R. 357, he would veto it.

DECEMBER 11, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, The undersigned organizations and individuals write in opposition to the misleadingly-named ''Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act'', H.R. 357. This bill would codify Executive Order 13979, entitled ''Ensuring Democratic Accountability in Agency Rulemaking,'' issued by former President Donald Trump at the end of his term and repealed by President Joe Biden. This legislation would decrease the accountability of industry to the public. It would do so by adding intentional ambiguity that would lead to considerable delay in the creation, promulgation, and implementation of critical new public health and safety safeguards, financial reforms, and worker protections.

For example, H.R. 357 provides that ''any rule promulgated under section 553 of Title 5, United States Code, shall be issued and signed by an individual appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.'' As you are aware, under the Constitution's appointments clause, agency rulemakings are authorized by ''principal'' officers who are Senate confirmed, and in practice, this often occurs through necessary delegation. No agency, however, would ever issue a rule without authorization from a relevant agency leader. Rather than ensuring public protections and industry accountability in and through agency rulemaking, it would create confusion, ambiguity, and uncertainty and pointless delays.

As government openness and accountability advocates, we strongly urge you to oppose the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act.

Sincerely,

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION WATCH,
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH RESEARCH,
PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT,
EARTHJUSTICE,
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT,
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NFFE),
STEVE LENKART, CEO, GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES INTERNATIONAL,
LIZ BORKOWSKI, MPH.

COALITION FOR SENSIBLE SAFEGUARDS,
May 23, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards (CSS), an alliance of over 150 labor, scientific, research, good government, faith, community, health, environmental, and public interest groups, and the undersigned allied organizations strongly oppose the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act, H.R. 357.

The Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act would codify Executive Order 13979, entitled ''Ensuring Democratic

Accountability in Agency Rulemaking,'' which was issued by former President Donald Trump in his very last days in office and was repealed by President Joe Biden. It will add unnecessary ambiguity and considerable delay in the creation, promulgation, and implementation of critical new public health and safety safeguards, financial reforms, and worker protections—making industry even less accountable to the public. These consequences are particularly objectionable because the bill purports to ''solve'' a problem that does not actually exist. Rather than advance good government reform, this bill demonizes our public protection agencies and promotes a harmful anti-regulatory narrative.

The Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act provides that ''any rule promulgated under section 553 of Title 5, United States Code, shall be issued and signed by an individual appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.'' Yet, under the Constitution's appointments clause, agency rulemakings are authorized by ''principal'' officers who are Senate confirmed, and in practice, this often occurs through necessary delegation. Currently, senior agency appointees sometimes delegate the routine task of signing a rulemaking to subordinates as an efficiency measure. Senior agency appointees ratify the signing of the rulemaking after the fact to comply with this clause.

Given the expense and legal consequences involved, no agency would ever issue a rule without authorization from a relevant agency leader. At best, this bill would serve to create needless bureaucratic hurdles for agency officials, rather than correct any real problem of public accountability.

The bill further requires that all rules ''shall be initiated by a senior appointee'' but does not define what ''initiated'' means. Since the Administrative Procedure Act does not define this term, this will create uncertainty that could thwart rulemaking.

For example, what action qualifies as ''initiating'' a rule under this bill? Is it when a rule is proposed? Is it when it is assigned a Regulatory Identification Number (RIN)? Would the granting of a citizen petition for rulemaking satisfy this requirement? The bill is silent on this important detail. Yet, these are significant steps in the rulemaking process, and none of these wou]d take place without approval of the Senate-confirmed official.

In the worst case, the uncertainty due to this provision could stifle the effective functioning of agencies. Drawing on their unique experience and expertise, rank-and-file staff at agencies often provide the inspiration for an idea that eventually becomes a rule. Indeed, senior agency officials rely on career staff for these innovations. This bill risks creating a disincentive for career staff at agencies to propose innovative solutions to the problems the agency was created to address. Significantly, many of these solutions could even be the kind that achieve regulatory objectives at lower compliance costs for regulated businesses.

Congress should be searching for ways to ensure that federal agencies are able to enforce laws designed to protect our safety, air quality, water, food, financial security, and much more, not putting up roadblocks to sensible safeguards that protect the American people.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act.

Sincerely,

RACHEL WEINTRAUB,
Executive Director.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this legislation is opposed by the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards. I would like to dwell on this question of water and lead coming out of water since many of us were here during the Flint incidents, and we also know what goes on in our own congressional districts.

Let's not stop children from living. Let's not stop the lifesaving regulatory process. Let's oppose H.R. 357.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 357, The Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act.

H.R. 357 would require any agency rule promulgated under the Administrative Procedure Act's notice and comment process to be ''initiated'' and signed by someone who was appointed to their position by the President and confirmed by the Senate, with limited exceptions for national security and public safety.

Simply put, this anti-regulatory bill is an attempt to codify bad federal policy issued during the Trump Administration that was later repealed by President Biden, and it would add unnecessary ambiguity and delay in the rule making process from beginning to end.

While my Republican colleagues will tell you that this is just about transparency and accountability, it is not.

This is about shutting down the regulatory process.

By requiring that any rulemaking be initiated and signed by a presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed official, this bill could grind the regulatory process to a halt during long appointment periods or presidential transitions.

Rulemaking could be delayed (or even prevented altogether) by the already substantially politicized Senate confirmation process, especially during the transition between Administrations and for agencies that experience frequent turnover or have longstanding vacancies among their senior leadership.

If you think the confirmation process is slow and contentious now, wait until this bill becomes law.

The party opposing the President will have every incentive to block a nomination and prevent an agency from having an eligible head in place who can issue regulations.

Like the Separation of Powers Restoration Act (SOPRA) and the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act—that nearly all House Democrats opposed earlier this Congress—this is a patently transparent effort to effectively halt Executive agencies from performing their Congressionally mandated duties to serve the American people.

This proposal is a dangerous solution in search of a problem.

While H.R. 357 purports to improve agency accountability, the proposal actively undermines the constitutional authority of agencies to delegate the routine task of signing a rulemaking to subordinates as an efficiency measure.

Senior agency appointees already ratify the signing of the rulemaking after the fact to comply with this clause.

And Congress also already plays a significant role in placing and removing restrictions on agency rules by conducting oversight and restricting how funds can be used and passing legislation to limit agency discretion.

As demonstrated time and time again in the House this year, Congress can use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn rules it disapproves of.

For instance, my Republican colleagues have already tried to use the CRA to repeal reasonable restrictions on deadly weapons, jeopardize affordable student loan repayment and make it harder for women- and minority-owned businesses to access funds to grow their businesses.

While most can agree improvements can be made to the regulatory process, measures that make it harder for agencies to make new rules cuts against the interest of all who reside in the United States. Because most importantly, regulations are necessary to save our lives.

Regulations are critical to ensuring the safety and soundness of virtually every facet of our lives, including clean air, clean water, safe toys, safe cars, and safe workplaces.

We should reject any effort that would prevent agencies from issuing these life-saving regulations.

Yet rather than ensuring public protections and industry accountability in and through agency rulemaking, this bill would create confusion, ambiguity, uncertainty, and pointless delays.

The bill would only ensure delay and prevent necessary public protections from being promulgated in the process causing, and avoidable harm and risk to the public.

If enacted, this bill would give extreme legislators another opportunity to obstruct federal policymaking by blocking the confirmation of agency officials in the Senate, putting critical government functions from civil rights enforcement and financial regulation to protecting consumers and the environment in jeopardy.

It is also important to highlight that the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards, consisting of over 160 labor, consumer, and environmental organizations are strongly opposed to this bill.

Additionally, if the President were presented with H.R. 357, he would veto it.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote in opposition to H.R. 357, The Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

I want to point out that when she talks about water, we are all concerned about safe water, and that would qualify as an exemption under this bill if the head of the agency determined that compliance would impede public safety or security. They would only need to submit that notification and publish it in the RECORD.

I say that this bill does actually consider that circumstance. I also state that the letter the gentlewoman put into the RECORD is coming from an association of government employees who are the very bureaucrats having their powers removed by this bill. It makes sense that those who are being removed from the status quo would oppose the bill. It makes sense that those whose powers are being taken away to promulgate these regulations and impose these costs on American businesses and families would oppose this bill. I would be surprised if they didn't oppose the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, let me make two points. The gentleman from Virginia points out that paragraphs 1 and 2 do not apply if the head of an agency determines on a nondelegable basis that compliance with the relevant paragraph would impede public safety or security, but there is nothing in the bill to define public safety or security. It doesn't help at all.

I would also point out that the last President, not the current one, the last one, Mr. Trump, had a lot of acting agency heads. In fact, he has stated that he would like in another term to have a lot more acting agency heads so he doesn't need Senate confirmation.

That would mean that few, if any, people would have the ability to okay safety and security rules to keep our people safe and our water clean, our air safe, et cetera.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN).

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member NADLER for the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 357. As a Member of the legislative branch, I take very seriously our responsibility to provide oversight of the executive branch. We must always look to utilize the tools that we have available to us, including through the appropriations process, to ensure accountability and provide the appropriate scope and direction to our Federal agencies.

I also believe that elections matter, and that we in the legislative branch should do our utmost to find common ground and advance policies and programs that promote the best interests of our communities.

Unfortunately, I believe that this measure goes too far to deliberately hinder Federal agencies from advancing their priorities. For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. In addition to exceptions for rules that impact public safety and national security, my amendment would also provide exceptions for rules related to veteran health benefits.

As the ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, I believe we must continue to do all we can to work together and advance initiatives that ensure our veterans receive the care and benefits that they have earned.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I thank, again, the ranking member for the time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the words of the gentleman and agree we are seeking to find common ground, even though I would oppose the motion to recommit. I would state that when the ranking member of the committee mentioned that the rules have to be promulgated by the senior appointee who has to be confirmed by the Senate, the initiation of the regulation need only be done by the senior appointee regardless as to whether they have been approved by the Senate. It is only before the actual rule would be prevented does the nominee have to be confirmed by the Senate. The process can begin by a senior appointee who has not yet been confirmed by the Senate, which would address some of the concerns about holding up nominees in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, this legislation is just the latest in a long line of Republican bills meant to undermine and even block agency rulemaking altogether.

This bill would not only erect another hurdle to the creation of critical rules that protect our air, water, land, and livelihood, but it would also require years of litigation to determine what the vague terms of the bill mean. We should reject any effort that would prevent agencies from issuing lifesaving regulations.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 357, the Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act. As stated, this bill requires that only politically accountable officials, not career bureaucrats, initiate and issue regulations, the cost of which is hurting families across this country even as it seeks to help them through regulations.

The regulations often are meant to address health and safety concerns. Those would be given an exemption, but those other regulations that put costs on families, put costs on small businesses would be curbed unless they are signed off on by a senior official who has been appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

This will increase political accountability for Federal policymaking and restore the rights of American people to choose exactly who governs them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 922, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Mrvan of Indiana moves to recommit the bill H.R. 357 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MRVAN is as follows:

Mr. Mrvan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 357 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 4, insert after line 6 the following:

(4) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) or (2) does not apply to any rule to provide benefits or health services to veterans under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit on H.R. 357; and,

Passage of H.R. 357, if ordered.

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

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN AGENCY RULEMAKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on 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, offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 211, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 716]

YEAS—206

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

NAYS—211

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

NOT VOTING—16

Aderholt
Barr
Cammack
McHenry
Meuser
Mooney
Mullin
Payne
Phillips
Salazar
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider
Stauber
Torres (NY)
Waltz

□ 1701

Mr. POSEY, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Messrs. BEAN of Florida, NUNN of Iowa, COMER, FLOOD, FALLON, PALMER, and CURTIS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. PAPPAS and DOGGETT changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 203, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 717]

AYES—218

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

NOES—203

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar

Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Pelosi
Peltola
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schiff
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt
Cammack
McHenry
Mooney
Payne
Phillips
Salazar
Sánchez
Schakowsky
Schneider
Sewell
Torres (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1709

So 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. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was otherwise detained and unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: "nay" on rollcall No. 710, "nay" on rollcall No. 711, "yea" on rollcall No. 712, "yea" on rollcall No. 713, "yea" of rollcall No. 714, "yea" on rollcall No. 715, "yea" on rollcall No. 716, and "nay" on rollcall No. 717.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall vote Nos. 710 through 717. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 710, "nay" on rollcall vote No. 711, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 712, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 713, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 714, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 715, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 716, and "nay" on rollcall vote No. 717.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DALE C. CRITZ, SR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dale C. Critz, Sr., who passed away at the age of 91.

Dale graduated from Duke University in 1955 with a BA in political science. After graduating, he was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy.

While attending Duke University, Mr. Critz met his wife, Lila. The two were married in Tallahassee in 1957, and shortly after they moved to Savannah. He had a successful 45-year business career with car dealerships spread across Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida.

Mr. Critz served on endowment committees at the Georgia Historical Society, the Savannah Community Foundation, and the George Washington Foundation. His efforts were noticed and greatly appreciated by the community. Dale once said in an interview that one of his main goals in life was to make Savannah a better place to live.

Dale Critz was a devoted father, a grandfather, and a philanthropist. He will be dearly missed by all.

HATE HAS NO PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today denouncing hate. Whether hate manifests as Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, transphobia, or any other form, hate has no place in our communities.

Madam Speaker, that is why I am supporting Mr. NADLER's plan to combat anti-Semitism by implementing the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism and increasing funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

It is why I am supporting Mr. GREEN's two-state solution resolution.

It is why I signed on to Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ's letter regarding the safety and security of our college campuses.

Condemning hate is not just about words, it requires action.

The resolution I am introducing will not merely condemn hate, it will support the implementation of comprehensive policies to prevent and respond to hate crimes, including education and training on prevention and response and acknowledgment of the challenges facing vulnerable groups.

Madam Speaker, together, we can build a future where compassion prevails.

TRANSPARENCY IN HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate House passage of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

During my time in Congress, I have advocated for restoring patient-centered, cost-effective, and market-driven solutions to our Nation's healthcare system to drive down costs. For too long, families have faced the financial burden of unexpected medical bills, overly expensive prescription drugs, limited healthcare choices, and hidden fees.

In nearly every industry, consumers know the price of a product before purchasing it. Healthcare should be no different. That is why I am so proud of the work done on the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.

This monumental bill delivers much-needed transparency and ensures Americans have access to timely, quality, and affordable healthcare that suits them best.

Specifically, this bill requires hospitals to disclose their actual prices and forces insurance companies to show patients what they will pay before receiving care.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to serve on both committees that helped craft this historic overhaul of our healthcare system.

CONGRATULATING GALENA PARK'S NORTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Galena Park Independent School District's very own North Shore High School football team for their fifth time in a row going to the Texas State Championship.

Located in my district, North Shore Senior High School is home to a group of outstanding athletes and students both academically and athletically. Through their hard work and perseverance, our local stars will now play against Duncanville High School.

I am truly proud of all their accomplishments both on and off the field. They embody the Texas spirit of excellence and courage.

I urge the Mustangs to stay focused and stay strong, because all of Texas 29 is rooting for them this Saturday.

Go Mustangs.

CORRUPT REDISTRICTING PROCESS

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

Mr. LAWLER. Madam Speaker, last year, New York Democrats tried to corrupt our redistricting process by gerrymandering New York's maps to favor 22 Democrats and 4 Republicans.

They were summarily thrown out in court, with the court ruling that they not only violated the State constitution, they violated the process, and they gerrymandered the maps.

A special master appointed by the court drew a fair set of maps that resulted in 15 Democrats and 11 Republicans being elected. However, that didn't serve the purpose of New York Democrats, so they filed another lawsuit.

Today, the court of appeals, in a shameful episode, was stacked and made a decision to redraw New York's congressional maps for the sole purpose of trying to favor New York Democrats.

It is pathetic, it is shameful, and it serves only one person, the leader of the Democratic Conference. He should be embarrassed.

DENYING WOMEN LIFESAVING CARE

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

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, no one should need permission from a judge or a Governor to make a personal choice for their family and for their health.

This week, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that 31-year-old mother of two, Kate Cox, was not entitled to a medically necessary abortion despite her doctor's concerns for her health. She had to make the decision to leave her State to access the care she needed and deserved, a choice that is not available to everyone.

Ms. Cox is not the first woman to be denied lifesaving care, and she will certainly not be the last.

Women across this country in States like Texas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Idaho, and others have been stripped of their most basic rights.

It is disturbing. It is dangerous.

We know that these extreme laws are going to cost lives, and they disproportionately impact women of color and low-income women. Republicans are literally denying women the lifesaving care they need.

The Dobbs decision did exactly what it was intended to do: to strip women of their bodily autonomy. It is inhumane, it is cruel, and it is clearly against the will of the American people.

We cannot let them win.

FUTURE FUNDING OF UKRAINE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, there is going to be a lot of talk around this building as far as what goes on with the future funding of Ukraine. I have voted for funding for Ukraine in the past. I think it is important that the United States appear united as we work towards peace in Ukraine.

The thing that concerns me, and I wish more people would mention it, is the degree to which I believe we are not working towards a settlement there.

Every war must end sooner or later. The other day I spoke a little bit about the Korean war in which tens of thousands of people died. Ultimately, the United States negotiated with two of the most horrific governments in existence in the last century: the Communist Chinese Government and the Government of North Korea.

Nevertheless, a resolution was reached. Tens of thousands of lives were saved, and we still have the same border that the negotiation reached in 1953.

I would remind the belligerents that ultimately the war will end. If we do not want to drive Russia closer and closer with China and Iran, it would probably be better if the war ends sooner rather than later.

Sadly, I haven't seen a lot of commentary showing that at this point anybody is working towards peace, at least not the Biden administration.

REINSTATE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, the people of Texas have been on an emotional roller coaster, and they have been on an emotional roller coaster with our fellow Texan Kate Cox, her husband, and her family.

This young woman wanted nothing more than to have a healthy baby and to expand their family. It was that love and deep desire that caused her to go public on an absolutely abusive law that tells her what kind of medical care she can get.

In addition, it should be made clear that a judge did give her permission to make the decision with her doctor, her faith, and her family. However, political intervention to the State supreme court caused them to stop her in her tracks. This young woman had to leave Texas.

Madam Speaker, that is why I am back here, to reintroduce, if you will, my legislation, that creates a criminal offense for anyone to stalk someone who is attempting to get good healthcare in the State of Texas.

That is all Kate Cox wanted.

I will be standing by her and her family, as many Texans will. We must stop this now, and we must reinstate reproductive freedom in this Nation.

ENDANGERING OUR NATION'S SECURITY

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

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, one of the greatest threats to our national security is a woke military.

Nothing exemplifies a woke military as much as the National Defense Authorization Act that is going to come before this body out of a Conference Report that allows transgender surgery to continue to be funded in the U.S. military.

I can guarantee you that Russia and China aren't using their military dollars to pay for transgender surgery.

Here in the United States, we are, and we will. If this House and the Senate passes the Conference Report, that will be the official U.S. policy.

Madam Speaker, that is not defense of the Nation. That is a woke military that endangers our Nation's security.

□ 1730

UKRAINE IS THE SCRIMMAGE LINE FOR LIBERTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam 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.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight as co-chair and a founding member of the bipartisan, 94-member Congressional Ukraine Caucus. Our caucus supports the immediate consideration of legislation that will provide further supplemental funding for Ukraine to support our partner in liberty against the aggression of Putin's tyranny.

This is a moral struggle for liberty in our era. Liberty faces a new era of conflict being forced upon the free world by a burgeoning axis of tyranny and terrorism, including the likes of Russia, China, Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis. Ukraine is the scrimmage line of that conflict for liberty. Their fight is our fight. The America I know does not cower in the face of tyranny.

Many Americans believe that the history of the struggle against global tyranny ended with the defeat of Nazi Germany and the fall of the Soviet Union. I am here today to tell them that liberty's history is still being written. We face not a new enemy but an old one. This is not a new struggle but one which America and our alliances of free nations have fought for nearly a century. Ukraine has fought for its liberty for centuries.

Let us not forget a key reason why there is a war in Ukraine. When the Soviet Union collapsed, as a newly independent nation in 1991, it became the third largest nuclear power in the world. However, as a responsible nation, Ukraine signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the behest of the United States and the demand of Russia and gave up its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

In exchange, Ukraine's security was to be guaranteed under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum signed by the United States, Russia, and the United Kingdom. However, Russia, even though it was the recipient of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal, betrayed its commitments when it invaded Ukraine in 2014. We must not betray ours.

Ukraine has been building her fledgling democracy since 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union's tyranny that President Ronald Reagan called the ''evil empire.'' That remains one of the most consequential moments in world history. Liberty won. Ukraine has faced many challenges in her endeavor for liberty as it steadfastly moves to join the European Union of free nations, America's closest allies.

To thwart Ukraine's desire for liberty and independence from Russia's malevolent influence, Putin first invaded Ukraine in 2014, 4 days after Russia's hosting the international Sochi Olympics with all of that fancy publicity. Now, 8 years later, Putin launched his war of unprovoked aggression on Ukraine in 2022. Much of the world was convinced there was no way the Ukrainian David could defeat a Russian Goliath. Ukraine's entire territory encompasses only 3 percent of the territory of Russia and its population is only 25 percent of Russia's, and yet Ukraine fights and fights hard. She has never asked us to fight for her, only for global allies to arm her so she can defend herself. So far, we have done so, and to great effect. We must stay the course, not waiver.

President Zelenskyy, who is again visiting Washington today, and the Ukrainian people have stood up to Putin. Ukraine's valiant soldiers have actually moved their military to liberate 50 percent of all the territory that was once occupied by Russian tyranny and decimated as much as 40 percent of Russia's military capacity.

It is important to put the resources that we have provided for Ukraine's defense against Russia into perspective. To date, Congress, in a repeated bipartisan fashion, has appropriated roughly $113 billion for Ukraine, of which every penny has been accounted for.

Furthermore, we know that at least 60 percent of the money that is appropriated for Ukraine is spent right here in the United States, not in Ukraine, to purchase important commodities. It is funding that is going directly toward bolstering our diminished military industrial base, and our American workforce benefits, including those in Lima, Ohio, which produces the greatest tank in the world, the Abrams tank. Every dollar spent is closely and appropriately accounted for to ensure none of the funds fall into the wrong hands.

During the Cold War, we spent $13 trillion measured in 1996 dollars to combat Russian aggression, equivalent to $26 trillion today. The sum per year that we provide supporting Ukraine is no more than 20 percent of what we spent each year for four decades to contain Russia.

America's alliance with our NATO partners has helped ensure European nations have bolstered our support to Ukraine with their own. As a percent of GDP, 15 European countries have so far provided a higher level to Ukraine than the United States.

This is the costliest war in human casualties and plunder since World War II in Europe, the continent on which over 500,000 U.S. soldiers are buried from World War I and World War II. They bequeathed liberty to us, and we must never fail their memory. The murderous dictatorships of Nazism, communism, and imperialism lay dead, and the 20th century's most consequential achievement was, in fact, that. Now, that cost in blood is being borne by Ukraine and the Ukrainian people alone.

The fact remains that if America were to end its support of Ukraine, Russia would be able to defeat it. Putin is not counting the numbers of rubles or Russian lives he is spending on this conflict. What he is counting are the number of votes for Ukraine that remain in this U.S. Congress. He knows that American support will decide the victor of this conflict. So should we.

If Putin succeeds in Ukraine or if we grow tired of a forever war we are not even fighting in, then we allow tyranny to ascend over liberty. Putin has made clear he would then test our resolve over smaller, much harder-to-defend NATO members, a move that would force the United States and our NATO allies into direct war with Russia. America and the free world have much at stake.

As one European ambassador reminded me, there is an old saying that states: If you think you are an isolationist, if you take no interest in foreign affairs, take my word, foreign affairs will find you.

We face a choice now. America can repeat the mistakes of the 1920s by withdrawing our nearly century-long support for liberty, inevitably forcing the free world to pay a higher price for freedom as tyranny deepens its roots in our world, or America must take a stand now and provide further funding for Ukraine to help secure liberty for a new generation.

I call upon the Speaker and my colleagues in the House to choose the path of liberty.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, we are rapidly approaching the 2-year anniversary of Putin's illegal and brutal invasion of Ukraine.

The American people have responded with extraordinary support for Ukraine. Millions of Americans have donated their time and money to charitable organizations helping the Ukrainian people. Some have even volunteered to fight alongside the Ukrainian defense forces.

Congress has responded by providing over $50 billion in security assistance and billions more in humanitarian assistance. These are unprecedented numbers, and it requires unprecedented oversight by Congress.

I am here to tell my colleagues, who are concerned about where the money is going, that we are doing that oversight. The Armed Services Committee has conducted vigorous oversight of U.S. military assistance to Ukraine.

Every month since the war, the committee has held a classified briefing with DOD officials over Ukrainian aid. This morning, I was a member of a briefing that was the 12th in that series. We have also had multiple visits to sites in Europe where the aid is being staged to go into Ukraine. We have held open hearings on the topic where we have heard from the DOD Inspector General.

In the next couple days, the House will take up the conference report on the FY24 NDAA. That bill creates a special inspector general for Ukraine, dedicates $8 million to swiftly set up the office, and provides direct hiring authority to quickly staff it.

We will continue to stay on top of this, but I want to assure my colleagues that there has been no evidence of diversion of weapons provided to Ukraine or any other assistance.

What most folks don't realize is that the money DOD is spending on Ukraine is actually going toward creating high-skilled, good-paying jobs right here at home. The DOD so far has spent $45 billion on Ukraine-related security assistance. All of that money has been spent in the U.S. by U.S. companies, supporting thousands of highly skilled American jobs.

These include jobs in Arizona to build Stingers and Javelins; jobs in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, and Missouri to build ammunition; and jobs in Texas, Florida, and Alabama to build Patriot missiles. It also includes over $3 billion to expand floor space, open new lines, and hire additional workers at weapons factories in Tennessee, Florida, Virginia, Missouri, and West Virginia. This investment in retooling and revitalizing our industrial defense base is helping us get ready for potential conflict with China. That is incredibly important.

Equally important to deterring China is standing by our commitment to Ukraine. Walking away sends the wrong signals to President Xi and the Chinese Communist Party. Let's not do that. Let's quickly come to a compromise that secures our border and keeps our commitment to Ukraine.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York

(Mr. MEEKS), the esteemed ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I want to start by making clear that congressional support for Ukraine remains broad and bipartisan. We know, from previous votes on the floor amendments and the standalone bill on Ukraine funding, that assistance to Ukraine has overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress.

While I am especially proud of the work the United States has done and President Biden has done to build a global coalition in support of Ukraine, Congress' inability to pass a Ukraine supplemental is sending a dangerous message to the world that America cannot be relied upon as a partner.

The question for the Speaker now is: When will the House be allowed a vote to continue to support Ukraine?

In these times of crisis, leadership matters. Those of us who continue to stand against Vladimir Putin's aggression, who continue to stand with the brave Ukrainians fighting on the front lines defending their democracy and their people, history will judge us favorably.

How will history judge those who have cynically chosen to use aid to Ukraine as a wedge issue, to play partisan politics with assistance meant to support Ukraine's fight against Russia's aggression?

This is a critical moment for Ukraine and for this body. The administration's top national security officials have made clear that continued support is essential for Ukraine as it continues its fight. We know the consequences if we cannot agree to additional funding for the arms they need to win, to the economic and development assistance that has been critical to Ukraine's livelihood. All of this will be impacted.

I think it is also important we are all working from the same set of facts. In particular, I continue to hear from some of my colleagues who oppose Ukraine funding as they propagate misinformation regarding the management of our assistance.

The administration has instituted robust monitoring for all of the assistance we provide to Ukraine. The State Department, the Defense Department, and our Ukrainian partners are all ensuring this assistance is carefully tracked and accounted for. This misinformation both undermines Ukraine's courageous efforts while benefiting one person, Vladimir Putin.

The world is watching, and what we say in this body and what we are able to pass has consequences. Our allies, including Finland and Sweden, where I recently visited, are proudly joining NATO. They are doing their part. The EU and partners across the globe are increasing commitments to help Ukraine. What signal does it send if the United States of America, the country that has led this coalition, is the first to step back?

It is not only friends who are watching. Our foes are as well. Putin wants us to get tired, to get distracted. The Kremlin is active in supporting anti-Ukraine candidates of any political stripe, and China is strategically hedging its bets. The only person who thought this would be a small, victorious war and a quick war was Vladimir Putin.

There is no simple, predictable end. As long as Ukraine continues to push back Russia's brutal, unprovoked assault, our commitment to Ukraine should stand. If the large bipartisan majority in this House that I know believes in standing there and believes in this commitment, if we stay united with all of our allies, we will prevail.

□ 1745

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, once again, President Zelenskyy is in Washington to make the case for the survival of his country and to show the American people and Congress why this war is so important. He shouldn't have to.

As Americans, we have experienced fighting to save democracy and oppose tyranny. That is why we fought the Second World War and why we formed the United Nations and NATO.

Right now, Ukraine is fighting for those principles. We owe it to our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents to help Ukraine defend against Putin's autocratic threat.

We simply cannot stand by while a sovereign democratic country is wiped off the face of the Earth.

Autocratic regimes around the world are watching to see how the U.S. responds to this conflict. So far, we have shown them what a united NATO, coupled with the bravery and determination of the Ukrainian people, can achieve in the face of tyranny. We must now continue to show them that that commitment is unshakeable.

When President Zelenskyy made his first visit to the U.S. last year, he emphasized the impact of this fight and what it will mean for generations to come. He said that the Ukraine struggle will define in what world our children and grandchildren will live. He was right.

This fight for freedom and democracy has never been partisan. Now should be no different.

In these months, we have seen alarming examples of a shift. This week, allies of Viktor Orban met with conservatives to push for an end to U.S. military support for Ukraine. Over the years, we have been warned of the far right's fascination with Orban and the influence he could impose on their policy. Obviously, these warnings were warranted.

Ukraine's fight is our fight. Anyone who tells you otherwise isn't paying attention. I encourage them to imagine a world in which Putin is successful.

Should we fail to aid Ukraine further, we will hand Putin a victory, and he will expand his attacks. I have seen firsthand the devastation he has imposed in places like Bucha, with maternity hospitals in ruins and bodies piled in mass graves following the Russian army's onslaught.

Our aid has contained this bloodshed for now, but Putin has plans far beyond Ukraine. If Putin were allowed to take Ukraine, he would seek to reconstitute the former Soviet Union. He would form a federation with Belarus and Ukraine by installing puppet governments and then target Moldova, the Baltics, Georgia, and others.

Should Russia expand its attack and cross a border into one of these NATO countries, we are bound by Article 5 of the NATO charter to defend them. The aid we have delivered has helped prevent this scenario from unfolding. Rest assured, Putin is patient. He has the time that Ukraine and apparently we lack. Congress has been wasting the time that we should have spent passing a supplemental package.

Congressional dysfunction has reared its ugly head. We have fumbled several opportunities to pass this funding.

There are those who argue that we must choose to support Ukraine or Israel. Now, they argue that we must choose Ukraine or our own border. These are false choices. In the words of NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg: ''We have the capability, the strength, to address different challenges at the same time. We don't have the luxury of choosing only one threat and one challenge.''

The conflict in Israel and the conflict in Ukraine are linked. After October 7, Hamas and Iranian representatives met with Putin in Moscow. Just as Iran is supporting Hamas' attack on Israel, Iran is also assisting Putin in his invasion of Ukraine.

To defeat the terrorist threat in Israel, we must also help Ukraine defend itself from an evil autocrat. When it comes to our border, Congress can and will tackle immigration reform and international aid. In fact, we should be addressing both.

That means passing a clean supplemental and having a separate, broader conversation about our immigration system's needs. Rushed policy reforms are not the answer.

When it comes to Ukraine, we are running out of time. What we do or don't do with Ukraine aid will be one of the most important foreign policy votes we take in our lifetimes. We must do the right thing. The fate of the free world is hanging in the balance.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), and I thank him for his leadership on his side of the aisle.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR for her leadership in promoting the bipartisan remarks tonight, which reinforce what former Chairman GREG MEEKS has already stated, and that is that there is

overwhelming bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans, for the people of Ukraine as they will achieve victory over war criminal Putin.

I support the supplemental with clear consistency. There should be security for all borders—American borders, Ukrainian borders, Israeli borders, and Taiwanese borders—to achieve peace through strength to prevent global conflict.

On February 24, 2022, war criminal Putin launched a full-scale mass murderous invasion of sovereign, democratic Ukraine, claiming Ukraine does not exist. Patriotic Ukrainians, even grandmothers, raced to arm themselves and protect their land and families.

The world underestimated the resolve of Ukrainians. I was in Kyiv in December 2021, prior to war criminal Putin's murderous invasion, when the planning for resistance and guerilla warfare was anticipated to be overwhelmed. Ukraine valiantly fought back for freedom and proved the world wrong.

I visited again in May of this year and saw firsthand courageous Ukrainians led by the very courageous Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Ukrainians are the front line in a conflict we did not choose as dictators with rule of gun invade democracies with rule of law. The axis of evil fights first for the death of Ukraine and then the death of Israel, and then they chant ''death to America.''

All Americans should know that we have a treaty obligation to support the territorial integrity of Ukraine. In 1994, with the signing of the Budapest Memorandum between the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation, Ukraine gave up its nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees and territorial integrity.

A consequence now, sadly, is that other countries will not give up nuclear weapon capabilities because Russia violates every treaty it signs.

It is not realistic to believe that any peace can be achieved without full Ukrainian victory, which is territorial integrity.

I appreciate that President Donald Trump worked to avoid the war criminal Putin invasion by providing Javelin missiles to Ukraine, placing American troops in Poland, and stopping the Nord Stream II pipeline, which financed the dictatorship in Moscow.

Just as America would fight for territorial integrity, as there is no State that we would abandon, there is no State that would abandon a county.

We know that appeasement to invaders would actually promote something warned by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON. Speaker JOHNSON states that Putin would continue his deranged dream of a resurrected Soviet Union, threatening Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, and NATO members Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, along with all the countries of Central Asia.

The Republican tradition has been bipartisan for peace through strength with Eisenhower-Nixon, reinforced by Barry Goldwater and: Why not victory over communism? He also explained the alternative of victory is defeat. Then there was the ultimate Ronald Reagan expression to our enemies: ''We win. You lose.''

This is why it is so critical that we commit today to protecting the borders of America, Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan for peace through strength.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 35 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for having this critical conversation today.

Just outside this Chamber, on January 20, 1961, a new young President by the name of John F. Kennedy said, ''We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty.''

We would pay any price, bear any burden, and meet any hardship to ensure the survival and success of liberty.

What has happened to America that we shrink from our traditional role of standing up against tyrants, dictators, and genocidal maniacs in favor of liberty? What has happened to us?

Why did Kennedy say those words? He didn't say those words because he wanted to replicate the pain and tragedy of the world war in which he had distinguished himself as a war hero. He didn't say those words because he wanted young Americans to die in East Asia or around the globe in the service of liberty.

He said those words because he understood what he had learned in the 1930s and the 1940s, which is that brutal dictators don't stop; they are stopped. They are stopped by those with the moral fortitude and courage to stop them.

If we accede to where half of the Republican majority is today, which is that we are not going to support Ukraine in this fight, Putin will not stop. Soon, the United States will have no choice but to step in to stop Vladimir Putin.

We hear these excuses: There is not enough accounting. There is not enough oversight.

We didn't hear that when we were supporting the Afghani regime, which is profoundly corrupt. We didn't hear that about Iraq. We are only hearing that about Ukraine.

We hear that we would like to know what the plan is for victory in Ukraine. Did anybody ask Winston Churchill, the hero of World War II, what his plan for victory was? No, they did not because he wasn't sure. We stood by him because he stood for liberty and the moral clarity that this institution has now lost.

If we think for one moment that Putin is the only one who is enjoying this moment, think about what President Xi of China is learning; think about what the Iranian mullahs are seeing; and think about what the North Korean dictator is coming to understand: That this Congress, when faced with the demand that we fight for liberty and freedom, we cut and run. That is what is being learned. Anybody who reads an iota of history will understand the tragedy that is behind that.

It is time for this Chamber to find an iota of the moral courage and clarity that John F. Kennedy elaborated on just outside these doors. We do it because it is right. We do it because if we fail the Ukrainians, it may be the next generation of Americans and Frenchmen and British who have to stop Putin.

Be assured that we will have to do that later in far, far more tragic circumstances than we have right now to stop—as John F. Kennedy called us to do—the march of tyranny and stand up for liberty.

□ 1800

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), who is one of our preeminent leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, shortly after the war in Ukraine began, I attended our annual pilgrimage commemorating Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, along with STENY HOYER. Just before our departure to return to Washington, I was approached by one of our honored foot soldiers of that march from Selma to Montgomery who asked to have a private word with me. I assumed she wanted to discuss what we might or might not be doing about voting rights which is always the major topic of that event. Instead, she shared her serious concerns about the war in Ukraine and stressed that it was Congress' responsibility to act in defense of democracy at home and abroad.

I rise today to bring the concerns of that veteran of the war against voting suppression to the attention of this body. That longtime defender of our democracy here at home said to me that if we fail to do that which is necessary to stop Putin in Ukraine, then we may soon find ourselves in need of defending our homeland.

The failure to honor President Biden's supplemental request is endangering the safety and security of our closest allies. We need to do the right thing for freedom, for democracy, and for international stability before time runs out.

The American people know that for the sake of our democracy we can't let Putin win. This delay in funding is a gift to Putin, and every day that goes by without action strengthens his position and the resolve of other autocrats.

History teaches us that there are global consequences when we allow dictators and would-be dictators to infringe on freedoms without opposition.

Today the front line is Ukraine. Tomorrow it could be one of our NATO allies requiring a higher price in treasure and American lives.

We made a commitment to our friends in Israel also. We must support their efforts to eradicate Hamas, as well as provide necessary humanitarian assistance to the innocent Palestinians impacted by this conflict. This package will help accelerate efforts to ensure Israel's security and create space for stability in the region so we can begin, in earnest, the long process towards the two-state solution when this conflict ends. None of this will or can be possible until we honor our commitments to our allies.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR). Kentucky and Ohio have sent so many soldiers to war, and we know we both benefit from their valorous service.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Ohio for holding this bipartisan Special Order because we should in a bipartisan way support the nation of Ukraine in a multilateral way, but we must also support a strategy of victory.

Putin is evil. He is a war criminal. He kidnapped 35,000 children, killed women and children, and bombed hospitals. He views himself as a reincarnation of Peter the Great. Moldova is next, Georgia is next, and the Baltic is next. This is a conflict not just about territory, it is a confrontation between good versus evil, between the forces of democracy and the shadows of autocracy.

By standing with Ukraine, we reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental principles of freedom and self-determination. Nevertheless, we have to provide Ukraine not just with a blank check but with a strategy for victory. That is why we call on the administration not just to support more security assistance, but also to reverse course on a misguided sanctions strategy that has failed.

The G–7 oil price cap strategy is a weak approach to depriving Putin of the funding that he needs. So, yes, Congress should support security assistance, but we should also support a sanction strategy that will actually prevent Putin from selling fossil energy to China and India and other parts of the world. The price cap is not working. Russian crude is selling over the price cap. It is not enforceable. We need to eliminate the general license in the sanctions on Russian banks so that no energy-related transactions that are funding this brutal aggression against Ukraine can finance this war.

There is a lesson here that deterrence requires toughness, and when you remove sanctions like this administration removed on Nord Stream 2 and when you are not tough on sanctions, that invites further aggression.

So, yes, security assistance, and, yes, this Congress is prepared to act, but we want a strategy for victory for the Ukrainian freedom fighters. That requires depriving Putin of the very financial support that is funding this war of aggression, and that is energy sales. That is why we want a revisiting of the sanctions strategy.

So with that, we must expedite delivery of lethal aid to Ukraine, reinforcing their ability to defend themselves and deter further aggression. In doing so, we will uphold the values of democracy and freedom while safeguarding the security and stability of our partner Ukraine.

The cost is nothing compared to what the cost would be if there was an invasion of a NATO Article V partner where U.S. troops would be on the ground. So let's take the fight to Putin now. Let's end this war by depriving him of the funding that he definitely needs to prosecute this war.

Madam Speaker, remember that weakness invites aggression. There are broader implications of this conflict. A further escalation, potentially drawing NATO into a direct ground conflict, would be highly costly. It would be much more costly than what we are talking about here. Providing Ukraine with support now is not only an investment in Ukraine but a critical step in preventing a larger and more devastating conflict that would require the involvement of U.S. troops on the ground, and it sends a signal to Beijing.

Beijing is watching. Preventing and deterring Beijing from a cross-strait invasion is a dramatic return on investment. Let's pursue a strategy of victory, and let's get tough on sanctions.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). Our distinguished leader, Congressman STENY HOYER, has spent hours and hours and days and weeks and months working on the issues of liberty across the European Continent.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, I thank her for taking this Special Order, and I thank her for the extraordinary work she has put in over the years.

Madam Speaker, President Zelenskyy, a brave leader of a determined people who are defending their democracy and international law, warned us today that the resources we sent his people in their fight for freedom have run out. Two legislative days remain to deliver urgent aid to Ukraine and to Israel. If we leave town on Thursday, then we will have to wait 1 month until we get another opportunity. Our allies cannot afford the wait. Neither can we.

Our failure sends a dangerous message to the world about our commitment to freedom, democracy, and international law. Each week we see: reluctance over resolve. Each day: doubt over determination. Each hour: division over decisiveness. Each minute: contention over conviction.

Our allies watch in dismay and our adversaries watch in delight as the beacon of democracy that is America dims in the face of the gathering storm. Instead, we must ensure that freedom's holy light continues to burn bright. Winston Churchill understood that, Volodymyr Zelenskyy understands that, and most Members understand that.

There is also an overwhelming consensus to support Israel in its imperative mission to defeat Hamas and ensure the devastating attacks on October 7 never occur again. If we do not pay the price of freedom with money and material now, then we may well pay for it with American blood and lives later. We ought to be thankful that we have that choice. Our allies do not.

Madam Speaker, I just read a story about a Ukrainian de-miner who lost his leg while clearing Russian mines on September 22. He is now out doing the same thing on his prosthetic leg. He risked life and limb, and he volunteered to do so again. The sacrifice this Congress must make pales in comparison.

Madam Speaker, I think of the mother in western Ukraine I just read about who lost two sons. The burden we must bear does not compare to theirs.

A significant majority of this House remains, as has been said by Republicans and Democrats, united in our determination to see Ukraine prevail. We came here not as Democrats or as Republicans, but as people who recognize this threat for what it is, an existential one.

We are the majority in this House. Until the Speaker gives us a clean vote, however, we cannot act on this consensus.

Madam Speaker, the Speaker introduced a bill in the 115th Congress that said one subject per bill. The Speaker must follow that premise that he asked us to support.

I urge the Speaker not to allow an important but unrelated goal to prevent us from doing what is necessary to achieve a victory for our own national security and the security of the free world.

Politics should stop at the water's edge because this sort of partisanship emboldens the enemies of freedom to set their sights on our own shores. Rather than sending the despots and dictators of the world a signal of retreat, let's send them a clear and unambiguous message that we will not shrink from this challenge. Our inaction is not worthy of the land of the free and the home of the brave. America is better than that.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his decades of leadership.

Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 18 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who is the Speaker

Emerita of the United States House of Representatives.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her tremendous leadership over a long period of time. She is a great intellectual resource in helping Ukraine. I thank MARCY KAPTUR very much for her leadership.

Madam Speaker, nearly 1 year ago, many of you will recall, in this Chamber we had a joint session of Congress. We were honored by the presence of President Zelenskyy who had come directly from the battlefield and brought us a flag signed by the soldiers. He delivered a magnificent speech.

President Zelenskyy made clear the necessity of American support by saying: Your money is not charity. It is an investment in global security and in democracy.

The fight of the Ukrainian people for democracy is just remarkable to behold, but their fight is for their democracy and ours, as well.

Being empowered by the investment we made last Congress, passed by an overwhelming bicameral vote, Ukraine has battled historically against the tide of the biggest army in Europe, the Russian Army.

It is important for the American people to know that Ukraine has reclaimed and won back 50 percent of the land previously seized by the Russians. They have won back 50 percent. More than 60 percent, close to two-thirds of the money that we have invested in military assistance for the Ukrainians has been spent in the United States. It has been spent in the United States creating jobs here as we support the Ukrainians.

Madam Speaker, nearly two-thirds of the money has been spent here, and 100 percent of the determination of victory belongs to the Ukrainian people.

Others have mentioned, Mr. HOYER included, that at the same time, our hearts break when we hear about the atrocities committed against women by Putin's forces.

Women are subjected to rape as a weapon of war. They have been murdered in front of their parents or in front of their children and raped in the same way. Tens of thousands of children have been kidnapped by the Russian soldiers.

I said to someone who knows about these things: Isn't it sad that the brutality of war has turned these soldiers into brutes?

They said: Make no mistake. The Russian soldiers do what they are ordered to do.

These rapes, these kidnappings, and these murders of families in front of family members are the direct order of Vladimir Putin, who is a very evil person.

We must put an end to this unadulterated evil. The longer we wait to get them the money, more people will die, more children will be kidnapped, more women will be raped, and more uncertainty will be injected into the situation as to whether or not we are there to protect democracy and to support it.

□ 1815

As the war wages on, the administration has repeatedly made clear: America is at the end of the supply of money we have voted and Ukraine is nearly out of time.

Today, President Zelenskyy returned to the Capitol to make a compelling case for America's continued support to help Ukraine finish the fight; because the battle for Ukraine, again, is a battle for democracy itself, and we will not let death, destruction, and dictatorship of Vladimir Putin prevail.

President Biden's supplemental funding request must be brought to the floor as soon as possible so that we honor our duty to stand with the Ukrainian people until victory is won. It has been said on both sides of the aisle, the cost of war is great. Should Putin prevail and then go on to other invasions of NATO or non-NATO countries, it will only cost more money, more lives, more families separated. That cannot be what we are about.

At the same time, this legislation calls for us to honor a commitment to peace in the Middle East by our support for Israel and the humanitarian assistance that is in the legislation for the Palestinian people as well as others.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. KAPTUR for her leadership during this Special Order and for yielding time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and I thank every Member, on both sides of the aisle, that have spent this much time today in furtherance of this very noble objective so Ukraine wins and wins soon.

Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN, a very hardworking member of our caucus.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative KAPTUR for all her extraordinary work for Ukraine many Congresses over and especially now since the brutal invasion.

Madam Speaker, it has been more than 650 days since Putin's illegal and brutal invasion of Ukraine, the largest armed conflict in Europe since World War II. Today, President Zelenskyy visits the United States, yet again, to call upon us to continue to lead.

The United States, President Biden, has led a coalition of more than 50 nations to provide Ukraine with the resources to protect its people, its land, its democracy, its sovereignty. The United States is leading, and we cannot abandon Ukraine now.

The war has taken more than 22,000 of Ukraine's men, women, and children in the brutal, harshest ways as the Speaker Emerita just detailed. We cannot abandon Ukraine now because Ukraine's fight is our fight.

We must pass the supplemental funding package currently sitting in the Senate. It is unconscionable of us to go home for the holidays without doing that. Without it, we impede Ukraine's ability to win. At the same time, I hope everyone understands that we weaken our own military readiness and our own national security because not only does this legislation include crucial funding for ammunition and intelligence for Ukraine, but it invests in our own military—$43.6 billion to increase our weapons capacity, including $24.5 billion to replenish U.S. weaponry supply.

We must not abandon Ukraine now because to do so would be a failure to protect a young democracy; to do so would be a threat to our own military readiness, to our own national security; and to do so would be a failure of the United States to lead, and that is simply unacceptable. It is un-American.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, a leader on so many fronts here in the Congress, including Ukraine.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, Marcy, for her leadership.

Madam Speaker, I have listened to this debate, and as it has gone on, I am becoming more and more depressed that we do not have the courage to continue to support Ukraine. Why? What is going on here?

I want us just to think for a moment about the blood that has been spilled by the Ukrainians trying to protect their democracy. For more than almost 2 years now, they have fought every way to protect themselves. The women and children and men of Ukraine are dying, and we are sitting here doing nothing.

This is a disgrace. There is no other way to describe it. Holding Ukraine hostage for an unnecessary change in the asylum laws is absolutely wrong. Yes, we do need to deal with immigration, but at what price to Ukraine, at what price to the women, the children, the incoming missiles from Russia?

Putin is having a glorious day, and we are a disgrace. There is no other way to describe that the most powerful Nation in the world is unwilling to stand up to continue to support Ukraine in its hour of need. Who are we that we are unwilling to do this? Did anybody in this House actually read H.R. 2, the asylum legislation? Eighty percent of it is downright foolish.

Is there a compromise available? Absolutely. Who is working on it in this House? Show me one Member of this House that is working on a compromise on that. I don't know who they are.

Speaker JOHNSON, where are you? Where are you hiding? Where is your leadership? Ukraine is at risk. Think about it. It will be 1½ months before any legislation will pass this House. If, in fact, we get our act together over the holidays, what will happen? The Ukrainian Government depends upon the American money to pay the police, the firemen, the first responders. They

won't have that money and the military, the flow of equipment, the flow of ammunition, it will diminish.

How do they get started? How are they going to replenish? It is time for us to stand. It is time for us to act. We have 1½ days to do it. Can we do it? You are damn right we can do it; if we find the courage to do it. If we find the very same courage that President Zelenskyy has exhibited over the last 2 years and, more importantly, the men and women of Ukraine that are fighting a desperate fight for their own future.

I wonder if we have the courage. I know I have to stand down. I know the people of Ukraine will never stand down. The question is whether we will stand with them.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 6 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio, Congressman GREG LANDSMAN, a distinguished Member of our Congress.

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank my very good friend and colleague from the great State of Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR, for her leadership on this. It is remarkable.

Madam Speaker, I, too, rise today in support of Ukraine and its fight against tyranny. Imagine where we would be, the global community, had the United States and Europe joined forces in 1939 to stop Hitler when he invaded Poland?

The world is watching us now, and Russia wants nothing more than for the United States and our allies to abandon Ukraine. That is the big win for Putin.

Abandoning Ukraine would give Putin and his despots like him the green light to further their wars of imperialism and expansion, and history, as I mentioned, shows us that appeasing autocrats has devastating consequences. Doing so could draw the United States and our allies into direct conflict, putting American troops in harm's way.

Ukraine is fighting for its survival. Eastern Europe is fighting for its survival. The United States in partnership with our allies must stand firm by Ukraine's side as it fights to defend its freedom, its sovereignty, and its future.

We have to pass a budget. We have to pass this much-needed investment in our global partners. We can, if and when the Speaker realizes how serious of a moment this is and decides to be serious and bring us a bipartisan bill which will pass overwhelmingly.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. STEVE COHEN, who is such a phenomenal leader in the law and on almost every subject we deal with here.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, it has been said that everything has been said, but not everybody has said it. Everything really has been said. I have heard such great oratory from such passionate, patriotic speakers. What is clear is we have a duty as the leader of democracy in the world to support our friends and to fight for democracy in Ukraine where they are defending democracy and keeping us from having to go in. If Putin wins and gets into a NATO country, saving our soldiers' blood and lives—and that will happen. In Israel, where a similar foe, Hamas like Russia, knows no limits, is threatening the existence of Israel.

I know the Speaker believes that we should support Israel. When he was first elected, he went to the podium and said we will support Israel, but later he said we will only support Israel if we cut $15 billion from the IRS and the budget, which would lose us $85 billion overall. That is fiscally foolish and morally wrong.

Israel should be supported unconditionally and so should Ukraine—two valiant countries whose existence has been threatened. These are existential fights for Israel and for Ukraine. What happened in Bucha right after the war started before the Ukrainians were able to repel the Russians was similar to what happened on October 7 in Israel—murders, rapes, crime.

If we allow Russia to win, which we will if we don't support Ukraine, there will be ten times the devastation of what happened on October 7 in Israel to happen to the women and the children of Ukraine because Russians have showed they have no respect for women, morality, or mankind.

Madam Speaker, I urge Speaker Johnson to put these bills on the floor to support Ukraine, to support Israel, to support Taiwan, to support democracy, and to support human relief in Gaza for people who have been innocent victims. Please put these bills on the floor and let us do what America needs to do.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has been at almost every meeting we have held on Ukraine and then we will yield to Congressman JOSH GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey, a leader on both sides of the aisle.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for her great leadership.

Madam Speaker, I stand here for the children. We must stand for the children. A little boy riding with his grandmother, Oleksandr Ivanov, was killed by the Russians and more children have been killed in all the conflicts that are going on.

We must move forward so that the humanitarian aid comes along with the aid that is needed to fight the Russians who have lost 87 percent of their military since they started. This can be winnable for the children. We need humanitarian aid in all the wars that are now going on, and I want to stand for that fight. The bill named after Oleksandr Ivanov is to protect our children wherever they are, humanitarian aid and war aid to ensure that the children are our priority. I hope that this fight will be won, and we will win for democracy and we will win for our children.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support Ukraine as it stands up to tyranny and defends their sovereignty in the face of Russia's continued, unprovoked aggression. But I rise for the children in all wars—and I ask and demand humanitarian aid for children in all the wars.

We must send the unmistakable message that in the 21st Century, a dictator cannot conquer or carve up neighboring territories.

On February 24, 2022, Russia, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, launched a premeditated war against Ukraine in an attack on democracy and a grave violation of international law, global peace, and security.

The war in Ukraine continues to severely impact people's lives and damage civilian infrastructure, triggering evacuations from frontline areas and driving humanitarian needs.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, as of July 2023, there are a recorded 5.1 million internally displaced people in Ukraine, 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine globally, and 17.6 million Ukrainian people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The unjust and brutal war has put millions of Ukrainian women and children at risk of trafficking. Millions of children have been deprived of their education and are experiencing trauma, and according to a report by Yale University, more than 6,000 children are in Russians custody.

According to a report by Yale University Humanitarian Research Lab (Yale HRL), at least 6,000 children from Ukraine ages four months to 17 years have been held at camps and other facilities within Russia-occupied Crimea and mainland Russia since Russia's full-scale invasion began.

Forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948 and the Geneva Convention IV, including articles 24, 25, 50, 78 and 82.

Today, I call my colleagues to action and ask that they join me in seeking liberty and justice for all those in Ukraine.

Ukrainian children are being forcibly taken to Russia and put up for adoption into Russian families in an apparent effort to assimilate them, a practice that genocide scholar Timothy Snyder has said could be considered genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention.

Ukraine's Office of the Prosecutor General has confirmed more than 17,000 cases of Ukrainian children abducted to Russia. But the number is likely much higher.

The U.S. State Department has said it has reliable information that Russian authorities have deliberately separated Ukrainian children from their parents during so-called "filtration" procedures and abducted others from Ukrainian institutions before putting them up for adoption inside Russia and estimates that the number may be as high as 260,000.

This is only the first step in what appears to be a deliberate Russian policy.

Once Ukrainian children arrive in Russia—or in Russian-controlled part of Ukraine such as Crimea—they are put into Russian orphanages. After a short period, they are given Russian citizenship.

This is done because Russian law allows for the adoption of foreign children.

Last Spring Putin signed decrees streamlining the process for children to receive Russian citizenship and for adoption.

Families are also given financial incentives to adopt children.

In Russian custody, Ukrainian children are subjected to reeducation programs meant to ''Russify'' them, told that their parents no longer want them, and convinced that their future lies in Russia.

Disgustingly, Russian propaganda cynically portrays its adoption of Ukrainian children as an act of generosity that gives new homes to helpless orphans.

Russian state media shows local officials hugging and kissing newly arrived Ukrainian children and handing them Russian passports.

Many of these children are not orphans at all.

Ukrainian institutions also house children whose parents were not in position to take care of them for a period of time or who had special needs.

Once adopted, children's names and dates of birth are often changed, making it extremely difficult to find them and reunite them with their families in the future.

We need to act now to stop the abduction and forced assimilation of Ukrainian children to Russia.

We need to raise our concerns loudly and often and speak out to counter the disgusting Russian propaganda that would use children in this way.

We should consider whether there is a need to establish a registry to record data on children believed to have been taken to Russia or Russian-occupied territories to assist law enforcement and also future family reunification in the future.

Of course, any such system must protect children's personal information.

In addition, we should also look at what role international organizations might play in tracking and rescuing these children, including the Red Cross.

Further, Ukraine's children are suffering serious injury and trauma due to Russia's genocidal war on Ukraine.

According to the United Nations, almost two-thirds of the country's children have been displaced.

Thousands have been injured and, although UNICEF has said more than 1,000 children have been killed, that number is likely much, much higher as there is no reliable way to verify how many civilians have been killed in the most decimated areas of Ukraine, like Mariupol, where, just as one example, Russian forces bombed a theater housing hundreds of civilians despite clear markings that children were present.

In addition to the immediate dangers of war, the effects of war on children could have lasting consequences.

Many Ukrainian children have witnessed unimaginable violence, including the murders of their own parents or family members.

They have had to endure the stress of being under almost constant bombardment, in fear of their safety.

Others have experienced hunger, cold, and weeks spent hiding in wet, frigid basements without daylight or fresh air and without sanitation or healthcare.

This constant stress takes a heavy toll on the youngest victims of war.

Moreover, disruptions to education may never be fully recovered.

In this regard, I would like to recognize the Ukrainian government's exceptional campaign to keep children linked to their schools by mobilizing the remote learning infrastructure built up during the COVID–l9 pandemic, as well as the many European countries which have opened their schools to Ukrainian refugee children.

Children—and their families—need support to heal from the trauma they have experienced.

There are organizations on the ground providing psychological treatment, art therapy, humanitarian aid, and for some even new homes.

We all need to support such programs and to act now to ensure their continued action and expanded reach.

The longer children go without receiving treatment for their trauma, the longer it will take to heal.

There is also significant concern for the physical, mental, and psychological well-being of women in Ukraine.

Amnesty International reports that women in the country face grave risks, an increased burden of caring responsibilities and immense stress and hardships when living in war zones.

Amnesty International's Secretary General explains that ''Time and time again, women bear the brunt of war's brutality. They are consistently on the frontlines of conflict—as soldiers and fighters, doctors and nurses, volunteers, peace activists, carers for their communities and families, internally displaced people, refugees, and too often as victims and survivors.''

Women confront increased sexual and gender-based violence and perilous health conditions, while being forced to make life and death survival decisions for their families.

At the same time, women are often excluded from the decision-making processes and their rights and needs remain unprotected and unmet.

While many women in Ukraine have joined the resistance to Russian aggression, very often caregiving responsibilities for children and family members fall disproportionately on women.

Managing these caregiving responsibilities is especially difficult in the perilous conditions of the conflict.

A woman living in the conflict zone in Donetsk Oblast, told Amnesty International how the invasion has impacted her as a mother and caregiver for her parents: ''All changed for the worse. Men [from the family] are at war, women are left alone, many with small children on their backs without any income. There is no help—no physical help, no financial aid.''

The invasion has also had a distinct detrimental effect on women's mental, physical and sexual and reproductive health.

For menstruating women and girls, limited supplies any increased prices for menstruation management products are forcing them to choose between food and sanitary products.

I am especially concerned about reports of rape and sexual assault committed by Russian troops, not only of women, but also of children and men.

Gender-based violence is aggravated and intensified for those living in the conflict-affected regions for many reasons.

These include the lack of security, the absence or erosion of the rule of law, the pervasiveness of impunity for the perpetrators, and lack of trust in the occupying authorities, as well as the stigma attached to disclosing experiences of sexual and gender-based violence.

This is not only an effort to humiliate and terrorize, but also could amount to genocide as some women report being told by their tormenters that they would be raped until they could no longer have Ukrainian children.

Russia must be held accountable for their heinous actions and the war crimes they have committed against the women, children, and people of Ukraine.

I urge Congress to act to protect the safety, security, and well-being of the people of Ukraine, especially vulnerable populations like women and children.

Congress cannot remain complicit in the face of Russian aggression.

We must act to defend the rights and freedoms of Ukraine's children and all its people.

To hold accountable those who have committed these atrocities and have put the lives of thousands of Ukrainian women and children at risk, I introduced H.R. 5800, the Oleksander Ivanov Act.

H.R. 5800, THE OLEKSANDER IVANOV ACT

This bill will help rescue and support the children of Ukraine from Russian aggression and to prevent human trafficking in refugee flows.

Specifically, under this bill, the United States will:

Support programs for trauma treatment and healing, rehabilitation and where necessary prostheses, for Ukrainian children affected by the war including nationwide educational programs of psychological support to address emotional trauma and stress for all of Ukraine's children, integrated into school curriculum and offered through clinical and social services.

Support programs to rebuild the education system in Ukraine and education for Ukrainian child refugees, in cooperation with other countries, international organizations, and civil society.

Support the development of a unified and consolidated searchable registry of missing Ukrainian children in order to facilitate identification of children and family reunification. The registry should ensure strict data protection and availability in the Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages. In addition, the public should be made aware of its existence and use.

Support the creation of a unified central emergency call center hub linked to law enforcement in Ukraine and in other countries to enable reporting on and interventions on behalf of missing children originally from Ukraine and suspected cases of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, including online, of children originally from Ukraine.

The bill will also undertake new global actions to protect refugees and combatting human trafficking by:

Supporting the creation of an international mechanism to facilitate vetting of volunteers and other non-governmental front-line responders working with refugees or with victims

of other major crises or natural disasters by government authorities or law enforcement. Such an international vetting system could include internationally recognized certifications verifying individuals who have been recently cleared to work with refugees.

Supporting efforts to only allow appropriately vetted and credentialled individuals (such as described above) access to refugees.

Continuing to support efforts by the Ukrainian government to increase collaboration with their European counterparts on anti-trafficking investigations and increased awareness efforts.

Supporting the development of robust child protective mechanisms for vulnerable children, including those from Ukraine, in Ukraine and in countries that have received Ukrainian refugees, that include social assistance and protection to help prevent human trafficking and sexual abuse of Ukrainian children.

And working with Ukrainian authorities to ensure that law enforcement officials stationed at major border crossing points during a refugee crisis are appropriately trained to prevent human trafficking and support other measures to monitor for indications of human trafficking targeting refugees in areas surrounding border crossings.

Further, my bill directs sanctions to hold Russia responsible for its actions against the children of Ukraine by doing the following:

Imposing financial blocking and visa sanctions on any foreign person or organization that the President or Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determine are responsible for engaging in or facilitating the transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine or for their forced assimilation, adoption, or placement in a foster home, and engaging in or facilitating the human trafficking of Ukrainian refugees.

The actions laid out in this bill would represent a major step forward for the children of Ukraine, illustrate America's strong stance against Russian aggression, and protect the most vulnerable during this time of conflict and crisis.

Holding Russia accountable for war crimes is crucial.

There can be no impunity for these heinous crimes.

And so today, I call on my colleagues to join me in continuing our support for a victorious Ukraine, and to put an end to these heinous crimes Russia continues to commit.

It is important that we continue to do everything we can to help Ukraine succeed on the battlefield and protect its people, and we cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted.

□ 1830

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, We are witnessing the largest land invasion of Europe since the Second World War.

The similarities to Poland in 1939 are chilling.

Russia's unprovoked war of aggression has led to countless war crimes, the death of innocent civilians, and the mass deportation of Ukrainian Children.

Make no mistake, Putin's imperialist ambitions do not stop at the Ukrainian border. A loss in Ukraine could lead to a larger conflict in Europe.

The implications and fallout from this war could reach far beyond Ukraine's borders. Our adversaries are watching, and if Putin wins, it will embolden dictators and despots around the globe to advance their malign agendas and challenge U.S. interests.

No one has more to gain from a Russian victory than Chairman Xi, who is eyeing his own military invasion of Taiwan. If Putin is allowed to succeed, it will serve as a green light for Chairman Xi. And it will definitively show a failure in U.S. resolve to stand for freedom and democracy.

Ukraine today could be Taiwan tomorrow.

We must commit to success in Ukraine to demonstrate that the U.S. will not be intimidated or accept threats to our partners and allies.

If history has taught us anything, it is that weakness only invites aggression. As Winston Churchill famously said, "an appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last."

We need to give Ukraine the weapons they need to win, without delay. We need to tighten sanctions on the Putin regime and transfer frozen Russian assets to Ukraine.

Putin started this war, and Putin must pay.

We also need to address the growing national security threat at our Southern border.

The House is ready to move to support Ukraine, but the Senate Democrats have failed to work with Republicans and make any meaningful policy changes to address the crisis at our own border.

We are experiencing record numbers of illegal aliens daily. Over 2,000 migrants and counting have died trying to make the dangerous journey across the border in the last three fiscal years.

And 35 percent of women and children are sexually abused throughout their journey at the hands of brutal cartels.

And tragically, over the last two years, nearly 150,000 people died from fentanyl crossing the border from Mexico.

That is nearly triple the number of American deaths during the entire duration of the Vietnam War. And we only expect these deaths to continue to grow.

Put simply, the President and Secretary Mayorkas are aiding and abetting this crisis at our Southern border.

It is time for the White House and Senate Democrats to work with House Republicans to finally secure our border through meaningful policy changes, such as reinstating Remain in Mexico, and Asylum Cooperative Agreements.

Only after we secure our border and deal with the national security threats at home can we look abroad to assist Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

The world is watching, and history will judge how we respond.

BIPARTISAN SUPPLEMENTAL AID PACKAGE

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, Israel and Ukraine may be 2,000 miles apart, but the evils they face are connected. Hamas and Putin have waged unprovoked wars on neighboring democracies, murdering thousands of civilians and kidnapping innocent people, including children.

Recently, Moscow hosted Hamas and Iranian leaders. This is incredibly concerning because Hamas is funded by Russia's military ally, Iran.

I fear the extreme ultra rightwing wants to cut and run and hand Putin a win. It sends the wrong message to China and empowers our adversaries.

The United States has a responsibility to support Ukraine in its fight against a murdering dictator and provide the support Israel needs to kill the terrorists responsible for the atrocities on October 7. Hamas terrorists have made it clear that they will not back down and are committed to a second, third, and fourth October 7.

We must pass a bipartisan supplemental aid package that makes sure that we do not ever send the wrong signal about fighting against terror and protecting global democracy and our national security.

PLEA TO SPEAKER JOHNSON

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I make a plea to Speaker Johnson and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, please give Vladimir Putin no succor. Stand up for liberty. This is the moment for Ukraine. Let us seize it. Let us seize it.

TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION HAPPENING AROUND US

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, last week I promised I was going to do something a little more positive tonight. It is complicated because I basically have a compulsion. Being from Arizona, I sit on an airplane 10 hours a week; 5 there and 5 back.

I use these news aggregators, and I collect articles. Afterwards, my staff and I do follow-up and research. I just gathered up some of them the last couple days. These are positive things happening in our society, but one of the number one reasons I am going to show them is they are things that actually could make our lives better, make us healthier as a society and assist with, as you know, my fixation on the debt.

Before we start to actually focus on the debt and deficit—and I am going to try to minimize my sarcasm, but you have got to give me a moment here—we should be very proud of ourselves. We did something very special today that we have never done before other than in the middle of COVID.

Over the last 2 months, our borrowing has increased so much that we are at $80,600 a second. We did it. I am so proud of us. I knew we could actually spend ourselves into oblivion. We did it, we crossed $80,000. We are at

$80,000 a second, and we are only a few ticks away from getting to $7 billion a day.

When I think about the fussing that goes on here on the floor where we are knifing each other for this or that, unless it is covering almost $7 billion in savings, that day we actually went negative. Just a point.

Interestingly, the data shows since the beginning of the fiscal year—we are 2 months and a week or so into it—Social Security is number one. Social Security is always going to be number one.

I have gotten picked on a little bit for bringing my charts showing that we are going to have $1 trillion this year in gross interest. Some folks say, well, that is not fair, you are paying interest to the Social Security trust fund. Okay.

Well, guess what? Even if I use what they call net interest, which is only the interest we pay out to people who bought U.S. bonds, interest is still, so far this fiscal year, the second biggest expenditure in this government. Social Security is first, interest is number two, then defense, then Medicare, then Medicaid. Just a little bit of fiscal housekeeping there.

All right. As a body, as Members of Congress and our staff, I need all of us to start thinking. We live in a time where there is a technological revolution happening around us. How do we use that technology to make people's lives easier, better, and give them more time?

I am going to start with one example that I think is so incredibly obvious. I chair the Oversight Subcommittee for the Ways and Means Committee, so I have the IRS. We have come up here a number of times just enraged that during the Inflation Reduction Act Democrats moved an additional $80 billion to the IRS. They tell us, well, it is for collection and customer service.

What would happen if I came to you today and said, have you ever tried calling the IRS and sat on hold forever or got their response saying: Hey, could you call back another day? Or, give us your phone number, and we will get around to calling you back? I am going to give them credit here; they tried an experiment.

The IRS actually did an experiment this last tax season, and it served 13 million people, and it was a chatbot. Most people say: Oh, I don't like AI. However, think about this: When you call an airline today, most of the time do you think you are actually speaking to a real human? What if I could call the IRS and actually have the phone picked up right then, and I can ask a certain question: What do I put on this line? I have this issue, where do I find the document for this? Is there a YouTube video I can watch on how to fill out this form?

The experiment worked. It was actually incredibly positive. I have had their technology people in my office multiple times, even last week, and I am told it is going to get expanded for this next tax filing season. You are going to get the phone answered.

What happens if the ability to do a chatbot at a government agency could mean better and faster customer service and, let's be honest, save a lot of money because you don't have to hire as many government bureaucrats? It is a moment where those of us who are very concerned about that additional $80 billion going to the IRS could actually say: Okay, there is an argument. We have got a real customer service problem, how about using technology? Well, the experiment is working.

How do I get my brothers and sisters here when we do our oversight, when we think about our job of making government faster, more efficient, more affordable, and less borrowing—oh, less borrowing—to say what other agencies could basically get rid of buildings full of people answering the phone and move to technology that is crisper, faster, better, cheaper, more accurate, and can actually give you the link so that you can see the video on how to fill out the form.

That is where this discussion is going. There are positive things happening, or at least possibilities if I can get this body to think.

Let's actually go on to one of the other ones that I am absolutely fascinated with. I have actually worked on this for years. There is this thing called carbon capture. Most of the left despise it because it would allow you to continue to use, particularly, natural gas, and yet there are breakthroughs in the technology right now to capture the carbon, sequester it or convert it into other products.

I actually have functionally a whole library of MIT and others who have had breakthroughs on how to do it. This one is about facilities being built.

There are even crazy experiments going on around the country and in the world on what they call ambient carbon capture. Where the concept is what happens when you can actually start to capture the carbon right at the point source, turn it into another fuel, sequester it in the ground, use it for extraction of other hydrocarbons. There is a solution here. The problem is it doesn't fit the narrative of my brothers and sisters on the left.

However, if you actually look at the math, particularly with 45Q, which is an incentive to capture this carbon—look, one of the biggest emitters you have in the country is making concrete. Okay. What if you would grab the carbon and put it in the concrete? Yeah, the concrete turns gray, but it is the sequestration of it. There are positive economic growth solutions for our brothers and sisters on the left who have climate change concerns, but yet we talk past each other.

I have saved article after article on topics, including speaking about new technology that could capture carbon and water out of thin air. This is ambient carbon capture. It is out there. It exists.

How do you get this body to start reaching this century of technology? Instead, we often sound like it is still the 1990s.

It is here. We have actually had some of these experts, some of the researchers, the one on MIT's breakthrough from almost 2 years ago. I bring this because this is a particular subject area where the left wants one thing, we want one thing, and I argue there is a technology that actually solves both of our problems.

Part of my point tonight was instead of just talking about the dystopian terror I have of the speed and growth of debt—and the fact of the matter is that no one wants to have the conversation with me that from today through the future most of our debt is going to be healthcare costs, and if in 9 years we start to backfill Social Security, it is demographics.

What do you do to create as much economic growth, as much prosperity as possible?

One of the number one things we have to do in time is start to talk about not how you finance the price of healthcare, but, rather, how to disrupt it.

I am going to jump around a little on this. The ACA—ObamaCare—a decade ago, wasn't a healthcare bill. It was a financing bill basically saying you cover this, and here is how you get subsidized and here is who has to pay. The Republican alternative was a financing bill, here is who has to pay and here is who gets subsidized. Medicare for All is a financing bill, they are not about what you pay. What is the actual cost?

What if I came to you and said, let's actually think about the things we can do to make our society healthier, make our society so we don't need the same level of healthcare services?

The next board I am going to show you is a fairly radical thought. Let's actually walk through this because I have been collecting articles on this concept for a while.

This last year, somewhere close to 100,000 of our brothers and sisters in America died of a drug overdose. Number one was fentanyl. Come to Phoenix, Arizona, in Maricopa County, Arizona, we have three people who lose their lives every single day due to fentanyl.

What if I came and said, hey, there is a healthcare solution. Turns out we are on the cusp of having a vaccine. I am not an expert on this, but I have read the articles, and apparently fentanyl, because it is a synthetic, is remarkable at capturing the receptors in your brain and just dramatically changing your brain chemistry.

□ 1845

It turns out there are scientists all over the world working on the concept of filling those receptors. If anyone is industrious enough, google right now or use your search engine ''vaccine for cocaine.'' It is a different formula. It is a binding to a protein.

I started following this a couple of years ago when there was an article

about a vaccine for alcohol addiction. We scream at people and say: ''Just tough it out. Go to your meetings.'' You should do both of those, but what would happen if you could start to remove the high from some of these incredibly addictive drugs? Remember, these things are chemicals. They are not plant-based.

This world is so much more dystopian. What change would happen with the homelessness in our urban areas if this was available? How many people out there could you help back into society?

It is a tough conversation. There are some really tough ethical questions where you have someone who comes in off the street. They are addicted to fentanyl. There is a fentanyl vaccine available.

Do they have to be able to choose it themselves? Probably. When are you in your right mind that you can make that type of decision?

This is on the cusp. This is projected to be here potentially next year. Are we intellectually, ethically, and financially ready to deal with the opportunity of a disruption of something that is tearing many of our cities and communities apart?

This is optimistic. This is loving people. This is also trying to figure out a way to take on human misery.

How many times have you had an idiot like me come to the floor of the House and say maybe we should start to think about policy if there are now going to be vaccines coming that actually block the receptors for these types of drugs? Would that be good for society? If it would be good for society, how do we carry it out?

I think this is just moral, besides the fact that if you actually look at the 10-year cost of it, it may actually be a huge economic benefit and saver to municipal governments, city governments, State governments, and also our Medicaid subsidies. It just may be the right thing to do.

There should be hope. There should actually be excitement about these sorts of things.

As we walk through a few more of these—and forgive me. There are so many subjects here. I am going to bounce around on this one only because this is one I have been collecting for years.

A couple of years ago, I came across an article by some scientist who actually had been focusing on methane. For those of you who care about math, methane apparently has a substantially higher impact, according to formulas we are given, but a much shorter life span in the atmosphere.

The capture of methane was going to cost a fortune. Some of the early Biden administration rules are that they wanted costs upstream and downstream of the production of natural gas.

Scientists wrote this article saying: Did you know that clay, when it is also adjusted, I believe it was with copper oxide—you get the joke here if anyone actually has a scientific brain. Clay and kitty litter with copper oxide acts like a methane sponge. It is incredibly inexpensive.

I proposed it to some of my Democratic colleagues who claim to really care about climate change, methane, and all those things. They just looked at me like I was a heretic because I was giving them a solution that didn't require massive government subsidies.

Here we are, a little bit later, and the articles continue on with the ability to do the capture, and even the ability to use that methane capture in agriculture, and the fact that there are actually even some new attempts to do it. You don't have to bankrupt us.

Is it enough to come and give speeches about how much you care about climate change and then not actually understand the science that makes it so you can do something without crushing people's livelihoods, crushing your retirement, and leaving your future generations in debt?

Call my office. We have dozens of these articles we collect. We subscribe to some really crazy blogs and scientific publications. In this place, does anyone actually read the literature?

This is supposed to be a happy, optimistic speech, so forgive my exasperation. Let's talk through some of the other things that are going on.

I know everyone was reading and enthusiastic about the first CRISPR drug that made it through the final bit of its process and apparently is heading to the streets now. The FDA has approved it for sickle cell anemia. It is incredibly painful. This drug will be outrageously expensive, and we need to find, for just basic morality's sake, how we make it available. The point here is that it works, finally.

We have talked about CRISPR and the ability to alter a genome and add some gene sequencing. It is here. It has been done. It is approved. It is available. One of the miseries in our society actually now has a cure.

We have proposed ideas of a healthcare bond, the ability to be able to buy the units, cure our brothers and sisters, and then use the future healthcare savings, because they no longer have that affliction in the future, to pay it back.

If someone else has a better financing mechanism other than just borrowing money, let me know, but get ready. There are dozens of these types of pharmaceuticals—genetic, bio, other things—that are in the pipeline that we have almost a moral obligation—if it ends misery and also allows our brothers and sisters to once again fully participate in society and the economy, we have to deal with these.

This is optimistic because we actually have been trying to find a cute way to say cures are the solution. This is where I often get in a fuss. I am going to spend a bunch of time at the end on diabetes.

A fuss I have with a number of our Democratic Members—we go at each other pretty hard here because their version of morality is to put up more clinics to help manage misery.

I keep looking at them and saying: Will someone read the scientific literature? We are on the cusp of cures. What is more moral? To spend money to build more clinics, or to spend some money to get more economic growth because you have ended the misery?

How do I get this body to see that vision, that it is great economics, great growth, and also moral?

Let's walk through just a few other of these things. This is another one I am really interested in. It is in phase 1 right now. How would you feel about a vaccine for breast cancer? This is a brand-new board. I only have a couple of the scientific papers on it, but so far, it looks like it is working.

What would this mean for society? What would it mean for testing? What would it mean for mammograms? What would it mean for expenditures in the future? What would it mean for people like my wife who have gone through some misery here?

Is this the right thing to pursue? Maybe it works, maybe it doesn't, but they are well into their phase 1, and their early data is great.

Think about it. You see, I am trying to create thinking here. What happens if one of the ways we reduce future debt and spending is that we ended misery, disease? Cures.

These are the sorts of things I wish we actually brought in front of our committees and talked about, that we actually had staff who would understand the basic science.

I have brought versions of this next one to the floor for about 3 or 4 or years. We even had a debate yesterday in the back of the room here when we were doing a piece of legislation that I thought was purely theater and saying: What is the simplest thing you can do tomorrow that, by the end of next year, you could have a major change in spending on healthcare?

People look at you and don't know. What if I told you 16 percent—and this has been peer-reviewed multiple times—16 percent of U.S. healthcare spending is associated with people not doing their pharmaceutical maintenance?

It is someone like me. I have hypertension. Can you believe that? As long as I take my calcium inhibitor, I am most likely not to have a stroke.

Someone that takes a statin, those pharmaceuticals are incredibly cheap. They have been around for 50 years. It turns out—and this board is now 3 years old. Our latest number is over $600 billion. That is 16 percent of U.S. healthcare spending in a single year.

You are not going to get all that, but what happens if you could get 10 percent, 20 percent of it by just a pill bottle cap that beeps at you in the morning or a text message you would get on your phone asking: Did you take your statin? It is worth thinking about.

How many people do you know who don't follow their regimen on insulin?

We have technology to help each other stay on the program within a year by just saying that we want a pill bottle cap that beeps if it is the type of thing you use for maintenance.

For grandma, it is the type of thing that if she has to take these in the morning and these in the afternoon, it drops the pills in the cup. It already exists. It has existed for years.

We have done presentations to the committees around here saying the day is here. We all agree this is real. Why is it so hard?

We had someone come to present us with a package, saying: Do you realize there are certain pharmaceuticals that are so incredibly expensive? Put them in sterile blister packs, and when someone has gone through their treatment, don't throw away what is left. If it is in sterile packaging, why can't it be given to a Medicaid system or helping the poor?

We just don't think here. We are so used to saying we will just spend more money. Please, give this some consideration. Is this Republican or Democratic? It is neither. It is just technology.

It would be a partial solution. If it is 16 percent, that means this is, like, 34 percent more effective than the piece of legislation we jumped up and down and made a big deal about passing yesterday on suspension. One is theatrics; one is actually a solution.

We need to learn math. Here is where I start to soak myself in kerosene and play with matches. It is math. The math will always win.

I have no intention of hurting someone's feelings, but we really should start to talk through some of this. This has been incredibly well vetted. It is in article after article.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, 5 percent of our brothers and sisters are actually over 50 percent of our healthcare spending—actually a little over 50 percent of all healthcare spending.

These are folks with multiple chronic conditions. Many of them have a miserable life, but our ability to change this 5 percent here is a remarkable savings on debt and spending, and the morality of people having a decent life.

Why is it so hard to focus on this?

We actually have article after article that we have been collecting on the ability to use AI to discover cures. This is happening all around us.

Why haven't we updated our policy?

Why haven't we worked with the FDA, saying, hey, AI can reduce parts of your population statistics. So you go into your phase 1, you get certain data back, you can use AI to model your populations. You can cut the time bringing solutions and cures to market.

The ability to actually change what the concept of telehealth is. Is telehealth grabbing your phone and FaceTiming someone, or is it the things you have on your body?

Is it the wristwatch you have?

Soon we will have blood glucose and oxygen and heart rate and those things. You will functionally have a medical app on your body.

You should be allowed to take that data, run it through, and if it can be certified by the FDA, it should be allowed to prescribe.

Now this is heresy I just said, but the fact of the matter is if you update it on your body—or like that flu kazoo I came here and showed on the floor years ago; the thing you blow into. It is a breath biopsy that within a couple moments says, hey, you have this virus. We are bouncing off your medical records.

So it bounces off your phone: Here are your medical records. You are not allergic to this antiviral.

We are going to order that antiviral, and maybe Lyft or Uber drops it off at your house in a couple hours.

That would be a good thing, except for the fact that we functionally keep that illegal, and if we don't make it illegal, we make it so it can't be reimbursed.

It is a solution. Remember, part of this discussion is what did we do to change the cost and the ability to be healthy, not who is going to subsidize your healthcare premium, your insurance premium.

We have article after article. There are actually some miracles happening here in starting to understand cell dynamics, which is a big deal if it starts to come around in the next few years.

Remember, we have a certain misery in this country we have to deal with.

This sort of goes back to my fentanyl vaccine. We may be able to walk into a fifth year of life expectancy falling, particularly for prime-age males.

It is bad enough you live in a country that in about 18 years we will have more deaths than births, but what happens when life expectancy in this country is shrinking?

We are going to get to one of the reasons for that.

How about this. What would happen if there was a universal flu vaccine; instead of playing this game every winter saying, did they get the mixture right?

Well, it is only about 30 percent effective because it turns out that the genome of the flu that actually started to circulate wasn't the one they expected.

What if they figured out a way to do the snip on the protein?

Have you ever seen the data of the economic impact of a major flu season; how many people don't go to work?

It is really good economics. I will argue, it is embracing science in a way that is good for all of us.

Look, I have article after article of these breakthroughs that are actually not in the lab right now. Many of them are actually being tested.

Why can't we get this body to say, hey, that one should be getting an XPRIZE, because if they can bring that to market 1 or 2 years sooner, think of the misery we can end. Oh, and it is really good for the budget deficit.

Hey, this one we need to work with the FDA, if we actually have to move someone over here to be able to do the review process instead of it being piled up on some overworked bureaucrat so it sits there for a year.

We need to think through the fact of the timing of a cure. The faster it comes is moral, and it is also great economics.

Let's actually now go where it gets even more uncomfortable.

The amount of mocking I took a couple of years ago, and then the science actually turned out right, but I never got that reporter—and, look, the DCCC is always going to attack us, but you would think they would actually see the morality in ending misery in people's lives.

Diabetes is the single most expensive disease in America. It is 33 percent of all healthcare spending. It is 31 percent of Medicare; 31 percent of Medicare is associated with diabetes.

A few months ago, we actually had a Healthcare Innovation Summit downstairs. We actually got six Members of Congress to show up. We invited all of them, but six showed up to meet the company that looks like they have a cure for type 1 diabetes. The other company sitting next to them looks like they had a path for type 2. There are four or five companies.

If type 1 is an autoimmune disease, what happens if you could teach your body not to attack itself? That one is actually, I think, heading towards its phase 1.

If these things are so expensive in society, why can't we actually fixate on them?

Of the $327 billion spent on diabetes in 2017 by insurance and government, we are going to knife each other around here for a few hundred million, maybe several billion dollars in savings. Incremental changes here on just helping our brothers and sisters if we could get to a cure for diabetes.

Now here is where it gets politically even trickier.

Researchers exploring the use of gene therapy to show promising results for diabetic retinopathy.

Madam Speaker, I represent a Tribal population that apparently, I have been told, is the second highest per capita population of diabetes in the world.

It is not a poor Tribe. They are incredibly well managed. They are prosperous.

As we have learned now, because of the GLP–1s, obesity really has a huge genetic component. The hormones you produce to know you are full are different between you and I.

What happens to our brothers and sisters who are going blind because of diabetes? We are on the cusp of a cure there.

I would actually go even more creative.

If anyone is willing to read something that is a little bit complex, about 6 months ago, the Joint Economic

Committee Republicans—a couple of them have Ph.D.s in economics—wrote a response to the President's budget. But we took it further.

We said, think about what we could do for society if we were willing to actually do something about obesity in America.

Remember I just showed you that 5 percent is 50 percent of healthcare spending? Some of the data from the economist came back and said, hey, almost half of healthcare actually has an association with obesity in America.

This is where it gets tricky, but math is math.

In that, they did very conservative math. They were coming up with saying, hey, at the end of 10 years, that is $5-plus trillion dollars of savings. And if you did the multiplier effects, you might actually be able to work, family formation, labor force participation, life expectancy. You start to add in those other benefits, it could be several trillion dollars, besides the basic morality.

So how do you get there?

How do you come here and actually have a conversation without someone accusing you of nasty things because you showed you cared?

Well, we have some new categories of drugs, the GLP–1s. One apparently goes off-patent next year.

Could we actually, as a policy here in Congress, encourage a co-op? Make the one that is off-patent, add competition, crash the price?

The fact of the matter is, someone like me who comes and fixates on the debt—and the Democrats over there fixate on wanting to tax people more—for the last couple months, I have come here and shown you the academic literature over and over that says you can raise rich people's taxes all you want; you hit the economic ceiling and you get about a point and a half; maybe if the sky opened up, you can get up to almost 2 percent of GDP.

Over here we have talked through almost everything we were able to cut, and there are only a couple of percent of GDP that we could ever cut and survive, just get the vote.

The problem is if you take away the fraud of crediting back the administration the student loan money, if you add it all up, we borrowed almost 8.4 percent of the economy last year. So borrowing last year was 8.4 percent of GDP.

Did you hear my math? If taxing rich people only gets you a couple percent of GDP and the cuts we want to talk about—and many of the cuts I am absolutely going to vote for, but it is only a couple percent of GDP.

Does someone see a problem in the math? It has to happen through policy.

Is having a healthier society that needs dramatically less healthcare moral? It is surely great damn economics.

The point of tonight's presentation is actually clear: There is hope. We have calcified intellectually. The left somehow thinks there is a path to tax your way to prosperity.

I have tried to show repeatedly that if we did every tax the Democrats talk about to save the Social Security trust fund, you get close, you still actually have very substantial cuts.

I mean, we have tried to model it, but let's say it covered everything. You have just used up all your gun powder.

If two-thirds of all future borrowing is functionally Medicare, where do you get the cash for that, because you have used it to shore up the Social Security trust fund.

That is actually part of the intellectual vacuousness of this place.

It is, we will just tax more. There is not enough money, but we are not going to tell anyone that because it doesn't fit with what we said on the campaign trail.

How many times have some of my brothers and sisters on my side said it is foreign aid? Then you show the chart that every dime of foreign aid is about 11 days of borrowing.

Remember, we are on the cusp of borrowing $7 billion a day. We are over $80,000 a second now. We are going to have to change through policy.

I have done videos on how you could have a revolution on environmental data by crowdsourcing the data. I even made a whole cartoon. It is on YouTube somewhere about crowdsourcing environmental data; that if you did that, you don't need the current enforcement mechanism. If you have enough data, you will catch the bad actors. It would open up the economy, promote growth, and you would catch the clowns that are breaking the rules.

I have shown that to people in here that have said, oh, but that would cut a whole bunch of jobs at the EPA.

That is the point. It is better, faster, and better for the environment and a hell of a lot cheaper and fairer.

I guess my rambling in my closing, Madam Speaker, is that there are solutions. There is hope, but they are only going to come about if we have intellectually a fairly dramatic change in how we have sort of calcified on policy, because all these things are disruptive.

All these things are going to have armies of lobbyists who do not like them because you are changing their business model, or armies of bureaucrats showing up in your office explaining that you are changing the laws.

That is the point.

There is hope. It just requires us to change.

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

□ 1915

CONGRATULATING THE FOLSOM HIGH SCHOOL BULLDOGS

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

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate the Folsom High School football team on winning the 2023 CIF Division 1A State football championship, beating St. Bonaventure this weekend 20–14. This is Folsom's fifth State championship since 2010, their first since 2018. Head coach Paul Doherty got his team to buy in, and together they were able to achieve remarkable things, with Defensive Coordinator Sam Cole taking the reins and making life for the St. Bonaventure offense rather difficult.

Sophomore quarterback Ryder Lyons opened the score in the first quarter, and Folsom held the lead at halftime. St. Bonaventure battled back and led 14–13 with less than 3 minutes left. Then Folsom's defense stopped the St. Bonaventure offense and took over with a little more than 2 minutes to go.

Lyons led his team downfield and completed a touchdown pass to Jameson Powell with 20 seconds to go.

Coach Doherty and Coach Cole's defense held from there, and the Folsom High School football team won the championship, capping off an amazing 12–2 season.

Coach Doherty and the Folsom Bulldogs should be congratulated on winning the championship of the entire State. We know how hard they have worked. This team brings so much pride to the city of Folsom, and I congratulate all the players on a very well-deserved victory and amazing end to your season.

FREE SPEECH ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, Harvard University's leadership today announced that they will be retaining President Claudine Gay, despite acknowledging President Gay's repeated failures to adequately condemn terrorism and anti-Semitism.

Now, the university will have to answer for why it takes these matters less seriously than the University of Pennsylvania, which recently forced out its president. As disappointing as this is, the refusal of one university to make a needed personnel change is not going to stop the momentum for far-reaching reform that we are seeing in higher education. This is a moment of reckoning for higher education in this country, where the true character of our universities has been laid bare for the world to see.

Even before last week's shocking testimony by the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and Penn, many in this country were asking the question: How is it that our leading academic institutions have been gripped by such an ancient and retrograde prejudice as anti-Semitism? How is it that institutions that have been suppressing free speech for years suddenly discovered the First Amendment as a reason not to condemn terrorism or to stop Jewish students from being bullied and harassed? How is it that university leaders who have waded into every political issue of the day suddenly felt bound by institutional neutrality when it came to the

murder of children? How is it that bureaucracies devoted to diversity, equity, and inclusion turned a blind eye to the targeting the Jewish students and, in some cases, even contributed to that hostile environment?

Yes, this is a moment of reckoning. Our universities cost too much, their degrees deliver too little value, and they have become among the most intolerant places in American life. This is a time to rediscover the purpose of higher education so that our universities are once again leading lights in American life, are national assets, are places of community and belonging and truly higher learning.

Tonight, I would like to take a moment to suggest a path forward by identifying 10 principles for a fundamental cultural change at our universities. I want to say first that this is a process, a conversation, that should be taking place at universities themselves with alumni, with students, with faculty, with administration, with all stakeholders.

Congress does have a role to play. The Education and the Workforce Committee has already announced a congressional investigation into the three universities that we heard from last week and others about their failure to adequately address anti-Semitism on campus.

In a broader sense, Congress has a role to play because of the large amounts of Federal funding that go to even private institutions. The founder of OpenTheBooks reported that Harvard and Penn are now more Federal contractor than educator, collecting more on government contracts and grants than undergraduate student tuition. The group discovered that between 2018 and 2022, Harvard received $3.13 billion in total Federal payments, which includes Federal grants and contracts, while Penn received $4.38 billion in payments.

Yes, Congress has a clear interest in what is happening at our universities and not just from the perspective of oversight of our funds but also because universities are incubators for our broader culture.

So many of the problems in our country today—censorship, the explosion of DEI, a redefinition of merit as something unaligned with excellence or even at odds with it—had their origins on campus, which brings us back to the present crisis of anti-Semitism.

By now, the world has seen the shocking testimony of President Gay and her counterparts at Penn and MIT, refusing to condemn a call for genocide against the Jewish people as a violation of campus policies.

Even prior to that testimony, over the last 2 months, President Gay's inaction created an environment on Harvard's campus where at the time of our hearing, she could not even say if Jewish students will feel safe and welcome. I asked her that several times, and she refused to answer: Could you look the family of a prospective Jewish student in the eye and tell them that their son or daughter would feel safe and welcome on your campus? She refused to even answer the question.

In the aftermath of October 7, President Gay's carefully parsed statements, her silence, her Orwellian use of the passive voice, made it very clear that she sees the forces of anti-Semitism as a constituency that needs to be catered to—that sends a signal on her campus. It sends a signal that was clearly received by the forces of anti-Semitism on her campus, that reverberated across American higher education and seeped into our broader culture.

We can't simply say that this problem has only taken hold in the last couple of months. The reality is that anti-Semitism has been growing on college campuses and prior to October 7 had reached an all-time high. Many have been speaking about this issue with a growing sense of alarm.

For me, the extent of the problem, and the extent to which the universities themselves are serving to exacerbate the problem, really hit home for me in early 2020 when California released a proposed ethnic studies curriculum. This was a 550-page curriculum that was designed by ethnic studies leaders from various school districts and universities appointed by the State's board of education. It received support from 22 California State ethnic studies departments and education leaders throughout the State.

The curriculum was broadly, universally condemned on both sides of the aisle, from people of all points of view. Indeed, Governor Gavin Newsom said at the time that it was offensive in so many ways and would never see the light of day. Among the problems with the curriculum, the biggest, the most deeply problematic, was the many instances of anti-Semitism.

This is what was written by the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, a group of legislators in our State legislature, in response to the proposed curriculum. They wrote that the curriculum: Erases the American Jewish experience, fails to discuss anti-Semitism, reinforces negative stereotypes about Jews, singles out Israel for criticism, and would institutionalize the teaching of anti-Semitic stereotypes in our public schools.

The letter goes on: Jews are essentially excluded from the curriculum. We have been advised that this exclusion appeared to be intentional and reflected the political bias of the drafters. They called it deeply insulting, fundamentally inconsistent with the purposes of ethnic studies, harmful to Jewish and non-Jewish students, and indicative of an anti-Jewish bias in the curriculum that would be dangerous to institutionalize.

The letter goes on: In the few instances where the curriculum acknowledges Jews, it does so in a denigrating and discriminatory manner. For example, it recommends song lyrics that inappropriately delve into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a strong bias and little nuance. The curriculum asserts that Israelis ''use the press so they can manufacture'' a classic anti-Semitic trope about Jewish control of the media.

The letter states: It is difficult to fathom why the State of California would want to actively promote a narrative about Jews that echoes the propaganda of the Nazi regime.

This was a few years ago where you had a panel of university leaders proposing, at the behest of the California State legislature, a curriculum that, by the way, was going to be a graduation requirement for every high school student in the country, and the State's own Legislative Jewish Caucus said that it echoes the propaganda of the Nazi regime.

This has been a problem growing at our universities for some time, and the failures of President Claudine Gay the last 2 months, and her shocking testimony at our hearing last week, simply put the deeply anti-Semitic currents in our universities on stark display.

Now, at the same time that we have seen this rise in anti-Semitism on college campuses, there have been many other deeply troubling trends. Indeed, what made President Gay's tolerance for anti-Semitism all the more morally abhorrent was that this was coming from a president whose university ranked dead last, 248 out of 248, in free speech rankings released earlier this year. Yet, here she was at our committee hearing talking about her university's ''commitment'' to free expression.

The rankings that found Harvard to have come in dead last—in fact, Harvard got the worst score in the history of the rankings—cited surveys of Harvard students where just over a quarter of students reported that they are comfortable publicly disagreeing with their professor on a controversial political topic—just over a quarter comfortable disagreeing with a professor on a political topic. Only a third of students said it is very or extremely clear the administration protects free speech on campus. Even 30 percent said using violence to stop a campus speech is at least acceptable on some occasions. Truly shocking statistics.

These problems have both been getting worse. As anti-Semitism has risen, so has the suppression of free speech. Indeed, even President Obama, several years ago, spoke about this issue. In 2016, Obama said: There has been a trend around the country of trying to get colleges to disinvite speakers with a different point of view or disrupt a politician's rally. Don't do that, Obama said, no matter how ridiculous or offensive you might find the things that come out of their mouths. There will be times when you shouldn't contradict your core values, your integrity, and you will have the responsibility to speak up in the face of injustice. But listen. Engage. If the other side has a

point, learn from them. If they are wrong, rebut them. Teach them. Beat them on the battlefield of ideas. That is what President Obama said in 2016.

That same year, the head of the University of California, Janet Napolitano, discussed this in an editorial where she wrote that the sanctity of free speech in our country is hardly guaranteed, at least not on our college campuses. Napolitano, by the way, was a member of President Obama's cabinet and the Democrat Governor of Arizona.

She went on to warn how far we have moved from freedom of speech on campuses to freedom from speech. She said we have moved from freedom of speech on campuses to freedom from speech.

Indeed, the rise of anti-Semitism and the suppression of free speech on college campuses has gone hand in hand. I saw the degree of this when I was a State legislator and proposed the Free Speech on Campus Act. That legislation got support from dozens of Jewish-American groups who had seen how the suppression of free speech was used to exclude people, to shut down speakers who represented their point of view or were of their background.

In fact, earlier this year, we saw California university student groups actually say they were not going to allow speakers based upon their views on the State of Israel.

This is a very important point. It is the same university culture that has given us speech code, safe spaces, microaggressions, bias reporting systems, and all of the other threats to free speech and free inquiry that we see on campus today. That same university culture has also given us widespread prejudice of a kind we never would have expected to see in America in the 21st century.

□ 1930

Something has gone terribly wrong with higher education in this country. There is a particular culture in higher education that is in many ways detached from reality, a world unto itself, divorced from the norms of frankly either political party, as we saw in the bipartisan condemnation of the university presidents last week, or even basic American institutions.

Now is the time to uproot that culture and to reform higher education in America, to return our universities to their guiding purposes. Figuring out the path forward is going to take a lot of different perspectives.

I want to list, very briefly, 10 basic principles that I think can guide that process. If pursued in earnest, it can return our universities to being national assets rather than institutions that are accelerating our country's decline.

The first principle, of course, is a commitment to freedom of speech. This should be codified in a statement like the University of Chicago's. It should be aligned with the principles of the First Amendment with narrowly defined exceptions, as the Supreme Court has defined. Importantly, one of those exceptions is bullying and genuine harassment.

A second guiding principle is academic freedom so that students and professors alike do not have to fear negative repercussions based upon the type of research they choose to undertake or the points of view that they choose to express.

A third principle is institutional neutrality. Fareed Zakaria, in a widely shared clip from CNN, has said: ''The American public has been losing faith in these universities for good reason.'' He said there has been a ''broad shift'' as universities have gone from ''being centers of excellence to institutions pushing political agendas.''

Universities themselves should not be political actors but rather should be forums where ideas can be debated and discussed and where students can be exposed to a wide variety of views and come to their own conclusions.

A fourth guiding principle is upending the DEI bureaucracy, which has given us safe spaces and trigger warnings. It has taught students to look at each other through the lens of distrust, which has bred hate and division and taught students to hate our country.

A recent op-ed in The Washington Post by Danielle Allen said this: ''I was one of three co-chairs of Harvard's Presidential Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging, which in 2018 delivered a strategic framework for the campus.'' She said, ''Many are chalking up current controversies to diversity, equity, and inclusion work, and the task force's report was a contribution to that field broadly understood.'' But, she said, ''Across the country, DEI bureaucracies have been responsible for numerous assaults on common sense.''

A fifth guiding principle is to allow for ideological diversity among administrators, students, and faculty. One report showed that 1 percent of Harvard professors identify as conservative. That is not a healthy environment for the flourishing of a free exchange of ideas.

A sixth guiding principle is eliminating foreign influence at our universities so that our universities are not being funded by China and other adversaries of the United States.

A seventh guiding principle is to return to core and real academic disciplines and to get rid of those that do not have any academic value or merit or adhere to the traditional norms of scholarship. This would include redefining core curriculums in such a way that students have a common set of knowledge that they come out of universities with.

An eighth guiding principle is to revive trade schools and the teaching of practical skills, crafts, and professions at our universities as well as, by the way, in our secondary and primary schools. This is so every student doesn't feel like they have to go to university in order to get the skills and qualifications to get a good-paying job.

A ninth guiding principle is to make our universities more affordable so that tuition does not continue to skyrocket in a way that the Federal Government has fueled and so that students are not left hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt in some cases.

A final principle, which in many ways encapsulates all the others, is to return to excellence as the real, true, overarching guiding principle of our universities—excellence in all of its forms.

This would mean getting rid of grade inflation. It would mean revisiting admissions standards. It would mean restoring standardized tests, which have given people from all walks of life an opportunity to choose their excellence. It would mean having a culture of debate and discussion on campus where the better idea wins, and each student can make that decision for themselves.

If our universities truly come to value excellence again, then that will be the characteristic of their graduates and the future leadership of our country, as well.

This is a moment of reckoning in higher education. It is a moment to rediscover the purpose of a university as a center for research, as a place to explore cutting-edge ideas, and as a place to prepare young people for the task of citizenship, which goes to the heart of what our country is all about, this great experiment that our Founders started in self-government.

Rethinking our institutions of education and higher learning is going to be vital to making sure that that experiment continues to flourish in the years and decades ahead.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 13, 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–2518. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule; withdrawal — Horse Protection; Licensing of Designated Qualified Persons and Other Amendments [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0009] (RIN: 0579-AE76) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–2519. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: New Designated Country-North Macedonia (DFARS Case 2024-D001) [Docket: DARS-2023-0038] (RIN: 0750-AL98) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2520. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Recovery Programs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (RIN: 1505-AC83) received December 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2521. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Enterprise Regulatory Capital Framework — Commingled Securities, Multifamily Government Subsidy, Derivatives, and Other Enhancements (RIN: 2590-AB27) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2522. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Capitalization of Interest in Connection with Loan Workouts and Modifications [NCUA 2020-0114] (RIN: 3133-AF30) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2523. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Asset Threshold for Determining the Appropriate Supervisory Office (RIN: 3133-AF41) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2524. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Prompt Corrective Action: Earnings Retention Waivers and Net Worth Restoration Plans [NCUA 2022-0005] (RIN: 3133-AF19) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2525. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — CAMELS Rating System (RIN: 3133-AF32) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2526. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule with request for comments — Asset Thresholds [NCUA-2021-0111] (RIN: 3133-AF36) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2527. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Counsel, RPMS, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Jagua (Genipin-Glycine) Blue [Docket No.: FDA-2020-C-2131] received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–2528. A letter from the FAA, Office of the General Counsel, Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting two notifications of a discontinuation of service in acting role, a nomination, and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–2529. A letter from the Administrative Assistant, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of 21 Species From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [FF08E22000 FXES111309FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BC98) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2530. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; 2024 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs; and Suspension of Atlantic Surfclam Minimum Size Limit [Docket No.: 231018-0249; RTID 0648-XD380] received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2531. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Southeast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Amendments 1 [Docket No.: 230713-0165] (RIN: 0648-BL56) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2532. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Whiting Utilization in the At-Sea Sectors [Docket No.: 221208-0265] (RIN: 0648-BL41) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2533. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Vessel Movement, Monitoring, and Declaration Management for the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery [Docket No.: 200515-0141] (RIN: 0648-BI45) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2534. A letter from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Endangered Species Act Protections for the Gray Wolf (Canis Lupus) in Compliance With Court Order [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2018-0097; FF09E22000 FXES1113090FEDR 223] (RIN: 1018-BD60) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–2535. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Numerical Limitation for FY 2024 for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H-2B Workers Seeking To Change Employers [CIS No.: 2764-24] (RIN: 1615-AC89) [DOL Docket No.: ETA-2023-0005] received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2536. A letter from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Representation of Others in Design Patent Matters Before the United States Patent and Trademark Office [Docket No.: PTO-C-2023-0010] (RIN: 0651-AD67) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2537. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1635; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01579-T; Amendment 39-22583; AD 2023-21-11] (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–2538. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1651; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00481-T; Amendment 39-22589; AD 2023-22-05] (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–2539. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Deutsche Aircraft GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by 328 Support Services GmbH; AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1707; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00605-T; Amendment 39-22591; AD 2023-22-07] (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–2540. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2140; Project Identifier AD-2023-01071-T; Amendment 39-22590; AD 2023-22-06] (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–2541. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Turbomeca, S.A.) Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1311; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00624-E; Amendment 39-22587; AD 2023-22-03] (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–2542. 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-2023-1637; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00184-E; Amendment 39-22588; AD 2023-22-04] (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–2543. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in Specified Areas of the Dnipro Flight Information Region (FIR) (UKDV) [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0225; Amdt. No.: 91-331H] (RIN: 2120-AL95) received November 29, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5988. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States; with an amendment (Rept. 118–309). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1553. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–310). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3063. A bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–311). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2627. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to prohibit limitations on closed-end companies investing in private funds, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–312). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2365. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 118–313). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 918. Resolution directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–314). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 6717. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 6718. A bill to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 6719. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land, Dillard Road, Patoka Lake, Indiana, to the State of Indiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. WATERS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 6720. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grocery, farm, and food worker stabilization grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. LIEU, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 6721. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a credit against tax for rent paid on the personal residence of the taxpayer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 6722. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for a Federal, cost-of-living based minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 6723. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Act of June 18, 1934, to the Samish Indian Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6724. A bill to require a certain percentage of natural gas and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 6725. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish additional factors that determine pathways in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 6726. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the accounting principles standard setting body to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act, to require the head of such body to testify annually before Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. WILD, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 6727. A bill to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. FRY, Ms. MACE, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6728. A bill to require public school, and public institution of higher education, athletic teams and clubs to be designated for membership based on biological sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6729. A bill to permit the use of NATO and major non-NATO ally dredge ships in the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. OGLES, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER):

H.R. 6730. A bill to rescind amounts made available for the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Oversight and Accountability, Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 6731. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 6732. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify parameters for model testing and add accountability to model expansion under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. DONALDS):

H.R. 6733. A bill to monitor United States investments in entities that are controlled by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H. Res. 924. A resolution recognizing December 17, 2023, as the 30th anniversary of when the first B-2 stealth bomber touched down at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 925. A resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2023; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H. Res. 926. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the peaceful, democratic, and economic aspirations of the people of Sri Lanka; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H. Res. 927. A resolution condemning antisemitism on University campuses and the testimony of University Presidents in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H. Res. 928. A resolution honoring the victims of the mass shooting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BROWN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H. Res. 929. A resolution condemning all forms of hate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. ALLEN):

H. Res. 930. A resolution condemning the Cable News Network (CNN) for utilizing images from an imbedded photojournalist with prior knowledge of the October 7th attack on Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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. LETLOW:

H.R. 6717.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 6718.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize and facilitate a land exchange.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 6719.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Land Conveyance.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI:

H.R. 6720.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide a disaster relief program for grocery, farm, and food workers

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6721.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

tax

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6722.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Wages

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 6723.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: ''[The Congress shall have the power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tribal Issues

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6724.

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:

Energy

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 6725.

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:

Military transition

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 6726.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the accounting principles standard setting body to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act, to require the head of such body to testify annually before Congress, and for other purposes

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 6727.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Affairs

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 6728.

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

Article One, Section Eight

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill prevents biological men from participating in women's sports and vice versa at schools that receive federal funding.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6729.

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 permit the use of NATO and major non-NATO ally dredge ships in the United States.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 6730.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To rescind the unobligated balances of the Department of Commerce Nonrecurring Expenses Fund and ensure such rescission does not count toward discretionary budget enforcement.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 6731.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 6732.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Guardrails for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6733.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish quarterly reporting requirements for Treasury, Commerce, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) relating to securities and investments in foreign adversaries.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. BEAN of Florida.

H.R. 40: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 41: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 345: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 431: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 522: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 530: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 549: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 561: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 562: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 603: Mr. CARTER of Texas.

H.R. 661: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 681: Mr. POCAN and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 693: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 700: Mrs. HINSON and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 807: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 907: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 914: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 926: Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 1025: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 1074: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 1118: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 1135: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 1173: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1191: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 1199: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1200: Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 1322: Mr. RESCHENTHALER and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1328: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 1359: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1510: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1536: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 1624: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1661: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1671: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 1698: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 1719: Ms. BALINT and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 1723: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 1753: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1770: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1776: Mr. FROST and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1796: Mr. CASE and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1831: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 2395: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 2407: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2412: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 2424: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2480: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2501: Ms. CHU and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 2539: Mr. MAGAZINER and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 2567: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 2666: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2696: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H.R. 2725: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 2742: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2768: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 2818: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 2889: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 2904: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 2953: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2955: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2965: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3005: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3013: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 3029: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 3036: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3090: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. AMO, Mr. NICKEL, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3139: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 3150: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3238: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. WILD, and Mr. COMER.
H.R. 3240: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3269: Ms. HAGEMAN and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3302: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3346: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 3350: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3381: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 3392: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 3411: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3413: Mr. COLE and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 3433: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CARL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KEATING, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 3475: Mr. VAN DREW and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3519: Mr. RYAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3569: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 3605: Ms. NORTON and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3606: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3607: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3713: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 3722: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 3808: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 3817: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3933: Mr. MURPHY, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 3949: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 3970: Mr. MRVAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 4070: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4174: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4261: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 4315: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 4360: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 4388: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4424: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4569: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4663: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4682: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 4745: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 4756: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 4769: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 4942: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 4970: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 5003: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 5041: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5044: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 5048: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 5080: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5155: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5159: Mr. BERA and Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 5163: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5193: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 5266: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 5333: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 5383: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 5399: Mr. AMO, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SHERRILL, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 5401: Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5459: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 5530: Mr. EZELL.
H.R. 5566: Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 5569: Mrs. PELTOLA and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 5624: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5641: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 5663: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5686: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 5689: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 5717: Mr. EZELL.
H.R. 5723: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5808: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 5825: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 5856: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 5863: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 5879: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5914: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 6031: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 6049: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6106: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 6109: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 6144: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 6147: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 6148: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 6175: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 6205: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 6268: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 6270: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6328: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 6330: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 6394: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 6416: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 6417: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 6433: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 6474: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 6491: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 6509: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6516: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 6538: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 6585: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 6588: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6589: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6596: Mr. EVANS and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 6598: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 6607: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 6608: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6619: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. POSEY, and Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 6641: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 6655: Mr. OWENS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 6658: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 6672: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 6683: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. BACON, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CAREY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 6687: Mr. LATTA and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 6696: Ms. OMAR, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.J. Res. 12: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.J. Res. 98: Mrs. LESKO.
H. Con. Res. 24: Mr. GOSAR.
H. Res. 50: Mr. OGLES, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. ESTES.
H. Res. 314: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Res. 605: Mr. NADLER.
H. Res. 750: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H. Res. 837: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H. Res. 895: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. BERA.
H. Res. 901: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. THANEDAR.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 No. 204

Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Peter S. Berg, of The Temple, Atlanta, GA, will offer the opening prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, may Your Name be invoked only to inspire and to unify our country but never to divide it.

We ask Your blessings upon our U.S. Senators and all who serve this body, that today and every day, they lead wisely and with civility, working together for our common good.

Tonight, Jews all around the world will light the sixth candle of Hanukkah. We will do so in a world that is teeming with xenophobia and hatred. Let us never forget that this is a time of year where we all bring light and hope to despair and to darkness.

Be with us now, God. Make us strong to do Your will. Help us to understand and proclaim the truth that not by might and not by power, but by our spirit alone can all of us prevail. Let injustice and oppression cease, hatred and cruelty and wrong pass away.

Bless, O God, the lights of this season. May they shine their radiance in this historic Chamber. They kindle within us the flame of faith and of zeal that, like the Maccabees of old, we bravely battle for Your cause.

May our Senators be blessed today to use their God-given light to chase away the darkness. Let us resolve to do our share to hasten the day by taking a true measure of life, by learning to face life, to judge the challenges that are set before us with realism, with courage, and with understanding.

These things we ask in Your Name, O God, until the radiance of peace and righteousness for all of God's children shines to the ends of the Earth. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 12, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, thank you for the recognition this morning.

It is a pleasure to be with you, Mr. President, here this morning as we, together, represent the State of Georgia, an obligation that we both cherish, an obligation I cherish sharing with you. And it is a pleasure to be with you here, Mr. President, this morning to open the Senate, having heard such a moving prayer and such words of wisdom from Rabbi Peter Berg of The Temple in Atlanta, GA.

Rabbi, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, we thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule tending to your congregation and providing light and inspiration to our constituents in Georgia to provide such wisdom and a blessing to those of us here in this Chamber who labor each day to do the work of the people and to advance the interests of the United States.

I thank you, Rabbi Berg, for your leadership at this moment of trial for Jewish Americans in Georgia, across the country, and for Jews around the world at this moment that frays the bonds between faith communities. I thank you for your interfaith leadership, for your consistent calls for solidarity, compassion, and mutual love and respect between all people of all faiths.

It is particularly fitting, Rabbi, that you joined us during Hanukkah. And, Mr. President, to have Rabbi Berg here as we approach the sixth night, during this moment when so many Jews feel such anxiety and fear amidst the overt expression of anti-Semitism such as we have not seen for a generation, we draw upon the Hanukkah story—one of endurance and resilience and survival—for inspiration, a story that can inspire all people of all faiths.

Finally, Mr. President, I would note, as you and I together represent the State of Georgia—for the first time in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

its history represented by a Black man and a Jew—that to have Rabbi Berg here representing The Temple's civil rights commitments in history—The Temple, which in 1958, as you know, Mr. President, was bombed by White supremacists in an attempt at vengeance for Rabbi Jacob Rothschild's alliance with civil rights leaders and Dr. King in the American South—it is particularly powerful to have Rabbi Berg here with us this morning.

He leads, of course, the congregation where I was bar mitzvahed. We are grateful for Rabbi Berg's spiritual leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, it is my honor and joy to join you in welcoming our good friend Rabbi Peter Berg to the U.S. Senate today.

Rabbi Berg, thank you so very much for your inspiring prayer. It lifts, before all of us, our highest ideals and reminds us of the important work that we are called to do together.

It is always great to see you. As I often say, every Baptist preacher needs a rabbi. And Peter Berg is not only the rabbi at The Temple; he is my rabbi. And he is my friend.

For more than 15 years, Rabbi Berg has led The Temple, Atlanta's largest and one of its most historic synagogues. Its history is so very important not just for Atlanta's Jewish community but for my own church, the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King served and, indeed, for the entire city of Atlanta. You are such an important leader in our country.

For more than 50 years, Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, led by Dr. King, has had a special relationship with The Temple. After Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize, some folks in Atlanta didn't want to celebrate it. They weren't certain that that was worthy of recognition. But it was Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, The Temple's then-senior rabbi and a champion for civil rights himself, who helped to bring the city together to commemorate that important moment in the movement for Georgians. It was an interracial dinner, and that, in and of itself, was a movement forward at a time of deep divisions and some of the darkest hours of our country.

And the special relationship has sustained to the present day, where Rabbi Peter Berg, who is the fifth senior rabbi in The Temple's history, and I, the fifth senior pastor in the history of Ebenezer Baptist Church, have carried on that tradition of ecumenical, spiritual friendship. And that friendship is genuine.

As you know, Rabbi, we have done a lot of important work together, and I am so grateful for the long history of friendship between our two congregations. This past March, I was honored to have you to serve as the guest preacher for Ebenezer's 138th anniversary, and you preached with all the fire of any Baptist preacher I know.

In fact, every year, our congregations come together to observe the MLK holiday, and we worship and we work together as one beloved community.

But beyond the doors of your congregation, Rabbi Berg has been a stalwart champion for change in Georgia. He and I have served together on too many occasions to count—from the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students to Faith in Public Life, Faith Forces Against Gun Violence, the Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center; our work together addressing the issue of mass incarceration in our country; standing up against bigotry, racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia. Wherever hatred rears its ugly head, we have spoken time and time again together, as one voice. And because of that intersection of faith and justice, you will see Rabbi Berg and you will hear his voice time and time again.

We don't have enough time for me to run through all of Rabbi Berg's accolades, of which there are many. Time and time again, he has been recognized as one of the most influential spiritual leaders in our State and in our Nation.

So on behalf of the State of Georgia, I join Senator OSSOFF in uplifting our appreciation for Rabbi Berg, who has been a source of counsel and a partner in making what Congressman Lewis called ''good trouble.''

And so during this season of Hanukkah and during this season of Advent, I lift the words of Isaiah, who said that ''the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. ''

May our lights continue to shine in this world.

Rabbi Berg, I am so blessed to have you as a spiritual brother.

With that, I yield floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier this morning, Senator MCCONNELL and I welcomed Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to the U.S. Senate, his third visit to the U.S. Capitol. It was a very powerful, enlightening, and positive meeting.

President Zelenskyy's message was direct: Ukraine will win the war against Russia if more aid is approved. But his message to the contrary was also true: If no more aid is approved, Putin will win.

It is that simple. Ukraine, the West, the U.S. strength as a credible ally are all hanging in the balance right now. Also, President Zelenskyy urged that we need to pass this aid quickly because if we don't pass it quickly, it will send a signal to the whole world that we are abandoning Ukraine and could start a snowball cascading to Ukraine's detriment and to our detriment.

If Ukraine falls, it will be a historic and colossal tragedy. If Russia is victorious, future generations will remember this as a moment of shame for the West, for the United States, and for those in the Senate who sought to block it.

This is a moment when a friend in need called on our help. We must rise to the occasion. If we abandon Ukraine to the dark forces of autocracy, we will all pay a price. The price won't be tomorrow, meaning next week, but it will be in the months and years ahead but will be an awful price. And everyone who voted against aid to Ukraine will have to live with it.

This is a time for Republicans to be serious about reaching an agreement. ''Serious'' is the word we are saying to our Republican colleagues. It is not a time for one side to demand maximalist, fringe policies that they know are unrealistic and then say ''our way or the highway.''

If our Republican colleagues want an agreement on the border, they must meet us at the middle. They need to show us they are serious. So far, when they just ask for H.R. 2—or something like it—they are not showing seriousness.

There are two words to describe Democrats right now. Just like the Republican word should be they need to be ''serious,'' the two words that describe Democrats right now: ''still trying.'' We are still trying to find a good-faith compromise with Republicans, but they must do the same.

Now, last night, I got on the phone with Speaker JOHNSON and urged him to keep the House in session to give the supplemental a chance to come together. I told him that the House should stay in session because over the past 24 hours, I have been alarmed to see some of the same Republicans in the House—and now a good number in the Senate—who had previously demanded action on the border are now suggesting there is no urgency to act before Christmas. After months of saying the border is a crisis, that we must get something done yesterday, many Republicans now seemingly prefer to go home rather than pass a bill.

If Republicans are serious about getting something done on the border, then why are so many of them in such a hurry to leave for the winter break? Has the border simply been an excuse to kill funding for Ukraine?

By Republicans being unwilling to budge on H.R. 2 and getting ready to rush out of town, unfortunately, it may seem the case that these are both excuses, and they really want to kill funding for Ukraine and never had any intention of passing it. That is not true of all Republicans but too many—enough simply to hold us up right now from getting something done.

Do Republicans not realize how thrilled Putin must be right now seeing the gridlock? Russian state TV is even running segments on how great it is for Russia that Congress can't pass Ukraine funding.

Think about that. Putin's allies on Russian state TV are running segments right now on how great it is for Russia that aid to Ukraine is stalled.

Democrats remain committed to finding a realistic, bipartisan agreement on securing the southern border. We will not accept Donald Trump's cruel border policies as envisioned in H.R. 2, which even Speaker JOHNSON has reminded his colleagues didn't get a single Democratic vote in the Senate. But if Republicans show they are serious about meeting us in the middle, we are willing to meet them in the middle.

I hope my Republican colleagues take to heart President Zelenskyy's warnings: The one person happy right now about the gridlock in Congress is Vladimir Putin. He is delighting in the fact that Donald Trump's border policies are sabotaging military aid to Ukraine.

I urge my Republican colleagues to show they are serious about getting a supplemental package done. Democrats are still trying, and we will continue to work with Republicans in good faith in the coming days.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, now, on the NDAA, the Senate will move forward on the annual Defense Authorization Act, moving us closer to passing this bill for the 62nd year in a row.

Both sides have done terrific work these past few months getting the NDAA over the finish line. The Senate passed our version of the NDAA with a strong 86-to-11 vote back in July. That is a good bipartisan vote, majorities of both parties supporting it. And over the past few weeks, conferees have done commendable work reconciling the Senate and House version. And I am pleased that the conference has reported a strong defense bill that contains many of the policies the Senate passed back in July.

We are making major strides to outcompete the Chinese Government by approving President Biden's trilateral U.S., U.K., and Australia nuclear submarine agreement. This historic agreement will create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines to counter the Chinese Communist Party's influence in the Pacific. And AUKUS, in general, will be a critical part of ensuring stability in that region. We have worked all year long to get it passed through Congress, and I applaud my colleagues on both sides for their efforts.

As I have said repeatedly, we began the month of December with three major goals here in the Senate before the end of the year: First, we had to end the unprecedented monthslong and destructive blockade of hundreds of military nominees. We have done that. Second, we needed to pass the NDAA as we have for decades on a bipartisan basis. We are on track to do that this week. And, finally, most difficult of all, we must reach an agreement with Republicans on the national security supplemental.

Democrats' attitude on the supplemental can be boiled down two words: We are ''still trying.'' We want to get something done. We hope our Republican colleagues are serious—serious—about getting something done too.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. President, on the Inflation Reduction Act accomplishments, this morning, the American people received more proof that the Biden and Democratic agenda is working.

The Labor Department reported today that year-over-year inflation in November slowed down to 3.1 percent. At the beginning of this year, it was more than double, at 6.4 percent.

And remember, last summer, before we passed the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act, inflation was over 9 percent—from 9 percent all the way down to 3.1 percent. We have made big progress. Meanwhile, the labor market remains strong. Jobs are up, higher than they were before the pandemic. And listen to this: Investment in manufacturing construction—manufacturing construction, plants that will turn out goods that we can consume here and export—is at a 20-year high, more than double its highest under the previous administration.

There is a lot of talk from the previous President about jobs. He did very little. This administration, with what we have done, is really producing jobs, jobs, jobs.

No one should be surprised. Thanks to the Democratic work on the IRA, 2023 has been a banner year for American job creation and for American manufacturing; at the same time, getting inflation and the costs to American families down.

In 2023, dozens of companies have announced new investments in the United States, resulting in hundreds of green new clean energy projects and creating tens of thousands of new, good-paying jobs.

And that is just 2023. The Inflation Reduction Act is projected to create another 1.5 million jobs over the next decade.

According to the White House, private companies have announced more than 600 billion in investments across the country, many spurred by the IRA—the Inflation Reduction Act.

And it is not just through manufacturing that the Democratic agenda is paying dividends. In a few short weeks, seniors, for the first time, will have a cap on how much they pay for prescription drugs, thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act.

This is life-changing news for seniors across the country. Never again will a horrible diagnosis mean $10,000 or more to get the drug you need to survive. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, insulin is also capped at $35 a month for seniors on Medicaid, and vaccines are now free.

Let me repeat that. Vaccines are free, improving healthcare across America and helping people be healthy without having to pay for it, in terms of things they can't afford.

Drugmakers are penalized if they raise prices faster than inflation. The administration is negotiating right now for better prices for 10 of the highest cost, most commonly used drugs in Medicare.

And because ACA premiums are becoming more affordable, this year we are seeing a record number of Americans sign up for healthcare on the individual marketplaces.

It takes a lot of work, but the Democrats' agenda is paying off. Costs are coming down. Jobs and opportunities are going up. And while there is a lot of work to do, the American economy is on the right track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate welcomed Ukraine's inspirational and determined President Zelenskyy to the Capitol.

For nearly 2 years, the people of Ukraine have defied the world's expectations. They have ground down the world's second most powerful military, and they have confounded Putin's aggressive, imperialist aspirations. At every step of the way, America's commitment and support has provided critical fuel for Ukraine's resistance and helped European allies wake up from a holiday from history.

Now, our allies are awake. They are investing in collective defense, and clear majorities of Americans understand the importance of America's continuing to lead as the arsenal of democracy.

I have been a staunch supporter of Ukraine's fight to take back its land, liberate its people, and restore its sovereignty since the beginning of Russia's invasion way back in 2014. Our Ukrainian friends' cause is just, and if the West continues to stand with them, they can win.

But let's be absolutely clear: Ukraine's cause hasn't always been popular here in Washington.

In 2021, Republicans recommended that the Biden administration step up assistance to help Ukraine deter renewed Russian threats, and the administration seemed to think Ukraine was a frozen conflict and a distraction from other priorities. In early 2022, as the gravity of Putin's plans came into focus, Republicans urged the President to expedite shipments of critical weapons systems to stop Russia's advance, but his administration's unfounded fear of escalating the conflict repeatedly kept decisive capabilities out of Ukrainian hands at critical moments.

When Russian troops crossed the border and the administration first came

to Congress for assistance, it was Republicans who demanded we use emergency funds to pay for the cost of deploying U.S. forces to Europe rather than forcing our military to take those costs out of hide.

And it was Republicans who demanded that our supplemental appropriations bills include funding to replenish and modernize the stockpiles we were drawing down to support Ukraine.

Perhaps, they expected the war to be over quickly, but the Biden administration requested neither of these things. In fact, when the Senate received the President's first supplemental request, I called the Democratic leader and said: ''Double it.'' He agreed with my suggestion, and that is precisely what we did.

Republicans on the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, and Appropriations Committees have worked overtime to help equip Ukraine for victory. We have pushed relentlessly for investments that strengthen our Armed Forces, degrade our adversaries, and stand firmly with a sovereign democracy against authoritarian aggression—all while expanding our defense industrial capacity and creating American jobs at the very same time.

We have done it because we know that American leadership has ripple effects. Just look at how our European allies are now contributing more to Ukraine than we are, how allies across the world are investing in hard power and in our collective defense.

We know that the threats we face are intertwined; that Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea work together to undermine America and the West. We know that our border—just like Ukraine's borders and Israel's and Taiwan's—must be inviolable.

That is why, for months now, we have supported supplemental action on all four of the most pressing national security challenges we face. My support for Ukraine and Israel is rock solid. I am committed to preparing the U.S. military to deter and defend Chinese aggression. I am determined to get the national security crisis at the southern border under control. And I am going to work to get it done as long as it takes.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. President, now, on another matter, last week the Biden administration announced the latest front in its push for prescription drug socialism: march-in rights.

Here is what it means. Washington bureaucrats are claiming the authority to determine price ranges for drugs funded through public-private partnerships. And if these unelected regulators decide that a company has set its price too high, they will steal the company's intellectual property rights. In President Biden's own words, ''the government reserves the right to 'march in' and license that drug to another manufacturer who can sell it for less.''

To make matters worse, the Biden administration claims that the authority for this power grab comes from a 1980 law designed to promote the exact opposite outcome. The purpose of the Bayh-Dole Act was to encourage private-public cooperation to drive new innovations in medicine, not the other way around.

The truth is, incentives matter. If Washington bureaucrats get the final say on how American producers market lifesaving cures, then America will cease to be the world's leading hub of medical innovation.

Why would any entrepreneur invest the time and resources to create a new treatment if the government can simply steal their intellectual property and redistribute it?

Unsurprisingly, the Biden administration is still working out the kinks of prescription drug socialism. But the medical innovation sector can't afford to wait before considering its investments. Neither, for that matter, can a whole host of other industries that rely on public-private partnerships. Just think about what it could mean in fast-evolving areas of technology.

Under the model of prescription drug socialism, the Biden administration is laying the groundwork for government patent seizure on other cutting-edge technologies, from semiconductors to nuclear energy.

America's pipeline of lifesaving cures is the envy of the world. American entrepreneurs and researchers save millions of lives. If President Biden wants to march in on this innovation sector, the bright minds behind it just might decide to take their intellectual property and march out of the American market.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican whip.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will vote on the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which is one of the most important bills we consider each year.

We had a robust floor debate on the Senate version of this bill in July featuring the kind of open amendment process we should be using on a regular basis to debate important legislation. All told, more than 900 amendments were considered, and 121 amendments were adopted during floor consideration, making this the most open NDAA floor debate in years. I wish we had been able to take up a final version of this legislation earlier, but I am glad we are on track to finally pass it this week.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. If we don't get national security right, the rest is conversation. The security of our Nation is the precondition for everything else—for the continued enjoyment of our freedoms, for a flourishing society, for a healthy economy, for government's ability literally to do anything. So there is no time when we can afford to let our readiness slide or to take the security of our Nation for granted.

But the unfortunate truth is that we have some catching up to do when it comes to military preparedness. We have military services that are well below their recruitment targets. We are behind on shipbuilding and ship maintenance. There is a persistent pilot shortage, and in a number of cases, we have too few mission-capable aircraft. We are not doing an adequate job of maintaining the kind of supply we need of certain munitions. And the list goes on.

This is not an acceptable situation, and it could have very serious consequences. To give just one example, recent war games envisioning a U.S.-China conflict following an attack on Taiwan have had grim results, showing enormous military and economic costs to both sides. One story on these war games noted:

> And while the ultimate outcome in these exercises is not always clear—the U.S. does better in some than others—the cost is [clear]. In every exercise the U.S. uses up all its long-range air-to-surface missiles in a few days, with a substantial portion of its planes destroyed on the ground.
>
> In every exercise the U.S. uses up all its long-range air-to-surface missiles in a few days, with a substantial portion of its planes destroyed on the ground.

Well, needless to say, we have some serious work to do, and I am pleased to report that this year's NDAA does make some genuine progress on the readiness front. The bill expands the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and deepens our ties with our ally Taiwan to help detour Chinese aggression. It rejects the President's dangerous plan to shrink the U.S. Navy and authorizes investment in new ships. It contains multiple measures to increase our supply of munitions, including the addition of six critical munitions to the Pentagon's multiyear procurement program. Two of these munitions—Tomahawk missiles and Mark 48 torpedoes—play an important role in our ability to deter China.

I am also pleased that the committee responded to my request and included significant funding for joint air-to-surface standoff missile procurement, the long-range anti-ship missile, and development of the nuclear long-range standoff weapon, or LRSO. These are essential arrows to have in the quiver for our bombers, and the future LRSO will help modernize the air leg of our nuclear triad.

This year's NDAA also critically invests in recruitment. As I mentioned earlier, we have multiple military services that are well below their recruitment targets. These represent serious future personnel deficiencies. All the ships, planes, and munitions in the

world will be of very limited help if we don't have the personnel necessary to deploy these resources. So expanding and improving our recruitment efforts has to be a priority.

We also have to continue to work to improve the quality of life of our military members and their families, which is why I am pleased to report that this year's bill includes a 5.2-percent pay increase for our troops, as well as measures to improve barracks quality and expand access to mental health care, among other things.

I am also pleased that this year's NDAA takes measures to keep our military's focus warfighting and not the dissemination of woke ideologies by Pentagon bureaucrats.

Above all, I am proud to report that this year's bill authorizes full funding for the next steps of the B–21 mission, the Air Force's new, long-range, strategic bomber, which will revolutionize our long-range strike capabilities and be hosted at South Dakota's own Ellsworth Air Force Base. The Air Force calls the B–21 Raider the future backbone of its bomber force.

One of my top priorities here in Congress over the past several years has been ensuring that the Air Force—and Ellsworth in particular—has everything it needs for this critical advancement in our Nation's readiness. This year's NDAA will once again fund not only the B–21 bomber, which we excitedly saw take flight 1 month ago, but the support facilities at Ellsworth that will be needed to maintain this aircraft once it enters service.

While, as I said, we are passing this bill a little late, I am pleased that we are finally passing it and in what I expect will be a strongly bipartisan fashion.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now we should turn to addressing another important aspect of our national security in a bipartisan fashion, and that is securing our border. The kind of unchecked illegal immigration we are currently experiencing at our southern border represents a serious national security threat—one that so far Democrats are refusing to meaningfully address. I hope that their position will shift in the coming days and that we will be able to work together to pass a supplemental bill which not only provides support for our allies but which also contains real measures to secure our border. The NDAA should not be the only national security legislation that we pass this December.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DASH ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I got back late last night from Oregon—another round of community meetings. You can't do your job well sitting behind your desk back here; you have to get out into the community. I have had more than 1,000—really more than 1,060—open-to-all townhalls, in every corner of Oregon, and I am going to talk for a few minutes about the issue I hear about constantly, and that is the shortage of affordable housing for working families.

I am going to talk about what it means for my constituents, but I will tell you, I hear about it all across the country and from Senators on both sides of the aisle. I have just introduced legislation with the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Senator SULLIVAN, about housing that is affordable for working families. Ask the New Hampshire Senators about employers and workers facing housing challenges there. Ask those from Kansas what is going on in Kansas City, where they can't house teachers. Oregonians from Brookings to Baker City are facing rising rents and housing costs and are making tough financial choices. They ought to have enough money because they are working hard to pay for affordable shelter.

Here is a statistic that will give you a sense of what the challenge is all about. In my State, 26 school districts have been forced to buy, rent, or build housing for their teachers. So get this, Mr. President—and we are westerners, and we understand this. We know we have a lot of challenges competing in tough markets. We have a leg up geographically with Asia, for example, on the west coast, but we are losing it if we don't have affordable housing for working families, for firefighters and teachers.

Folks, the minority community has said: We are trying to start small businesses on a credit card, and we can't afford shelter.

In Oregon, these school districts—more than 20 of them—are now basically in the housing business. How in the world—I see my friend from Alaska is here. We have been talking about these issues. It is wonderful to work with him on it. How in the world did our schools suddenly get in the housing business? I guess in some places they are going to in effect rent houses they bought to teachers, and the teachers will practically be back, I say to my friend from Alaska, in their college days. They will be waiting to use the washing machine in line with other teachers.

So I just don't think it is right that all our school districts have to get into the housing business—by the way, there was a front-page story in the Wall Street Journal here not long ago about the same sort of thing in Kansas City.

I have introduced comprehensive legislation as chairman of the Finance Committee to tackle this issue. It is called the DASH Act—the Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing for All Act. Today, we are just going to focus on one piece, which is affordable housing for working families.

Senator SULLIVAN and I have teamed up here in the Senate. I am very pleased that our bill is bipartisan and bicameral.

I am very pleased that our bill is bipartisan and bicameral. Representatives JIMMY PANETTA and MIKE CAREY are offering the same kind of tax credit that Senator SULLIVAN and I are offering for working families, and our proposal is built on the proven and successful—what is called LIHTC—low-income housing tax credit.

My view is that the combination of LIHTC, plus the help that Senator SULLIVAN and I and our counterparts in the House want to advance—those two efforts—could spur a juggernaut of new and desperately needed housing construction. Our bill could be a big shot in the arm to the countless middle-income Americans hoping to get their shot at the American dream of owning a home.

I want, as we get into this issue of working families, to make sure that everybody understands that we are also recommitting our support to the existing programs that help the homeless and help folks of modest incomes, like LIHTC. These are people who, every week, walk an economic tightrope. They are balancing the food bill against the fuel bill and the fuel bill against housing costs. We desperately need more LIHTC funding, and as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I am going to continue to push that.

But I don't think the two needs here for working families and low-income folks are mutually exclusive. We can do both. We ought to do both. Our country is not at its best when we pit working families against people of modest means. We ought to be extending opportunity for all Americans.

I will just say—and I am going to yield to my friend from Alaska—that small businesses across my State—and I heard it yesterday again at our business summit in Portland—can't grow because employees can't afford housing. Even when they have good-paying jobs, families are forced to search for months for reasonably priced properties, only to be up against several other families in similar circumstances and contending for the same property.

So we are going to continue to try to build on the progress of LIHTC. My hope is—and I had a good talk just this morning with the chairman in the other body, Chairman JASON SMITH of the Ways and Means Committee, my counterpart. We had a good conversation about the effort to get help for kids with what is called the child tax credit, and an equal amount of help for the research and development tax issue for innovation so we can outcompete China. We made good progress just in the last week, Chairman SMITH and I,

in looking at the numbers and the various ways in which we can ensure that an equal amount of assistance—an equal amount of assistance—goes for the child tax credit and the research and development tax credit.

One of the reasons I was so pleased to be able to come to the floor this morning and talk with my colleague from Alaska is I think we also ought to be talking about, on top of—and I use those words—an agreement that is proportional in assistance for the child tax credit and for the research and development tax credit. I think, on top of that, we ought to give a boost to housing, particularly the low-income housing tax credit, which has gotten significant support from my colleague from Washington, Senator CANTWELL, and a number of Republicans as well, and we should include such a housing effort—on top of a child tax credit and a research and development-innovation package, help on housing—and make them all bipartisan.

I see my friend from is Alaska here. I thank him for his cooperation.

I will just say, in closing, no community is immune from the skyrocketing cost of housing. Democrats aren't usually supposed to use this word, but I will tell you I am a supply-sider on housing. We need to increase supply, and on that, Senator SULLIVAN and I are working together.

I yield the floor to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to begin by offering my sincere thanks to the chairman of the Finance Committee, my friend Senator WYDEN of Oregon. I am honored to be on the floor with him today to talk about these housing issues and this really important bill, the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Act, which, as he already mentioned, is bipartisan and bicameral.

As Senator WYDEN already mentioned, our country is facing a lot of challenges right now: inflation, fentanyl coming through our borders, national security threats all over the place overseas. But it is very obvious, and anyone reading the paper knows, that we are also experiencing in rural and urban America a severe housing crisis. Everywhere I travel in the great State of Alaska, I hear from Alaskans reeling from the scarcity of housing, and it is everywhere—Anchorage, Fairbanks, Sitka, Ketchikan, Kodiak—every single small rural village in my State. It is everywhere.

I know it is a big challenge in Oregon, but it is a big challenge all over the country, and it is a challenge that impacts low- and middle-income families. It stands as a stark obstacle to getting and keeping jobs, to having a family, to building communities. This is really foundational stuff in terms of what matters in communities—housing.

So solving this challenge has been one of my top priorities, and I really want to thank Senator WYDEN and his team for being so patient in working with us—a really good partner here. This is going to take all kinds of solutions. There is no silver bullet here. It is going to take everybody pulling on the same oar—the Feds, State, private sector, Tribes, nonprofits—but this is an important start.

I actually hosted the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia Fudge, in Alaska this past August. We held a roundtable and some meetings on urban housing issues and on rural housing issues. It was very well attended. I want to thank all of the Alaskans who took part. They weren't shy with Secretary Fudge—she got an earful—and there is a whole host of things we are going to follow up on with her: challenges dealing with overregulation from HUD, homelessness definitions, housing formulas for cities. But it was progress our getting her up to Alaska.

So this is progress. This is progress. What Senator WYDEN and I have introduced is an exciting and creative bill that will broaden a tried-and-true Federal tax incentive program—the low-income housing tax credit.

This all started during the 1980s, during the Reagan administration. It is market-based. It is private sector-focused. It is a proven, successful formula that will help catalyze the private sector to build more housing in urban and rural areas for working families. That is why we actually named it the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Act. Teachers, law enforcement, first responders, nurses, healthcare officials, electricians—the backbone of so many communities—are, right now, priced out of the market to buy a home. Expanding the low-income housing credit will help address the core issues of not just homelessness and overcrowding in many places in Alaska, particularly in rural Alaska, but it will empower hard-working Alaskans to stay in our communities and build a more robust workforce.

Now, sometimes, when you bring legislation down on the Senate floor, you are not sure who is going to support it. Well, I am very proud to say that, back home in Alaska, this bill has enormous support—liberals; conservatives; mayors; our Governor; the mayor of Anchorage, our biggest city; the chair of the Anchorage Assembly. I know these guys really well. They don't really get along on much, but they support this bill. We have Tribal groups. We have private sector groups. We have home builder groups. It is a super big list.

I think that is the signal for Senator WYDEN and me that we are on to something here. We are on to something here. If there aren't homes in communities for hard-working families, then entire communities are shut off for growth. Housing is a catalyst for community and economic development and good jobs and pride in where you live.

This bill offers one solution that will actually lead to the construction of these kinds of housing developments. How do I know that? How can I say that? Because, as the chairman of the Finance Committee already said, we know this works. The low-income tax credit already works. We know that, and we are building on that program in the best way to ensure that the private sector will actually use this program to break open other bottlenecks for economic development.

Importantly, this bill provides flexibilities to States and developers to decide what is best for their communities. It is not a one-size-fits-all Washington mandate. We don't like those in Alaska. As I mentioned, it has broad support—bipartisan, bicameral.

Once again, to my friend from Oregon, I really want to thank Senator WYDEN. He was very patient with me and my team as we had a number of edits. We were trying to make sure that this would work for America and Alaska. Sometimes, my State has some really unique challenges, and he accommodated so much and was very patient with us. You can tell, again, from the reaction of this broad-based group of stakeholders back home in my State, that this has a lot of support.

So I thank Senator WYDEN again. I look forward to working with him and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in getting this over the goal line and addressing one of the big challenges in America that, I think, impacts every State in the country. This is one of the many tools we will use to try to address it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I will yield very quickly to Senator PETERS after I wrap this up.

Mr. President, first, I want to thank Senator SULLIVAN again for giving us a chance to bring housing, in a bipartisan way, to the Senate floor and just to tell colleagues there is an opportunity to do something really big here in the U.S. Senate.

I just got off the phone again with the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the other body, my counterpart. We are making good progress in the effort to make sure that there is a child tax credit and a significant boost to research and innovation in this country. They have to be proportional. We have made that clear. That is the essence of a good and fair agreement.

Now, Senator SULLIVAN and I and our colleagues who are advocating for LIHTC are getting an opportunity to also discuss building upon that and taking some steps to ensure that there is housing for working families and for low-income folks.

I thank my colleague from Michigan for the chance to close this discussion up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 4 minutes prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF HARRY COKER, JR.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Harry Coker's nomination to be the National Cyber Director. The National Cyber Director is responsible for driving cyber security policy and strategy all across the Federal Government.

The Office of the National Cyber Director was established by Congress in 2021 to foster a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to cyber security. Harry Coker is an accomplished leader and a dedicated public servant who is well qualified to lead this important office.

Mr. Coker has over four decades of national security and cyber security experience. He served as a naval officer and in senior leadership roles at the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency, where he worked to combat cyber and national security threats. His nomination received bipartisan support from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and he has been endorsed by a wide range of bipartisan cyber and national security experts.

During the 2 years since the Office of the National Cyber Director was created, the office has done impressive work, including developing an ambitious national cyber security strategy and national cyber workforce and education strategy. The Office of the National Cyber Director has been without a confirmed leader for almost 10 months. A dedicated, Senate-confirmed leader is critical to building upon these efforts and continuing to grow and mature the Office of the National Cyber Director.

I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Mr. Coker to this very important role.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 410, Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Ben Ray Luján, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted ''yea.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 337 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Luján	Sinema
Carper	Manchin	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Cassidy	Marshall	Sullivan
Collins	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Cramer	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Young

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 59, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, this is supposed to be the greatest deliberative body on earth. This body is supposed to be a body that works for the American people and exemplifies what the greatest Nation in the world should exemplify and lead in that vein.

I rise today to highlight that we are not living up to expectations. I want to highlight the very real consequences of this body's failure to deliver a Defense appropriations bill that would provide urgently needed resources to our men and women in uniform and keep this country safe.

As most folks know, I am a farmer. We are getting winter underway, and I am planning for what I am going to plant next spring in the fields. I will tell you that when spring planting time comes, I will have to do that job. And I will work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to get that job done. Because if I don't, I lose the farm—literally. If I don't tend to business, I go broke.

I want you to take a look at this body. We should have had a Defense bill, Defense appropriations bill, done the end of September, 3 months ago. And instead, we did a continuing resolution, then we did another continuing resolution, then we did another continuing resolution—keep kicking the can down the road. And the result of that is uncertainty, and the result of uncertainty is putting this country at risk.

By the way, what I do on the farm is what people do every day in their businesses. And folks who go to work, they don't throw in the towel at any moment in time because they can't. They have to stick around. They have to get the job done. We need to follow our constituents' lead.

I serve as chairman of the Senate committee that works on that military appropriations. I have been working with Republicans and Democrats for months to make sure that we have an appropriations bill that invests in the United States of America; that makes sure we stay ahead of our pacing threat, China; that we defend our country from foreign adversaries; and we take care of our servicemembers and their families.

That Defense Appropriations Committee came together, and we produced a strong, bipartisan appropriations bill in the Senate that meets the needs of our military. That bill passed through committee months ago. In fact, it passed back in July by a vote of 27 to 1. Of course, it was a bipartisan vote.

What that bill did was it included a 5.2-percent pay raise for our troops; it significantly ramped up production of made-in-America defense systems; it modernized our nuclear weapons programs; it accelerated investments in modernization to make sure that we, the United States of America, stays ahead of the countries that want to harm us and threaten our way of life.

Let me be frank. This bill should have been passed by the House and the Senate back in September. If that had been done, we would not be talking here in the middle of December about taking up a bill in February to keep this country safe.

Instead, we lurch from one potential shutdown to another potential shutdown.

Right now, the military is running under last year's budget, a continuing resolution that expires on February 2. Now I am hearing a number of folks talking about the fact that we do not need an appropriations bill for this year; that we will just run off the old bill. Quite frankly, it is stupid, and it is dangerous. Let me give you the consequences of continued inaction because they are serious.

Failure to deliver an appropriations budget for our defense emboldens our foreign adversaries—that is a given—and we are already seeing that play out before our eyes. After the horrific attacks of October 7, carried out by Hamas, the Defense Department ordered an additional aircraft carrier strike group, air defenses, fighter jets, and troops to the Middle East to prevent this conflict from spiraling into a regional war. But because of this body's dysfunction of not being able to deliver a defense appropriations bill on time, the Pentagon has no money to pay for this bill. As we speak, our Defense Department is hunting for literally hundreds of millions of dollars to cover these costs, and it is pulling money away from other critical operations.

It also leaves our men and women in uniform without the certainty and the resources they need to protect our freedoms both abroad and here at home. In my case, it is the brave air men and women serving at Montana's very own Malmstrom Air Force Base. The men and women of the 341st Missile Wing operate our ICBM missile fleet. These missiles are over 30 years old and need to be replaced. The silos that they sit in are over 60 years old. They need to be replaced, but without that appropriations bill, this program will continue to be delayed because of our dysfunction.

Folks, the American military is being weakened across the air, land, and sea because we are failing to provide the predictability of the delivery of assets. For anybody who has ever been in business, you know that predictability is critically important. Without predictability, your chance of losing profits is huge. Well, we are talking about a little different thing here. We are talking about the defense budget, and without predictability, we are talking about some 300 programs that are going to be impacted because they don't know where the money is going to come from.

They can't get started on assembly lines or ramp up production on already approved contracts because there isn't the money to pay for them because we haven't passed our defense budget. That includes things like helicopters. It includes things like B–21 bombers and F–35 fighter jets. It is causing a nearly $10 billion reduction in our shipbuilding programs, halting the construction of new ships and the maintenance of our current fleet, and delaying the completion of already approved Virginia-class submarines. These delays make this country a less safe country.

It is another blow to our already challenging recruitment and retention efforts. By the way, I might add, with the exception of the Marines, every branch of the service needs more people in our volunteer military, but because we haven't passed a defense appropriations bill, we are, once again, putting manpower at risk. Joint Chiefs Chairman C.Q. Brown noted that a yearlong continuing resolution would create a $5.8 billion shortfall in military personnel funding. These are the folks whom we send all over the world—to horrible places—to protect freedom. This is a $5.8 billion shortfall.

Quite frankly, what does that say for the folks who want to sign up for the military, for those folks who want to volunteer and dedicate their lives to keeping this country safe?

They look at Congress and look at the job we are doing, and they say: Why the hell would I want to do that?

And we wonder why our end-strength numbers aren't where they need to be.

It is a slap in the face to our Nation's veterans—the fact that we can't get a defense appropriations bill done. Why? Because these veterans are relying on this body to deliver a defense appropriations bill that will strengthen TRICARE so that they can get the quality healthcare that they have earned.

But maybe the most disturbing thing about all of this—that we can't get a defense appropriations bill or any appropriations bill done, I might add, in a timely manner—is that some will say: Well, we are going to save money.

That is a joke. This whole charade is going to cost money. It is going to waste taxpayer dollars. We know the longer it takes you to buy something, the more it is going to cost. They know, when you shut down production lines, it costs money to start those production lines back up, and without money, that is exactly what has to happen.

Look, I could go on and on about the damage that a continuing resolution—an extension of last year's budget, a budget that was created when we had no idea of the threats that would be going on now—would do. The fact of the matter is that this Congress isn't doing its job. The greatest deliberative body isn't doing what it needs to do. And what is more important? What is a more important job for us than to keep our country safe? We wonder why our approval numbers are in the toilet. I can tell you. It is because of garbage like this—and it is garbage. They are tired of folks coming back to Washington, DC, and losing track of where they come from.

My point is just like on the farm. We need to stay here weekends, vote nights, and work as hard as we can to get this done because enough is enough. We need to get these bipartisan bills done so that we can keep this country the greatest country on Earth.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

One final thing before I yield the floor: We should be working on a supplemental bill right now to take care of challenges in Ukraine. We heard from Zelenskyy this morning, President Zelenskyy. We need to take care of the challenges in Israel and the humanitarian aid there and military support. We need to take care of the challenges in the Indo-Pacific and to take care of challenges on our southern border. All of this stuff should have been done months ago, but once again, just like the appropriations bill, there is no urgency. We kick the can down the road, and we put this country at risk.

If we don't wake up and do what we need to do to keep this country safe and be the lead for democracy in the world, what have we become? We should not be leaving here for any holiday—Christmas, New Year's, whatever it is—until we get these supplementals done because we are the greatest country on Earth for a good reason: because we are the greatest country on Earth. Not doing these supplementals takes away from that. We have already done enough damage with the deferred appropriations bills on a CR. We need to go to work. It is that important.

I ask unanimous consent that the letters from Joint Chiefs of Staff C.Q. Brown, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, as well as Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall, on the impacts of a continuing resolution on our Nation's security as it applies to the Air Force and the Navy and our military, in general, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Defense, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to share my view on the impact that a year-long Continuing Resolution (CR) would have on the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Joint Force. In addition to the critical need for Congress to take action to support our allies and partners by passing the President's national security supplemental funding request, the single greatest thing that Congress can do to enable the Department to execute our strategy is to enact a full-year appropriation.

DoD has never operated under a year-long CR; it would be historically costly to the Joint Force. In a CR, the DoD's actual buying power is significantly impacted and degraded. Failing to fully fund the DoD would disrupt important progress made in fiscal year 2023. The National Defense Strategy lays out evolving security challenges, which require the Joint Force to modernize quickly or risk losing our strategic advantage. As I have said previously, we cannot outpace our pacing challenge while under a CR.

A year-long CR would prevent the DoD from executing numerous multi-year procurement contracts that are critical to meeting our requirements in the Indo-Pacific; delay or deny investments in important modernization projects; and create a significant shortfall in personnel funding.

Thousands of programs will be impacted with the most devastating impacts to our national defense being to personnel, nuclear triad modernization, shipbuilding and ship maintenance, munitions production and replenishment, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) priorities.

Personnel: A year-long CR would create a $5.8 billion shortfall in military personnel

funding and exacerbate recruiting and retention challenges. DoD would be forced to delay service member moves and slow recruiting to offset the costs of the 5.2 percent pay raise for the military.

Nuclear triad modernization: A year-long CR would delay nuclear triad modernization, including a delay in the procurement of the B–21 Raider and could prevent the award of the second Columbia class ballistic missile submarine.

Shipbuilding and ship maintenance: Under a year-long CR, 30 percent ($9.7B) of the funding in the Navy shipbuilding budget request could not be spent and only one of two requested Virginia class submarines could be awarded. Additionally, a year-long CR would cancel or delay ship depot maintenance availabilities, impacting readiness.

Munitions production and replenishment: Under a year-long CR, DoD could not award multi-year procurement contracts to increase production capacity or replenish inventories for munitions critical to INDOPACOM, including long range anti-ship missiles, GMLRs (precision rockets), Patriot air defense missiles, the naval strike missile, and a long-range version of the joint air to surface standoff missile.

Pacific Defense Initiatives: A year-long CR would jeopardize $1.3 billion in investments critical to DoD's INDO-PACIFIC posture including impacts to forward basing, sensor-to-shooter capabilities, long range radars, hypersonic defense, and investments in classified capabilities.

No new military construction projects: Military construction projects are, by definition, new starts, so a year-long CR could cause a year-long delay in construction projects intended to modernize our installations and improve quality of life.

Passing a full-year funding bill and the President's national security supplemental request would prevent these devastating impacts. It would also provide funding for critical weapons and equipment for our allies and partners while replenishing depleted DoD stocks and providing for robust investments in the defense industrial base.

We owe our servicemembers the tools they need to be successful. We have asked them to modernize and accelerate the future capabilities they need to continue to deter and project credible combat power. We need full appropriations to stay ahead of pacing, acute, and unforeseen challenges.

I appreciate your continued support for our Joint Force and look forward to our future engagements.

Sincerely,

CHARLES Q. BROWN, Jr.,
General, U.S. Air Force.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
Washington, DC, December 8, 2023.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As the first session of the 118th Congress draws to a close, I write to express my deepest concern that the Department has yet to receive an appropriations funding bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, and is facing the threat of operating under a year-long Continuing Resolution (CR) with potential for sequestration. I urge the Congress to prioritize the national security of our country by passing our annual appropriation bills without further delay.

Today, our Sailors and Marines are postured in the eastern Mediterranean, through the Red Sea, and across in the Indo-Pacific to deter and respond to acts of aggression from Russia, Iranian-backed terrorist groups, and the Communist Chinese Party. Their ability to maintain a forward U.S. presence without interruption, and to maintain a competitive advantage over our adversaries depends upon Congress' approval of the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget request. Should the Congress fail to provide a FY2024 appropriation and instead enact a year-long CR at FY2023 levels, or worse with sequestration, our Navy-Marine Corps team will incur an immediate $15.2 billion set-back (−5.9%), with impacts in nearly every area. Misalignments from the full-year CR drives that shortfall to $28 billion:

People and Quality of Life: A year-long CR would provide $2.2 billion less for Service Member pay, housing, subsistence, and relocation, creating hardships for our military families and lowering morale across the force. End strength challenges will be further hampered, as recruiting incentives are reduced and reserve mobilizations are curtailed. Quality of service initiatives to improve living conditions and expand resources for mental health will be blunted.

Readiness: A $4.6 billion reduction in operations and maintenance will inevitably impact our fleet by immediately degrading our ability to operate our ships and aircraft in this uncertain environment. Pre-deployment training and large-scale exercises will be curtailed resulting in less-proficient aviation, maritime, and ground forces deploying overseas. Deferred weapons system maintenance will further limit the capabilities available to the Combatant Commanders. The impacts will continue to be felt in future years, as upcoming deployments will be jeopardized by delaying or cancelling surface ship maintenance at private shipyards, while a hiring freeze would undermine the next generation of workers at our naval shipyards and maintenance depots. Finally, the Department would be forced to significantly reduce sustainment at our bases with reductions in preventive maintenance impacting fire protection systems, utility infrastructure maintenance, and facility condition inspections.

Shipbuilding: A $9.7 billion reduction in shipbuilding and conversion will preclude construction of one Submarine Tender, one Frigate, and two Littoral Combat Units (due to prohibitions on rate of production increase). Funding restrictions will result in higher costs for five ship classes and refueling of one nuclear aircraft carrier, delaying both construction work and material/warfare systems procurements. For Virginia-Class Submarine, only one of two ships requested could be awarded as well as the inability to award economic order quantity funding for the Virginia-Class SSN multi-year procurement in FY25–29. Reductions in funding and quantities of ships awarded will negatively affect the progress on restoring our Nation's shipbuilding workforce for six major shipbuilders in the wake of the COVID–19 pandemic, incentivizing workers to pursue more stable careers.

Nuclear Deterrence: While the first FY24 CR provided an anomaly for a production rate increase on the second Columbia-Class Submarine, the rate of operations increase for advance procurement funding in FY24 will cause delays in long lead time material awards for up to ten future Columbia-Class Submarines and a delay of Submarine Industrial Base investment funding. This puts at risk the modernization of the sea-base leg of our nation's nuclear triad.

Marine Corps Force Design: Restrictions on new starts and production rate increases will slow progress on the Marine Corps' transformation to a more agile, efficient, and technologically advanced force able to deter and defeat forces across the Pacific island chains. Production rates of Tomahawk and Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System weapons systems, two ground vehicles and two aircraft will be reduced.

Weapons Industrial Base: Year-long CR restrictions will prevent a combined $380 million investment in the Weapons Industrial Base to increase throughout and production capacity of critical munitions including TRIDENT, Tomahawk, Standard Missile, Long Range Anti-Ship Missile, Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile, and Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile. These efforts are in direct response to lessons learned from the conflict in Ukraine.

Research and Development: A $900 million reduction in research and development suspends research at businesses and universities across the country, makes our forces more reliant on aging systems, and provides our adversaries an opportunity to close the technological gap. Reductions to Marine Future Vertical Takeoff Family of Systems, Next Generation Jammer-Increment Two and MQ–4 Triton Multi-Integration will challenge Naval Aviation capabilities to face future threats.

Military Construction: A $3.1 billion shortfall in military construction will cancel or postpone 30 projects across the U.S. and abroad, including three Child Development Centers. Twelve Pacific Deterrence Initiative projects on Guam will be affected, inhibiting our ability to blunt Chinese expansionism.

These impacts, when combined with misalignment between last year's enacted funding bill and our FY2024 budget request, amount to a total funding impact to the Department of the Navy of $26.1 billion ($22.8 Navy, $3.3 Marine Corps). If a 1% sequester is applied, the impacts rises to $28.8 billion ($25.0 Navy, $3.8 Marine Corps). In light of recent world events, we simply cannot afford to sacrifice readiness. Together, we must equip our Sailors and Marines with the best our Nation can provide to ensure they never have to face a fair fight.

Sincerely,

CARLOS DEL TORO.

Enclosures:

(1) New Starts by Appropriation and Line Item.

(2) Production Rate Increases by Appropriation and Line Item.

(3) Total Appropriation Rates of Operation Increases.

(4) Summary—Total Misalignment of Funds in a 12-month CR.

NEW STARTS BY APPROPRIATION AND LINE ITEM

Appropriation/Line Item	TOTAL DON		NAVY		MARINE CORPS	
	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)
SCN	1	11,733,234	1	11,733,234		
AS Submarine Tender	1	1,733,234	1	1,733,234		
SCN Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs		566,119		566,119		
Completion of PY SBP (LI 5300)		566,119		566,119		
OPN		7,594		7,594		

NEW STARTS BY APPROPRIATION AND LINE ITEM—Continued

Appropriation/Line Item	TOTAL DON		NAVY		MARINE CORPS	
	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)
LSD Midlife & Modernization		7,594		7,594		
WPN	8	341,434	8	341,434		
Conventional Prompt Strike	8	341,434	8	341,434		
RDTEN (PE/PROJ)		260,285		209,657		50,628
0604840M F-35B C2D2 0358 Utility and Subsystem Support to Mission		8,113				8,113
0605212M CH-53K 3069 CH53K Improvement		42,515				42,515
0204229N Tomahawk Mssn Planning Ctr 4032 NAV/COMMS		2,969		2,969		
0204571N Consolidated Trng Sys Dev 1982 Adversary Mission System		5,140		5,140		
0205633N Aviation Improvements 0357 IFDIS fault detection		2,000		2,000		
0205633N Aviation Improvements 1356 Corrosion Prevention Impro		4,010		4,010		
0602792N Innovative Naval Prototypes (INP) Applied Res 3506 Com		1,500		1,500		
0602792N Innovative Naval Prototypes (INP) Applied Res 3507 Chim		15,537		15,537		
0602792N Innovative Naval Prototypes (INP) Applied Res 3508 Curi		1,800		1,800		
0603563N Ship Concept Advanced Design 3505 Maritime Preposition		1,502		1,502		
0603739N Navy Logistic Productivity 0356 NADACS Inventory		4,000		4,000		
0603801N Innovative Naval Prototypes (INP) Adv Tec Dev 3507 Chim		4,732		4,732		
0604030N Rapid Prototyping, Experimentation & Dem 0385 Rapid P		90,490		90,490		
0604258N Target Systems Development 2159 ASW TARGET		3,514		3,514		
0604840N F-35C C2D2 0358 Utility and Subsystem Support to Mission		72,463		72,463		
FHCON Projects	2	205,032	1	83,126	1	121,906
P307 Replace Andersen Housing Ph 8	1	121,906			1	121,906
P387 Replace Andersen Housing Ph 7	1	83,126	1	83,126		
MCN Projects (BA01)	26	2,897,154	14	1,827,884	12	1,069,270
P226 Maintenance Facility & Marine Air Group HQs	1	125,150			1	125,150
P191 Water Treatment Plant	1	127,120			1	127,120
P415 PDI: Child Development Center	1	105,220			1	105,220
P002 Cybersecurity Operations Facility	1	186,480			1	186,480
P316 PDI: Artillery Battery Facilities	1	137,550			1	137,550
P406 PDI: Recreation Center	1	34,740			1	34,740
P408 PDI: Religious Ministry Services Facility	1	46,350			1	46,350
P760 PDI: Training Center	1	89,640			1	89,640
P859 PDI: Consolidated MEB HQ/NCIS PHII	1	19,740			1	19,740
P870 PDI: 9th ESB Training Center	1	23,380			1	23,380
P158 Bachelor Enlisted Quarters & Support Facility	1	131,800			1	131,800
P1241 Communications Towers	1	42,100			1	42,100
P1044 Submarine Pier 31 Extension	1	112,518	1	112,518		
P1102 Weapons Magazine & Ordnance Operations Fac.	1	219,200	1	219,200		
P614 PDI: Joint Consol. Comm. Center (INC)	1	107,000	1	107,000		
P691 Aircraft Development and Maintenance Facs	1	141,700	1	141,700		
P1339 Child Development Center	1	35,000	1	35,000		
P1334 Child Development Center	1	43,600	1	43,600		
P1069 Maritime Surveillance System Facility	1	109,680	1	109,680		
P541 PDI: Missile Integration Test Facility	1	174,540	1	174,540		
P678 PDI: Satellite Communications Facility (INC)	1	166,159	1	166,159		
P891 Shipyard Electrical Backbone	1	195,000	1	195,000		
P171 Weapons Magazines	1	221,920	1	221,920		
P525 Laboratory Compound Facilities Improvements	1	110,000	1	110,000		
P111 EDI: Ordnance Magazines	1	77,072	1	77,072		
P222 MQ-25 Aircraft Laydown Facilities	1	114,495	1	114,495		
MCNR Projects (BA01)	2	36,949			2	36,949
P185 G/ATOR Support Facilities	1	12,400			1	12,400
P405 Organic Supply Facilities	1	24,549			1	24,549
Total New Starts		6,047,801		4,769,048		1,278,753

PRODUCTION RATE INCREASES BY APPROPRIATION AND LINE ITEM

Appropriation/Line Item	TOTAL DON		NAVY		MARINE CORPS	
	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)
APN	17	409,480	9	326,762	8	82,718
JSF STOVL	1	228,140	1	228,140		
Multi-Engine Training System (METS)	16	181,340	8	98,622	8	82,718
PMC	43	111,731			43	111,731
Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)	12	17,750			12	17,750
Guided MLRS Rocket	4	1,262			4	1,262
Tomahawk	21	62,234			21	62,234
Amphibious Combat Vehicle	6	30,485			6	30,485
SCN	4	7,068,215	4	7,068,215		
Columbia Class (FF) [1]	1		1			
Columbia Class (AP) [1]		612,181		612,181		
Virginia Class Submarine (FF)		2,595,781		2,595,781		
Virginia Class Submarine (AP)		1,189,888		1,189,888		
CVN Refueling Overhauls AP		396,565		396,565		
DDG 1000		337,424		337,424		
FFG	1	1,038,474	1	1,038,474		
LHA		744,679		744,679		
T-AO		32,832		32,832		
LCU	2	62,532	2	62,532		
Auxiliary Vessels		9,008		9,008		
Service Craft		48,851		48,851		
SCN Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs		306,324		306,324		
Completion of PY SBP (LI 5300)		306,324		306,324		
WPN	170	733,032	155	718,670	15	14,362
Adv Med Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM)	37	103,253	37	103,253		
Sidewinder	19	15,877	7	4,938	12	10,939
Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM)	20	22,765	20	22,765		
LRASM	33	419,974	30	416,551	3	3,423
Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile (ESSM)	11	13,794	11	13,794		
MK-48 Torpedo	50	157,369	50	157,369		
Total Production Rate increases		8,628,782		8,419,971		208,811

[1] Section 124 of the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act'' (P.L. 118–15) includes an anomaly for $621.27M for a Columbia Class Submarine. The ''Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024'' (P.L. 118–22) Section 140 provides an anomaly for $3,338,413,000 for Columbia Class AP.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION RATES OF OPERATION INCREASES [2]

Appropriation	TOTAL DON		NAVY		MARINE CORPS	
	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)
MPN		1,434,018		1,434,018		
RPN		103,887		103,887		
MPMC		582,352				582,352
RPMC		77,216				77,216

TOTAL APPROPRIATION RATES OF OPERATION INCREASES [2]—Continued

Appropriation	TOTAL DON		NAVY		MARINE CORPS	
	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)
OMN		4,058,432		3,938,540		119,892
OMNR		102,760		72,986		29,774
OMMC		424,994				424,994
OPN		2,389,073		2,316,278		72,795
PANMC		372,389		264,349		108,040
PMC		197,971				197,971
RDTEN		658,243		417,151		241,092
WPN		978,806		1,016,306		(37,500)
Total Appropriation Rates of Operation Increases [2]		11,380,141		9,563,515		1,816,626

[2] Rates of Operations increases by appropriation are calculated after accounting for new starts and production rate increases. With the exception of SCN and MILCON appropriations, CR restrictions for rates of operation are at the total appropriation level. However, it is prudent to consider proposed Congressional adjustments at a line item level when determining amounts that can be executed during the CR period, in order to preserve Congressional funding prerogatives in an appropriation act.

SUMMARY—TOTAL MISALIGNMENT OF FUNDS IN A 12-MONTH CR

Appropriation	TOTAL DON		NAVY		MARINE CORPS	
	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)	QTY	Amt ($K)
Total New Starts		6,047,801		4,769,048		1,278,753
Total Production Rate Increases		8,628,782		8,419,971		208,811
Total Appropriation Rates of Operation Increases		11,380,141		9,563,515		1,816,626
Estimated Sequestration TOA Shortfall—Yearlong CR		2,737,000		2,222,000		515,000
Misalignment of Funds—12 Month CR with Seq		28,793,724		24,974,534		3,819,190
PB24 Submission				255,752,514		
Total 12-Month CR Misalignments and Estimated Sequestration				(28,793,724)		
12-Month CR/SEQ TOA for DON [3]				226,958,790		

[3] Assumes no anomalies to lift restrictions on new starts and rate increases, and no authority to realign funding within and between appropriations. Includes PB24 levels for DHA accounts.

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE,
Washington, DC.

HON. PATTY MURRAY,
Chair, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR MURRAY: As Congress works to advance Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations legislation, I write to highlight current, significant impacts a Continuing Resolution (CR) and the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) have on the Department of the Air Force (DAF). Our biggest challenges are strengthening our capabilities, as well as recruiting and retaining the world's best Air Force and Space Force, to prevail, if necessary, in the Indo-Pacific against the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the pacing challenge. Overall, a year-long CR in FY24 would reduce buying power of the DAF by as much as $13 billion. Additionally, should a sequester be ordered under the FRA, including discretionary spending levels capped at FY23 levels minus one percent with the directive to exclude military personnel accounts, the impact to the DAF would be an approximate eight percent cut, absent inflation, to absorb the remaining FY24 FRA topline cap.

While CRs and the associated limitations placed on the DAF ability to invest in modernization, as well as in our Airmen, Guardians, and civilians, are significant, the one thing we cannot buy back with any amount of funding is time. The longer the DAF operates under any CR, the more time our pacing challenge has to gain advantage and further increases their ability to inflict unacceptable levels of destruction against our people and capabilities. In 1940, General Douglas MacArthur said, ''The history of failure in war can almost always be summed up in two words: 'Too late.' Too late in comprehending the deadly purpose of a potential enemy. Too late in realizing the mortal danger. Too late in preparedness. Too late in uniting all possible forces for resistance.

Any length of CR impacts DAF readiness, hinders acceleration of the U.S. Space Force, delays military construction (MILCON) projects, reduces aircraft availability, and curbs modernization in our race for technological superiority. Below are specific examples of current CR impacts on the DAF.

GREAT POWER COMPETITION OPTIMIZATION IMPACTS

Risks credibility of U.S. nuclear deterrence and undermines two legs of the nuclear triad:

For the future ground-base leg, LGM–35A Sentinel, delays weapon system construction, missile development, and delivery of MH–139 aircraft—essential to nuclear surety and security at a time when the PRC has built 100 new missile silos.

For the future air-based leg, B–21 Raider, delays procurement as the contract award is held to the previous year quantity and funding.

Stops 89 new starts, totaling $2 billion, and 19 specific initiatives to counter the PRC, totaling $4.8 billion, which would close key capability gaps and assure U.S. advantage through the Joint Strike Missile, Kill Chain Automation, Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) development, and Moving Target Engagement.

Cancels $2.8 billion in U.S. Space Force growth for new space architectures critical to the Joint Force in contested environments, including resilient Space Data Transport and Missile Warning/Missile Tracking (MW/MT); tactical sensing; and positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT).

Delays procurement of seven National Security Space Launch (NSSL) missions thereby exposing Joint warfighters to significant risk.

MILITARY PERSONNEL & OPERATIONS IMPACTS

Limits DAF capability to cover any increase in military pay accounts including inability to initiate new bonuses or incentive pay designed to address critically-manned career fields.

Degrades operational readiness by underfunding critical accounts such as weapon system sustainment and the flying hour program.

MILCON IMPACTS

Prevents 34 new major construction projects totaling $1.6 billion, including new weapon system beddowns, Quality of Life (QoL) facilities, and three Indo-Pacific projects fundamental to Agile Combat Employment (ACE) operations.

Prevents five new Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP) Defense-Wide MILCON projects, totaling $138 million, for critical power and water requirements at two U.S. Air Force and three U.S. Space Force locations.

The DAF greatly values your partnership and appreciates your commitment to our Airmen and Guardians. However, the longer the DAF operates under a CR, the greater the impact is on our people and programs. While change is hard and focus on short-term distractions seems enticing, losing to the pacing challenge is unacceptable. No one wants great power competition and no one can predict when conflict might occur, but we must be as ready as we can be—now, tomorrow, and every day. I implore you and your colleagues to advance full-year FY24 appropriations legislation as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support of our U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force.

Sincerely,

FRANK KENDALL,
Secretary of the Air Force.

Mr. TESTER. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:08 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. Luján).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON COKER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coker nomination?

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted ''yea.''

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 338 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Luján	Sinema
Carper	Manchin	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Cassidy	Marshall	Sullivan
Collins	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Cramer	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Young

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REED. 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.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I call for the regular order with respect to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (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, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

Pending:

Schumer motion to recommit the conference report to accompany the bill to the Committee on Conference, with instructions.

Schumer amendment No. 1373 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit the conference report to accompany the bill to the Committee on Conference), to modify the effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 1374 (to Amendment No. 1373), to modify the effective date.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask that Senator ERNST be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, and that, following the vote on the Ernst motion to table, Senators HAWLEY and LUJÁN be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, Leader SCHUMER is blocking us from having an important and timely debate on Biden's unlawful, immoral policy to use tax dollars intended for our national defense to pay for abortions.

The world is imploding because of Biden's failed leadership and weakness, and our country is under greater threat than it has been in years. Meanwhile, the Biden Department of Defense is waging a war on the unborn.

I never back down from a fight, and Democrats' tactics will not deter my work to stop Biden from forcing the Pentagon to provide transportation tourism for abortion with taxpayers' hard-earned money.

As a mom, soon-to-be grandma, and 23-year combat veteran and retired lieutenant colonel of our great U.S. Army, I firmly believe the Pentagon should be focusing on protecting innocent life, not destroying it. That is why I have led the legislation to overturn this abhorrent policy and why I am here today to continue my fight for life.

Congress has been clear for nearly half a century: The Hyde amendment protects taxpayers from being forced to fund abortions, and that includes the Department of Defense.

Senator SCHUMER should stop obstructing the world's greatest deliberative body from debating this important, longstanding issue.

A ''yes'' vote on this motion would allow me to offer the House-passed, pro-life provisions similar to my own bill. Including these protections in the Defense bill would restore the DoD's mission integrity by preventing any taxpayer funding for Biden's radical abortion tourism, including travel costs.

America is being threatened by adversaries at home and abroad. Why are President Biden and Leader SCHUMER dividing us with their radical abortion agenda?

This is a moment where we should all stand united in the defense of our Nation. Let's do so today.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote yes to defeat SCHUMER's gross attempt to silence our voices and those of the unborn.

MOTION TO TABLE AMENDMENT NO. 1373

Mr. President, I move to table the Schumer amendment No. 1373 for the purposes of offering my amendment numbered 1376, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senator HAWLEY's motion to table.

And I speak today on behalf of: Annie, Henry, Cipriano, Rosemary, Tina, Louisa, Francisco, Laura, Wilbert, Charles, and the thousands upon thousands of people who have endured the agony and suffering brought on by our nuclear weapons testing in New Mexico and across the country.

In July of 1945, Annie was in her kitchen with her family when, all of a sudden, they heard a boom. The next second, they were on the floor holding onto one another, trying to comfort each other, because around them windows were shattering and walls were crumbling.

When they went outside, they thought that it started to snow, but it was ash falling from the sky. Some families, who were away from the community, later that night returned, only to find clothing that they were hanging on a drying line full of this ash that they didn't know where it was coming from.

Both Annie and her youngest sister Marcie were the only two children living in their little home—their casita—in Capitan, NM. Both have died from cancer.

Henry was just 11 years old when the bomb went off. He recalls thinking the world was ending. Henry watched as his brother, his nephew, and niece all died of cancer. He was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 63. I am sorry to say that we lost him in 2022.

And it is not just the downwinders who were impacted. Cipriano worked in the uranium mines for 8 years. Now, the personal protective equipment he was given: a single paper mask, one per shift. That mask was useless after into the first hour because it would get covered with something that we have known to be called yellowcake, the particulate from the uranium mine ore that would cover everything, including places where some of these uranium mineworkers would go to have their lunch. And they would try to clean the dust off, but they could never keep up with it because it just kept accumulating.

Some folks were told: Just wait until you get home to shake the yellowcake—the dust—off your clothing, because in those mines, sometimes they would spread water to keep the particulate down. Well, they got the miners' clothing wet. So the yellowcake would stick to it. It was hard to peel off. So wait until you get home and it dries to shake it off.

Many of these families—namely the Navajo uranium mineworkers—lived in a one-home generational house. So if you go home and start shaking your clothing filled with a yellowcake that then dries off, what are you doing to grandma and grandpa, to your siblings, to your kids, and maybe your grandkids when that particulate is now all around you?

Cipriano lived with shortness of breath since he was in his twenties. Later, he developed pulmonary fibrosis, kidney failure, and he eventually needed a kidney transplant. He, too, sadly, passed away.

All of these stories, medical traumas, and generational pain are happening on our watch. And while millions of people flocked to the theaters this summer to see a big blockbuster that told the story about this Trinity test that took place—some of us know what that is—in the Tularosa Basin, the first place that a nuclear bomb was set off on American soil to test it. But not much was mentioned about these families who are dying of cancer today.

You know, some Navajo elders, some women, some grandmas—as we call them—came to Congress when I was a Member of the House to testify. And during one of those conversations, one of those elders asked a question back to those of us who were on the dais. And she said: Are you waiting for all of us to die so that the problem goes away?

I don't know what to say to her when I go home—and I will see her right now—because this legislation, which we all fought for—and I want to thank Senator HAWLEY for finding a way for us to work together to fight for the families in and around Missouri, working with Senator CRAPO, and every one of you for making this happen. And we passed this with a bipartisan strong vote out of the Senate. It has now been taken out of the NDAA in this conference. What do I tell these families?

There is a lot that I have learned in this body: the challenges and frustrations that exist for our constituents, for each and every one of us on occasion. But I have also learned—especially here in the Senate—that the fight is never over; that there is always something that can be done. When I listen to the brilliant parliamentarian team, they teach me on how I can do my job better for the people that I represent. I know that a ''yes'' vote on this might be challenging; but for the families in States all across America, what can we do to help them?

In the same way that this body came together to pass incredible pieces of policy to help victims due to exposure—I will point most recently to an act this Congress took after 9/11 when we got together in a bipartisan way and we said we are going to pass the Zadroga Act—and that act was not only passed once, but then it was extended for, like, 90 years because it was the right thing to do. And it costs some money. But it was the right thing to do.

There is a liability from the United States of America to these families. I believe that the CBO should actually be using this as a pay-for, because when there is a liability from the United States of America and you fix it, it actually creates credit, a path forward to pay for everything else. But for some reason, the CBO does not release this aggregated data to help us better understand what is happening here.

So I plead and I urge with my colleagues that we find a way to do the right thing here; that going forward, we find a path to get this done.

And I want to say thank you to all the staff and the Members who know about these families now. You have taken time to understand them. And many of you have given me advice on how we can do things better. And I thank you for that. The families thank you for that. So I hope that this fight will not be forgotten.

I urge my Republican and Democratic leadership to work with us to help pass the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act amendments.

I thank Senator HAWLEY.

And I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I want to add a few words to my friend Senator LUJÁN's eloquent statement of the need to do justice to these good Americans who have—let's just tell it like it is—been poisoned by their own government, who have been exposed to nuclear waste, nuclear radiation by the U.S. Government, by the U.S. Defense Department.

These Americans are happy to do their part for national security. They are proud of what they have done for their country. But they deserve to be recognized, and they deserve to be compensated.

And so I want to add again my voice in support of justice for these Americans. And I want to say again to this body that it is wrong—it is wrong—to turn our backs on these tens of thousands of Americans who have given their health and, in many cases, their lives for their country and not been recognized for it; in many cases not been compensated for it. And now they are told that because of the actions of this body, because of the conference report, because of a backroom deal struck in conference, this program that compensates victims of nuclear radiation will soon expire. And tens of thousands of Americans who have relied on this program for 30-plus years for lifesaving health and treatment will get nothing. The lights will go dark, and these Americans will be turned out into the cold. And thousands more—like the residents of my State and New Mexico and other States around this country who deserve compensation—will get nothing.

That is not acceptable to me. It is not right. And I want to take a moment now to tell a story or two from the victims who are affected, just to help everybody understand what is at stake here because I know this is the national defense bill, and if I have learned one thing about this bill, it is, the suits always get paid. The corporations, they always get paid. The defense contractors, they always get paid. They come out great in the end. It is amazing. It is a law in Washington, ironclad. If you are a big corporation, you do defense work, you are going to be fine. This body will take care of you.

But will we take care of the men and women who don't otherwise have a voice in this body? Will we take care of the men and women who don't pay DC lobbyists, who don't work for the Raytheon Corporation? Will they be taken care of? That is the question. Let's meet a few of them. Let me introduce you to Claire.

Claire's parents grew up near Weldon Spring in my State, in Missouri. Weldon Spring is the site of a Manhattan Project uranium refining site. That site sat untouched from the Manhattan Project era until 2001, more than 50 years after it was contaminated.

In 2020, Claire was diagnosed with lymphoma. She was 2 years old. Let me introduce you to Veda, Claire's cousin. Veda, her mom and dad, they all lived together right near that same site where nuclear waste has been dumped, not adequately cleaned up or dealt with. She grew up there, and, wouldn't you know it, just 6 weeks after her cousin Claire was diagnosed with lymphoma, Veda was diagnosed with leukemia. She was 4 years old when she was diagnosed.

Why is this happening in St. Louis? I will tell you why. St. Louis was a uranium processing site, like many other cities around the country, and St. Louis was proud to do its part in the Manhattan Project. You won't get any argument from me about that. You certainly won't get any argument from Missourians. But here is what is not acceptable. After the Manhattan Project was concluded, the Federal Government didn't clean up the waste. No, the Federal Government allowed nuclear waste to sit out in barrels right near a stream that runs along schools, that runs alongside suburbs, that cuts right through the heart of the city.

The Federal Government dumped nuclear waste into a public landfill. Then it dumped the nuclear waste into a second landfill. Then it dumped it into an area in the downtown part of the city. And here we are, all these decades later, how much of it has been cleaned up? None of it. None of it. That is why these children are sick.

Let me introduce you to Howard Billiman because it is not just in Missouri, but it is all over the country. This is Howard Billiman. Howard was a Navajo code talker in World War II, absolutely instrumental to the U.S. war effort. He died of stomach cancer after living downwind from the nuclear tests that Senator LUJÁN was talking about just a moment ago. And now his children who also grew up downwind have developed cancer themselves. So it is not just one generation. It is generation upon generation because the U.S. Government has not done what is right. They haven't cleaned up the contamination. They haven't made whole the families they injured.

In fact, as this body recognized in 1990, when it first passed the radiation statute, the government owes these folks an apology; it owes them a cleanup; and it owes them recognition and compensation.

That is true also of Bernice Gutierrez. Here is Bernice. She was 8 days old—8 days—when the government tested the first atomic bomb just miles away from her family's home in New Mexico. Her entire family was repeatedly exposed to nuclear tests. As a consequence, 44 members of Bernice's family—44—have been diagnosed with cancer or other radiation-linked diseases. Her mother had cancer three times. Three of her brothers have had cancer. Her sister has had cancer, and she has thyroid disease. Her oldest son passed away from a radiation-linked disease, and her daughter now has thyroid cancer. Add to that, 36 additional relatives who have cancers linked to radiation. This is all one family in one State who have been compensated not at all—not at all.

They have given their health for this country. They haven't gotten recognition. They haven't gotten compensation. That is wrong.

Meet Leslie Begay. Leslie is a Navajo marine who fought for his country in Vietnam. There he is. When he returned home, he went to work mining uranium to support the Cold War effort. Think about this. He goes to Vietnam, fights for his country in Vietnam, comes home, goes to the uranium mines to support his country's Cold War effort. He says he was issued—in his words—''just a rain jacket, safety glasses, and a hard hat. That's it.''

Now, Leslie is having a double lung transplant. He lives in New Mexico. He pays $700 a month for medication. And what does he get for his injuries, for his illnesses brought on by his exposure in the mines? Nothing. Nothing. Zero. He has gotten zero.

I want to introduce you to one more person, my friend, Kristen Camuso. Kristen grew up in St. Louis. She played in and around Coldwater Creek, that creek where the government left barrels of radioactive waste sitting out for literally years, open, the rain, the elements. The waste leaked out of the barrels right down into the creek. And for decades, the people of St. Louis were told: Oh, there is no problem. The creek is fine. No problem at all. You can play in it. Your kids can play in it. You can send your kids to school by it, build houses by it, and people did because that is what the government said. And now thousands of people are sick, including Kristen.

Since her 2012 cancer diagnosis, Kristen has had her gall bladder removed. She has had a total hysterectomy. She has had her left adrenal gland removed, and after all that, doctors found another tumor on her right adrenal gland and a lesion on her liver. Her medicine is so expensive, she has to ration the care. There is just no way around it. As she says, ''I am forced to choose which way I can die.''

I say, again, this is not right. These are good people who have done nothing wrong. Their government has caused this. When the government causes injury, the government should make it right. That is what we are asking for. That is what the radiation compensation program does, and it is wrong to let it expire. It is an injustice. It is a scar on the conscience of this body and this Nation.

And I will come to the floor as long as it takes until we do right by these Americans who have done right by their country because they deserve better than this.

Here is the last thing I will say. You know, you think about the billions of dollars in costs that the government has imposed on these people, taking their health, taking their lives, over decades, and yet what is in this year's Defense bills, the Defense appropriations bills, one analysis recently found that House and Senate appropriators have added at least $26 billion for programs the Pentagon doesn't even want, $26 billion in 1 year.

Things like $5 million for a social network analysis for the Army, $4 million to research the impacts of soil structures on hydrology, $12 million for new snow removal equipment. Where is my favorite? The $15 billion inserted by Senators—$15 billion with a ''b''—in 1 year, $15 billion for 636 weapons projects the Pentagon did not request. That is 636 weapons programs the Pentagon doesn't request. But yet we don't have a dime for these people.

We don't have a dime for the people exposed to nuclear waste and radiation by their own government. No, this is not right. It is not right, and I am not willing to accept it. Senator LUJÁN is not willing to accept it. And I urge the Members of this body, do not be willing to accept it. We must reauthorize this program. We must do right by these Americans. They deserve it.

This isn't a welfare check; this is justice. It is what they deserve. It is what they have earned. And I will continue to come to this floor as long as it takes.

I am going to make a motion now to extend debate on this bill. I have no illusions that this will succeed. I realize my colleagues are eager, all too eager, to move on, but I think it is important we take as much time as is necessary to understand the stakes of what we are doing and to understand the stakes of turning our backs on these people.

MOTION TO TABLE AMENDMENT NO. 1373

Mr. President, so now, I move to table the Schumer motion to recommit, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 26, nays 73, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 340 Leg.]

YEAS—26

Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Heinrich	Rosen
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Rubio
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Sanders
Crapo	Kelly	Schmitt
Cruz	Lee	Sinema
Daines	Luján	Tester
Graham	Marshall	Vance
Grassley	Paul	

NAYS—73

Baldwin	Britt	Carper
Barrasso	Brown	Casey
Blackburn	Budd	Cassidy
Blumenthal	Butler	Collins
Booker	Capito	Coons
Boozman	Cardin	Cornyn

Cotton
Cramer
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Fetterman
Fischer
Gillibrand
Hagerty
Hassan
Hirono
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Kaine
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lummis
Markey
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Moran
Mullin
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Ricketts
Romney
Rounds
Schatz
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Smith
Stabenow
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Tuberville
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NOT VOTING—1

Manchin

The motion was rejected.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark Kelly, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Catherine Cortez Masto, Raphael G. Warnock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 85, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 341 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Boozman
Britt
Brown
Budd
Butler
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Fetterman
Fischer
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kaine
Kelly
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Manchin
Marshall
McConnell
Menendez
Moran
Mullin
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Ricketts
Risch
Romney
Rosen
Rounds
Rubio
Schatz
Schmitt
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Whitehouse
Wicker
Young

NAYS—15

Booker
Braun
Hawley
Lee
Luján
Lummis
Markey
Merkley
Paul
Sanders
Tuberville
Vance
Warren
Welch
Wyden

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 15.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On December 8, 2023, the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, determined that an emergency exists which requires the immediate sale of the defense articles and defense services identified in the attached transmittal to the Government of Israel through the Foreign Military Sales process, including any further amendment specific to costs, quantity, or requirements occurring within the duration of circumstances giving rise to this emergency sale.

Please find attached (Tab 1) the Secretary of State Determination and Justification waiving the congressional review requirements under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

UNCLASSIFIED

Determination Under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Pursuant to section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2776, I hereby determine that an emergency exists that requires the immediate sale through the following foreign military sales case, including any further amendments specific to the cost, quantity, or requirements of these cases, in the national security interest of the United States:

For Israel:

120mm Tank Cartridges

This determination shall be published in the Federal Register and, along with the accompanying Memorandum of Justification, shall be transmitted to Congress with the applicable notifications.

Date: 12–8–23

ANTONY J. BLINKEN,
Secretary of State.

(U) Memorandum of Justification for Emergency Arms Transfers to Israel Under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(U) On October 7, Hamas launched the worst attack on Israel since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Thousands of rockets were fired and continue to be fired indiscriminately, hitting locations and civilians as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Hamas gunmen crossed into Israel, entering towns and communities as far as 15 miles from Gaza, slaughtering men, women, and children. More than 230 hostages were captured and dragged back into Gaza, including U.S. citizens. As of today, Hamas' act of terrorism has claimed the lives of more than 1,200 in Israel, including at least 31 U.S. citizens, and wounded thousands more. The attack is the single deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust, and is reminiscent of the worst rampages of ISIS. The following day, the Government of Israel formally declared war on Hamas in accordance with its Basic Law.

(U) Israel has the right to defend itself, and the United States supports Israel taking necessary action to defend its country and protect its people from Hamas terrorists, consistent with international law and, specifically, the law of war. Following the attack, the President directed surging additional military assistance to the Israeli Defense Force, to include ammunition and interceptors to replenish the Iron Dome. The Department of State and the Department of Defense are coordinating with Israeli partners to meet their military requirements and ensure Israel has what it needs to defend itself, its people, and U.S. citizens living, working, and traveling in Israel.

(U) Israel faces further credible security threats on its northern border with Lebanon and Syria. Since October 7, sporadic violence has occurred across the Blue Line, which marks the de facto boundary between Israel

and Lebanon, and Israel remains at immediate risk of other parties in Lebanon or Syria exploiting Hamas' appalling attack.

(U) The United States' commitment to Israel's security is ironclad, which is reflected in decades of close political-military dialogues and high-level defense policy exchanges. The historic ten-year U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding to provide Israel with $38 billion in security assistance is a bulwark against regional threats; however, Israel requires urgent support to respond to the immediate threat raised by Hamas' horrific attack, to replenish stocks of key defense articles that maintain its Qualitative Military Edge in the region, and to deter and guard against the threat of broad scale regional conflict.

(U) Given the scale and scope of Hamas' offensive, it is in the United States' national security interest to swiftly provide Israel with the defense systems it requires to defend itself and reinforce deterrence against other regional threats, which we have undertaken since October 7. Israel has communicated an urgent requirement for 120mm tank rounds. The urgency of this requirement has been validated by the Department of Defense in consultation with the Department of State. We anticipate Israel will continue its military operations in Gaza in the near-term. In order to effectively do so and ensure it is prepared for any other attacks, it has an immediate need for these defense articles. These 120mm rounds are readily available in DoD stock and can be quickly transferred to Israel. The immediacy of the challenge at hand requires overcoming the statutory 15-day Congressional Notification timeline to expedite transfers to Israel.

(U) For the reasons cited above, an emergency exists requiring immediate provision of these defense articles to Israel in the national security interest of the United States. This transfer, through a Foreign Military Sale, will provide Israel as soon as possible with defense articles that are necessary to allow it to defend itself in its war with Hamas. The Secretary of State, therefore, has certified an emergency exists under sections 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2776, thereby waiving the congressional review requirement of that provision.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $99.9 million.

Other $6.6 million.

Total $106.5 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing and National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirteen thousand nine hundred eighty-one (13,981) 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank Multi-Purpose with Tracer (MPAT) Tank Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IS–B–VBS).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 8, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Israel—M830A1 120mm Tank Cartridges

The Government of Israel has requested to buy thirteen thousand nine hundred eighty-one (13,981) 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank Multi-Purpose with Tracer (MPAT) tank cartridges. Also included are publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $106.5 million.

The Secretary of State has determined and provided detailed justification that an emergency exists that requires the immediate sale to the Government of Israel of the above defense articles (and defense services) in the national security interests of the United States, thereby waiving the Congressional review requirements under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended.

The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

Israel will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

This will be a sale from U.S. Army inventory. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Israel.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–15

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank Multi-Purpose with Tracer (MPAT) tank cartridge is a line-of-sight, full-bore, multipurpose munition for the Abrams tank. It requires the gunner to manually select the fuze mode to either point detonate against buildings, bunkers, and light armor vehicles or similar target sets, or proximity for anti-helicopter self-defense capabilities.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is Controlled Unclassified Information.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Israel will provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Israel.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE ALLEN FAMILY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the achievements of Jeremy and Magen Allen who have been recognized as the 2023 Arkansas Farm Family of the Year. This award reflects the dedication of the Allen family to farming and its contribution to the top industry in Arkansas.

As owners of JA Farms, Jeremy and Magen care for a 300-head of cow-calf herd and run their own hay operation. In addition to their farm, they oversee a diverse enterprise that includes JA Farms Feeds, a custom livestock feed business, and JA Farms Trucking, which facilitates transportation of their products. The Allen family's presence in Hot Springs County has proven vital to the community. Just one example of this was, when the sole Bismarck hardware store closed last year, the Allen family was quick to action, further expanding their enterprise to include JA Farms Feed & Mercantile, a retail storefront, in order to incorporate supplies and necessities utilized by farm families and others in the community. Since 1947, the Arkansas Farm Bureau's Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program recognizes outstanding farm families throughout the State for their contributions to the industry and their communities.

I am proud of the Allen family's embodiment of this mission. Jeremy and Magen are driven and hard-working, and this recognition is the fruit bore of that effort. As Arkansas Farm Family of the Year, JA Farms will be competing with nine other State winners to vieuie for the Sunbelt Age Expo Farmer of the Year Program in Moultrie, GA, where I and their fellow Arkansans will be wishing them the best of luck.

Congratulations to Jeremy, Magen, and their children Lane, Brody, Evelyn, and Eli for their outstanding accomplishments in agricuture. I wish them continued success in the future of their operation.●

RECOGNIZING THE KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I have the privilege of once again congratulating my alma mater on its' second high school State football championship in 3 years.

On November 10, the Kindred Vikings won the Division A State title at the Dakota Bowl State Football Tournament. They finished a truly impressive undefeated season by taking the championship over Dickinson Trinity by a score of 36–7. They had earlier won their first three postseason games, defeating teams from Harvey/Fessenden-

Bowman, Oakes, and Langdon/Edmore/Munich.

This was the third appearance and second State championship for the Vikings since State playoffs sponsored by the North Dakota High School Activities Association began in 1975. They made one Dakota Bowl appearance in 2016 and, in 2021, took the championship by defeating the Edmore-Munich Cardinals.

At Kindred High School, I lettered for 4 years in football, basketball, and track before graduating in 1979. Our teams were not as good as the Vikings are today, something I observed firsthand as the starting quarterback my junior and senior years. Remembering those years increases my admiration all the more for the superb quality of this team and its undefeated season.

Quarterback Jake Starcevic scored three touchdowns and rushed for 117 yards in the Vikings's decisive victory in the championship game. He and two other Vikings players, Riley Sunram and Brooks Bakko, were named to the All-State Class A Football Teams.

Congratulations to this year's team members: Camron Schwartzwalter, Gabe Whipple, Hayden Cichy, Izaak Spelhaug, Hunter Bindas, Jack McDonald, Miles Stroh, Brock Johnson, Landon Kottsick, Jakob Starcevic, Ethan Duval, Brooks Bakko, Carson Gette, Gabriel Iverson, Wyatt Briscoe, Myles Thielges, Graham Hesse, Owen Hoyme, Kylan Swenson, Sawyer Hesse, Grant Allison, Brayden Olson, Tyson Johnson, Fisher Johnson, Taylor Brandsted-Fletcher, Brady Baumgarten, Christopher Freier, Samuel Jenness, Jacob Lund, Kyle Campbell, Tanon Johnson, Tate Miller, Gavin Niemeyer, Teige Erdmann, Brody Mauch, Cole Richard, Kelby Erdmann, Ethan Fornshell, Andrew Haley, Dilon Filler, Lukas Starcevic, Trevor Olson, Riley Sunram, Grant Spelhaug, Javen Johnson, and Lincoln Swenson.

I also want to also recognize Eric Burgad in his first year as head coach, along with his assistants Brad Ambrosius, Joe Harder, Nate Safe, and Ryan Sunram, as well as all the hometown fans for their part in winning this championship.

As a proud alumnus of Kindred High School, I join the rest of North Dakota in congratulating the Vikings on a perfect season and another State championship and for inspiring all of us to strive for excellence, regardless of the circumstance. Once again, they have shown the rest of us what can be achieved when faith and passion combine with determination and teamwork.●

RECOGNIZING THE FALL INTERNS

●Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, today I stand before you to express my gratitude and admiration for the exceptional students who joined our team as fall interns in 2023. These talented young women and men brought a unique blend of enthusiasm, dedication, and a passion for making a difference to my offices in Washington, DC, office and across the State of Nebraska.

Our interns have consistently shown a motivation to learn and a strong commitment to our State. Their presence has not only enriched our workspace, but also inspired my team and me. As the torchbearers of the next generation, their spirit and determination fill us with anticipation for what the future holds.

As they leave our office, I want to take a moment to extend my sincerest thanks to: Sarah Gregory, Johnathan Smith, Stephen Trainer, and Kayla Fink, who served in my Washington, DC, office; Abbie Russman, and Ava Verzani, who served in my Omaha office; and Reagan Connelly, who served in my Lincoln office.

Your dedication and contributions have truly made our team stronger. I hope you will carry the lessons learned here into your bright futures. Congratulations and best of luck.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2747. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations.

S. 2787. An act 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 message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1042. An act to prohibit the importation into the United States of unirradiated low-enriched uranium that is produced in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2839. An act 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.

H.R. 3224. An act 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.

H.R. 3226. An act to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

H.R. 3315. An act 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.

H.R. 5473. An act to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6503. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3224. An act 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; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5473. An act to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3226. An act to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

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–3056. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removing Island Bedstraw and Santa Cruz Island Dudleya From the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants'' (RIN1018–BF51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3057. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reclassifying Mitracarpus Polycladus From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule'' (RIN1018–BE53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3058. A communication from the Manager of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removing Nelson's Checker-Mallow From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants'' (RIN1018–BE54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3059. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY 2022 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3060. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force: 2023 Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3061. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Volatile Organic Compounds'' (FRL No. 10601–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3062. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; Louisiana; Excess Emissions'' (FRL No. 10997–02–R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3063. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Municipal Solid Waste Landfill State Plan Approval for Designated Facilities and Pollutants'' (FRL No. 11127–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3064. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; Colorado; RACT Elements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 11237–03–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3065. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule, the Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Rule, and the Definition of Solid Waste Rule; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 8687–03–OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3066. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Administration, Cost, and Impact of the Quality Improvement Organization Program for Medicare Beneficiaries for Fiscal Year 2022''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3067. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Thirteenth Report to Congress''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3068. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report to Congress on the Medicare and Medicaid Integrity Programs for Fiscal Year 2022''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3069. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pre-approved Plan revenue procedure'' (Rev. Proc. 2023–37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3070. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid; CMS Enforcement of State Compliance with Reporting and Federal Medicaid Renewal Requirements Under Section 1902(tt) of the Social Security Act'' (RIN0938–AV26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3071. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to various countries in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–047); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3072. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the Republic of Korea in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–057); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3073. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3074. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Cuban Compliance with the Migration Accords''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3075. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3076. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Direct-to-Consumer Prescription Drug Advertisements: Presentation of the Major Statement in a Clear, Conspicuous, and Neutral Manner in Advertisements in Television and Radio Format'' (RIN0910–AG27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3077. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2019''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3078. A communication from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Use of NARA Facilities: Rules for Filming, Photographing, or Videotaping on NARA Property for Personal Use'' (RIN3095–AC13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3079. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3080. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3081. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3082. A communication from the Chair, Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3083. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3084. A communication from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3085. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3086. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3087. A communication from the Chairman, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 195. A bill to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–129).

S. 382. A bill to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup

Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–130).

S. 595. A bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the Rio Jemez Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–131).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1088. A bill to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–132).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1097. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–133).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1277. A bill to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–134).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 1657. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–135).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1760. A bill to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–136).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3464. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3465. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply a 6 percent excise tax on large endowments of certain private colleges and universities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 3466. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress reports regarding security and safety at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3467. A bill to require a certain percentage of natural gas and crude oil exports be transported on United States-built and United States-flag vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3468. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3469. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grocery, farm, and food worker stabilization grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 3470. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3471. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a report on the fertilizer industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 3472. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain land, Dillard Road, Patoka Lake, Indiana, to the State of Indiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3473. A bill to extend the prohibition on providing airport improvement grant funds to certain entities that have violated intellectual property rights of United States entities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3474. A bill to redesignate the Hulls Cove Visitor Center at Acadia National Park as the ''George J. Mitchell, Jr., Visitor Center''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3475. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3476. A bill to monitor United States investments in entities that are controlled by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3477. A bill to increase access to higher education by providing public transit grants; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3478. A bill to require agencies that use, fund, or oversee algorithms to have an office of civil rights focused on bias, discrimination, and other harms of algorithms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. KELLY, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3479. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to modify certain requirements for regional commissions, to reauthorize the Southwest Border Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 493. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the peaceful, democratic, and economic aspirations of the people of Sri Lanka; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 494. A resolution expressing the need for the Federal Government to establish a national biodiversity strategy for protecting biodiversity for current and future generations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 495. A resolution honoring the 30th anniversary of the partnership between the State of Nebraska and the Czech Republic under the State Partnership Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box and reduce the influence of big money in politics, and for other purposes.

S. 8

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 8, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan, to improve cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 22

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.

S. 45

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify reporting requirements, promote tax

compliance, and reduce tip reporting compliance burdens in the beauty service industry.

S. 312

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 312, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 630

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 630, a bill to establish a democracy advancement and innovation program, and for other purposes.

S. 1097

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1097, a bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes.

S. 1138

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1138, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require a reduction of financed emissions to protect financial stability, and for other purposes.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to provide for payment rates for durable medical equipment under the Medicare program.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1467

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, supra.

S. 1610

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1610, a bill to authorize administrative absences and travel and transportation allowances for members of the Armed Forces to travel and obtain reproductive health care.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to provide grants and loans to support and expand the domestic solar component manufacturing supply chain, and for other purposes.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to address mental health issues for youth, particularly youth of color, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

S. 1776

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1776, a bill to provide for the protection of and investment in certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 1950

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1950, a bill to extend the temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.

S. 1975

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1975, a bill to require a GAO study on the compliance of discharge review boards with statutory provisions and directives related to liberal consideration of certain conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1978

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1978, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to develop requirements for military tenant advocates for privatized military housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to protect freedom of travel and reproductive rights.

S. 2207

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2207, a bill to provide enhanced funding for family planning services.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2253, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide increased labor law protections for agricultural workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2257

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2257, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to add additional demographic reporting requirements, to modify the goals of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2323, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2484

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2484, a bill to ensure that States do not prohibit an individual from obtaining, possessing, distributing, or using life-saving drug testing technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2569

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that the possession, sale, purchase, importation, exportation, or transportation of drug testing equipment that tests for the presence of fentanyl or xylazine is not unlawful.

S. 2623

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2623, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to harmonize the effective dates of all rules that the Secretary is required to issue under the Corporate Transparency Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2638

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2638, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to help small businesses prepare for and combat cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2843

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2843, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day voter registration.

S. 2960

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2960, a bill to modify certain notice requirements, to study certain election requirements, to clarify certain election requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2976

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2976, a bill to ensure that expenses relating to the acquisition or use of devices for use in the detection of fentanyl, xylazine, and other emerging adulterant substances, including test strips are allowable expenses under certain grant programs.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors 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. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3291

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3291, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 3348

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3348, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 3362

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3362, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments.

S. 3426

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3426, a bill to reauthorize the YouthBuild program, and for other purposes.

S. 3440

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3440, a bill to prohibit the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene food service ware, expanded polystyrene loose fill, and expanded polystyrene coolers, and for other purposes.

S. 3456

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3456, a bill to provide a retroactive effective date for the promotions of senior officers of the Armed Forces whose military promotions were delayed as a result of the suspension of Senate confirmation of such promotions.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) 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. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. RES. 385

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 385, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3468. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. 3468

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 ''Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this Act referred to as the ''Administrator'') shall amend the rules of the Administrator under section 206.48 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) NEW CRITERIA REQUIRED.—The amended rules issued under subsection (a) shall provide for the following:

(1) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Such rules shall provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the need for public assistance—

(A) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to each criterion, including—

(i) estimated cost of the assistance, 10 percent;

(ii) localized impacts, 40 percent;

(iii) insurance coverage in force, 10 percent;

(iv) hazard mitigation, 10 percent;

(v) recent multiple disasters, 10 percent;

(vi) programs of other Federal assistance, 10 percent; and

(vii) economic circumstances described in subparagraph (B), 10 percent; and

(B) the Administrator shall consider the economic circumstances of—

(i) the local economy of the area affected by the disaster, including factors such as the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the State; and

(ii) the economy of the State, including factors such as the unemployment rate of the State, as compared to the national unemployment rate.

(2) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Such rules shall provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the severity, magnitude, and impact of the disaster and the evaluation of the need for assistance to individuals—

(A) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to each criterion, including—

(i) concentration of damages, 20 percent;

(ii) trauma, 20 percent;

(iii) special populations, 20 percent;

(iv) voluntary agency assistance, 10 percent;

(v) insurance, 20 percent;

(vi) average amount of individual assistance by State, 5 percent; and

(vii) economic considerations described in subparagraph (B), 5 percent; and

(B) the Administrator shall consider the economic circumstances of the area affected by the disaster, including factors such as the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the State.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amended rules issued under subsection (a) shall apply to any disaster for which a Governor requested a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) that was denied on or after January 1, 2012.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC, AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 493

Whereas, in recent years, Sri Lanka has undergone a political, economic, and humanitarian crisis causing millions of Sri Lankans to live in dire conditions, with the World Food Program estimating that 17 percent of the population is experiencing food insecurity and severe shortages of medicine and fuel;

Whereas the crisis in Sri Lanka stems from factors such as corruption, financial mismanagement, and failures in the rule of law, further exacerbated by the Government of Sri Lanka entering into expensive projects involving predatory lending by entities associated with the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, beginning in March 2022, tens of thousands of Sri Lankans participated in largely peaceful protests lasting more than 100 days, leading to the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the appointment of Ranil Wickremesinghe as the new President of Sri Lanka;

Whereas the Wickremesinghe government, citing economic constraints, indefinitely postponed local elections scheduled for March 9, 2023, in violation of the Constitution of Sri Lanka;

Whereas, on February 20, 2023, thousands of largely peaceful protestors demonstrated against the decision to postpone local elections, to which the Sri Lankan police responded by firing tear gas and water cannons;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka continues to repress dissent and protest, conduct surveillance and harass members of civil society, and use the Prevention of Terrorism Act to target political opposition members of ethnic and religious minority groups, activists, and journalists;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka continues to participate in and facilitate the illegal appropriation of land in the North and East, areas of historical habitation of Tamil speaking peoples and various ethnic and religious groups;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka refuses to conduct transparent and independent investigations into credible allegations of corruption, historic atrocities, and other gross violations of human rights against Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim communities, and the United Nations and others have recognized that longstanding impunity for corruption and other human rights violations and abuses is a root cause of the current crisis and that many actors responsible for the current crisis have been implicated in abuses dating back to the civil war and the JVP insurrection;

Whereas, for more than 30 years, Sri Lanka was enveloped in a civil war in which, according to United Nations reports, tens of thousands of Sri Lankans died and thousands more were raped, tortured, forcibly disappeared, or went missing;

Whereas United Nations reports maintain that members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and members of the Government and security services of Sri Lanka were implicated in horrific atrocities and human rights violations and abuses against Sri Lankan civilians during the civil war;

Whereas, on multiple occasions, the Government of Sri Lanka has publicly committed to pursuing meaningful justice and accountability for conflict-related crimes and grievances, including in President Mahinda Rajapaksa's May 2009 joint statement with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and in the government of then-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's cosponsoring of United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, committing to a holistic transitional justice strategy, including a commission for truth, justice, reconciliation, and non-recurrence and a judicial mechanism to prosecute violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law;

Whereas, in January 2016, under then-Prime Minister Wickremesinghe, the Government of Sri Lanka established a Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms led by respected members of Sri Lankan civil society, which spoke to more than 7,000 Sri Lankans and issued a 700-page report with findings and recommendations about what the Sri Lankan people wanted from the Sri Lankan government in relation to justice and reconciliation, including recommendations supporting international involvement in certain transitional justice mechanisms;

Whereas successive Sri Lankan governments have failed to live up to those commitments and address the desire of Sri Lankan victims and survivors for meaningful justice and accountability for the atrocities, and in March 2020, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's administration withdrew the Government of Sri Lanka's commitment to implement Human Rights Council resolution 30/1;

Whereas the majority of the LTTE leadership were killed or disappeared during the civil war and therefore cannot stand trial for their crimes, and despite evidence implicating Sri Lankan government officials and security forces in atrocity crimes committed against Sri Lankan civilians during the war, no such officials or forces have faced justice for their crimes;

Whereas, in 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Department of State imposed visa restrictions against Sri Lankan officials for their involvement in gross violations of human rights, including torture and inhumane punishment during the civil war, but successive Sri Lankan governments have promoted and empowered those same individuals;

Whereas, in 2021 and 2022, the United States cosponsored United Nations Human Rights Council resolutions 46/1 and 51/1, mandating that the United Nations collect, analyze, and preserve information and evidence of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sri Lanka for future accountability processes; and

Whereas, in September 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Volker Turk, issued a report that noted, ''The 2022 economic crisis is a demonstration of the indivisibility of human rights and how impunity, corruption and the weakening of democratic and rule of law institutions ultimately impacted the economic situation. In order to achieve a path to recovery and sustainable development Sri Lanka will need to address the longer-term serious governance and accountability deficits, as well as the continuing legacy of the armed conflict.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the peaceful, democratic, and economic aspirations of the people of Sri Lanka;

(2) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to hold free and fair local and provincial elections without further delay;

(3) urges the Government and security forces of Sri Lanka to respect the rights of all Sri Lankans, including the right to protest peacefully, associate freely, and commemorate their dead;

(4) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to institute meaningful security sector reform, including by reducing the deployment of security forces across the North and East to appropriate peacetime levels, and ensure those credibly implicated in human rights abuses are removed from positions of authority;

(5) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to promote an inclusive, pluralistic Sri Lanka through structural reforms and confidence-building measures to address corruption, nepotism, outsized expenditures on the military, minority disenfranchisement, impunity, and other issues that hamper the long-term potential growth of Sri Lanka;

(6) welcomes Sri Lanka's newly passed anticorruption legislation and calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that investigations and prosecutions of corrupt officials can move forward independently and impartially;

(7) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to strengthen the rule of law, including by respecting and reinforcing the independence of the judiciary and independent institutions;

(8) welcomes the October 2022 passage of the 21st Amendment package by the Parliament of Sri Lanka as an initial step toward reducing centralized power and encourages further measures to alleviate a lack of meaningful checks and balances;

(9) welcomes the initial agreement by the International Monetary Fund to loan Sri Lanka $3,000,000,000 to help address the ongoing economic crisis and urges the Government of Sri Lanka to address the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund's September 30, 2023 staff report, which notes that the ''absence of visible progress on addressing corruption and holding officials to account for past behaviour raises popular concerns that officials will continue to enjoy impunity for their misconduct'';

(10) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to immediately repeal or amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act and ensure that the Act or any counterterrorism laws passed to replace it are aligned with international norms and reflect inclusive consultation with Sri Lankan civil society;

(11) calls for an immediate moratorium on the appropriation of land facilitated by the Government of Sri Lanka in the North and East and restitution of appropriated lands in a way that guarantees effective access and productive use;

(12) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to fully implement the Constitution of Sri Lanka, including the 13th Amendment's commitments to devolve specified powers over land, the police, education, health, agriculture, housing, and finances to the provinces;

(13) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to reach a consensus with opposition parties on behalf of all Sri Lankans, including Tamils, Indian-origin Tamils, Muslims, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups, to address longstanding issues, including those relating to human rights violations and abuses, disenfranchisement, justice, and accountability, and work toward a sustainable political solution that promotes reconciliation;

(14) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to accept and use Sri Lanka's own Consultation Task Force report as the basis for taking action in support of justice, accountability, and reconciliation, and further calls on the government to design and implement all justice measures, including a potential truth commission, with input from, the participation of, and support from victims and survivors; and

(15) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to engage positively and cooperatively with the United Nations' Human Rights Council, agencies, and special procedure mandate holders and facilitate the implementation of their recommendations on good governance, rule of law, corruption, justice, accountability, and human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 494

Whereas the planet is facing an unprecedented biodiversity crisis, largely driven by human activity;

Whereas recent scientific studies have confirmed human-driven activities are significantly damaging the ecosystems of the planet by—

(1) altering 75 percent of the area of terrestrial environments and 66 percent of marine environments;

(2) directly exploiting wildlife and plant species;

(3) accelerating climate change, directly harming nature and exacerbating other threats;

(4) polluting air, land, and water; and

(5) introducing invasive species;

Whereas recent scientific studies have shown that human-driven threats have harmed biodiversity by—

(1) threatening approximately 1,000,000 species with imminent or near extinction, including—

(A) more than 40 percent of amphibians;

(B) 33 percent of corals, sharks, shark relatives, and marine mammals;

(C) more than 60 percent of cycads and more than 30 percent of conifer trees; and

(D) approximately 10 percent of the more than 5,000,000 insect species on the planet; and

(2) causing population sizes of wild species to decline by—

(A) an average of 68 percent for species of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles;

(B) approximately 3,000,000,000 birds in North America since 1970;

(C) approximately 50 percent for species of live corals; and

(D) an average of more than 20 percent overall;

Whereas human activity is accelerating the decline of important economic and cultural services, including—

(1) land productivity, with a reduction in the productivity of approximately ¼ of the land surface;

(2) land and freshwater resources, with more than ⅓ of the land surface and 75 percent of freshwater resources devoted to crop or livestock production;

(3) global crops, with approximately $500,000,000,000 of global crops at risk due to pollinator loss;

(4) marine fisheries, with ⅓ of marine fisheries overfished, 60 percent fished at capacity, and only 7 percent fished below capacity; and

(5) environmental health, with 25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions caused by land clearing, crops, and fertilization;

Whereas the decline of biodiversity disproportionately impacts indigenous and other communities that rely on nature for essential services, including Native Americans and Alaska Natives, who offer unique perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge critical to preserving biodiversity;

Whereas the decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services observed worldwide is occurring in the United States;

Whereas the United States possesses an abundance and great diversity of species of fish, wildlife, and plants that are of significant value to the United States for intrinsic, aesthetic, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational, economic, and scientific reasons;

Whereas the decline of biodiversity presents a direct threat to the security, health, and well-being of the people of the United States by causing economic harm through the loss of valuable ecosystem services, including zoonotic disease buffering, pollination, water filtration, soil replenishment, the provision of game species, medicinal products, and recreational opportunities;

Whereas communities of color, low-income communities, Tribal communities, and other populations that have been systematically and deliberately targeted for citing environmentally degrading activities and excluded from conservation efforts face disproportionate impacts from biodiversity loss;

Whereas Federal agencies are tasked with protecting and conserving biodiversity in the United States and worldwide through a variety of legal and policy channels;

Whereas there is no coordinating policy to maximize the effectiveness of the conservation efforts of the Federal Government and collaboration by the Federal Government with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, private landowners, and other nongovernmental stakeholders;

Whereas the United States should play a leading role on the international stage in addressing the biodiversity crisis, yet the United States—

(1) is not a party to—

(A) the Convention on Biological Diversity, done at Rio de Janeiro June 5, 1992;

(B) the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (commonly known as ''the Convention on Migratory Species''), done at Bonn November 6, 1979; or

(C) other relevant international agreements;

(2) does not issue a periodic national biodiversity outlook, contrary to most other countries; and

(3) does not have a national biodiversity strategy as part of the Intergovernmental

Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

Whereas scientific research highlights essential pathways forward, including—

(1) establishing the effective conservation, restoration, and durable protection of not less than 30 percent of an ecologically representative area of the lands, freshwaters, and oceans in the United States and in the world by 2030 by working collaboratively with governments, land owners, fishers, indigenous peoples, communities, and others;

(2) restoring or rewilding species, degraded habitats, and ensuring integrity and connectivity of protected areas;

(3) retaining and protecting highly intact ecosystems;

(4) reducing pesticide use to levels not higher than necessary for ecologically sustainable and safe food production; and

(5) addressing the threats posed by invasive species: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is in the national interest for the Federal Government to establish a national biodiversity strategy to—

(A) ensure the conservation and restoration of the biodiversity of the United States;

(B) secure and restore the ecosystem services provided by nature for current and future generations;

(C) deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

(D) set ambitious, yet necessary, goals for protecting biodiversity in the coming decades;

(E) promote social equity and justice in the conservation of the biodiversity of the United States;

(F) coordinate the actions of Federal agencies to advance the conservation of biodiversity;

(G) promote collaboration among Federal, State, and Tribal governments, nongovernmental stakeholders, civil society, and international parties to advance conservation;

(H) honor the Federal trust obligations to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; and

(I) provide global leadership in addressing the biodiversity crisis; and

(2) the national biodiversity strategy described in paragraph (1) should include direction on—

(A) achieving the national goal of conserving not less than 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States to protect biodiversity and address climate change by 2030 (referred to in this resolution as ''30x30''), supporting international efforts to achieve the same goal on a global scale, and setting other goals necessary to reduce the threats to biodiversity as indicated by the best available scientific information;

(B) taking action to protect threatened, endangered, and at-risk species from further imperilment or extinction;

(C) climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for biodiversity conservation, including—

(i) leading international agreements to combat climate change, including the decision of the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted in Paris on December 12, 2015 (commonly known as the ''Paris Agreement'');

(ii) establishing climate refugia and climate corridors for conservation of species affected by climate change; and

(iii) the rapid build-out of renewable energy;

(D) reviewing existing laws, plans, programs, and strategies that are relevant to addressing threats to biodiversity to assess how the laws, plans, programs, and strategies can contribute to the objectives of this resolution and, as necessary, recommending new laws, plans, programs, and strategies;

(E) ensuring integration of biodiversity protection across the activities of the Federal Government, including foreign policy and foreign assistance;

(F) advancing conservation in collaboration with State and Tribal governments and on private lands through incentives, funding, technical support, and partnerships;

(G) incorporating indigenous knowledge and practices to support conservation and biodiversity, safeguarding the rights and needs of indigenous peoples, and ensuring fulfillment of the Federal trust obligations that apply to government decisionmaking that impacts the interests of Native Americans;

(H) ensuring equitable access to nature, inclusive decisionmaking on biodiversity protection, and just allocations of resources to achieve the goals of this resolution, including with respect to systematically and deliberately targeted populations such as communities of color, low-income communities, and Native American communities;

(I) establishing regular monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity in the United States and globally, including a quadrennial assessment reported to Congress and the people of the United States;

(J) prioritizing programs to identify knowledge gaps and accelerate research and development of new conservation solutions across sectors;

(K) assessing and integrating the role of the United States in international biodiversity, ecosystem services, and nature conservation in—

(i) national security and foreign policy strategies, including in international development policies, planning and finance, diplomatic dialogues, and trade agreements; and

(ii) advancing global adoption of and progress toward 30x30; and

(L) funding existing conservation programs, developing new funding sources, and reducing subsidies that harm biodiversity in amounts commensurate with the scale of the harm to biodiversity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC UNDER THE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 495

Whereas Nebraska has the highest percentage of citizens with Czech ancestry of any State in the United States;

Whereas the State Partnership Program was created in 1993 to link a State's National Guard with a partner nation's military, security forces, and disaster response organizations in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship;

Whereas, in July 1993, the partnership between the State of Nebraska and the Czech Republic under the State Partnership Program was established;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has fostered military-to-military cooperation and enhanced interoperability between units of the Nebraska National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic;

Whereas that cooperation has included joint training exercises, exchanges of personnel, and sharing of military expertise and practices;

Whereas, since 1993, the Nebraska National Guard has executed more than 300 engagements with the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic and has engaged with more than 2,500 members of those forces;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has been mutually beneficial for the Nebraska National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, strengthening diplomatic, military, and cultural ties and contributing to regional and international security and cooperation;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has better prepared the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) exercises, integration in NATO air mobility operations, cyber defense, and combined exercises with other State Partnership Program partners;

Whereas the Czech Republic has been a trusted and valuable member of the NATO alliance since the Czech Republic joined the alliance in 1999;

Whereas the Czech Republic has contributed to various NATO-led missions, including in Afghanistan, where 11,500 Czech soldiers were deployed and 14 were killed in action fighting the Taliban;

Whereas the Czech Republic has provided significant military and humanitarian support to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in response to Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022; and

Whereas the Czech Republic has been recognized with awards for joint military operations carried out in cooperation with the United States, NATO achievements, and acts of heroism and service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the cooperation and beneficial relationship between the Czech Republic and the State of Nebraska and the steadfast partnership between the Czech Republic and the United States over the past 30 years;

(2) expresses appreciation for the commitment of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic to the Nebraska National Guard in advancing peace, stability, and mutual understanding;

(3) expresses continued support for the State Partnership Program between the State of Nebraska and the Czech Republic;

(4) commends the Czech Republic for committing to meet the NATO target of spending at least two percent of its Gross Domestic Product on defense in 2024; and

(5) commends the Czech Republic for increasing its cooperation with Taiwan, including collaboration that may enhance Taiwan's defense posture.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1376. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1373 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1376. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1373 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill 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, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the motion introduced by Mr. Schumer to recommit the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024, strike ''that makes'' and all that follows through the period at the end and insert ''that includes section 716 of the House-passed NDAA''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. REED. Madam President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I would like to ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Joe Farinash for the remainder of 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670 postcloture; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REED. 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 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 12, 2023:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HARRY COKER, JR., OF KANSAS, TO BE NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM STREETER, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I am honored to present Major General William Streeter, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifetime of dedication to his beloved Army and Nation speaks to his patriotism, moral character, and devotion to others.

His superb service to the Army and his nation exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country. Former commander of Fort Cavazos' legendary 1st Cavalry Division—one of the most decorated combat divisions in the U.S. Army—MG Streeter ensured First Team maintained its storied reputation as one of the world's elite fighting forces. He was honored with numerous high-ranking awards like the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and two Bronze Stars, along with the admiration of his peers and those he led during his decades in the service.

Since his retirement from active duty in 1993, MG Streeter has continued his dedication to the betterment of our country and community through service, active involvement, and support of civic organizations. He devotes his energies toward several charities including the Kiwanis Club, Veterans and Homeowners' Associations, and his local church, never forgetting the importance of living a full life for others.

MG Streeter's life tells the story of a man unafraid to contribute both his time and energies to the defense of our nation as well as a multitude of organizations that rely on volunteerism and social engagement to make good communities great. He is a most deserving recipient of a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

TRILLIAN HOLT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trillian Holt for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Trillian has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Trillian, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Trillian's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Trillian Holt on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE TRENTON BRANCH OF GIRL FRIENDS INCORPORATED

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Trenton Branch of Girl Friends Incorporated on their 60th Year of serving the Capital City.

Girl Friends Incorporated is one of the oldest social organizations of African American women in the United States.

For nearly 100 years, the Girl Friends have exemplified Dignity, Service, Graciousness and Conviviality, performing civic services in 48 locations throughout the country.

Through their charitable giving, Girl Friends Inc. has supported the United Negro College Fund, the Children's Defense Fund, the Flint Water Crisis, and student scholarships.

I thank Girl Friends for serving the people of the Greater Trenton area with dignity and selflessness for over 60 years.

CONCERNS ABOUT H.R. 5378, THE LOWER COSTS, MORE TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted in favor of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, which passed the House with a bipartisan vote of 320–71.

I strongly support several provisions in H.R. 5378, which would take important steps to create a more transparent and affordable healthcare system. For example, this legislation requires hospitals to make public all their standard charges for items and services, and it requires insurers to make public their negotiated in-network provider rates for all items and services.

H.R. 5378 also requires pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to provide detailed information on prescription drug costs and increases access to affordable generic drugs. The legislation also extends funding for critical public health programs, including community health centers and the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).

However, H.R. 5378 isn't perfect. It includes site-neutral provisions that raise concerns about potential harm to essential hospitals and hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs), particularly in rural and underserved areas like those in Oregon's Fourth Congressional District. Safety-net hospitals already face increased financial pressure due to inflation and the COVID–19 pandemic, and divesting funding or cutting payments at this time could negatively impact these entities and the crucial services they provide.

There were also procedural issues with this bill. By fast-tracking this legislation without regular order, including not allowing for amendments to improve the bill, H.R. 5378 didn't receive the congressional debate nor input that it should have. These aspects of the legislative process are not mere procedural formalities but are essential components of responsible governance and good-faith policymaking.

Transparency, a central theme of this legislation, should extend beyond policy goals to the legislative process itself. As Congress continues efforts to improve our healthcare system, I urge my colleagues in the Senate and in congressional leadership to improve this legislation to ensure there are no unintended consequences, including ensuring the legislation does not impede access to healthcare where it is needed most.

DESIGNATE NIGERIA A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN UNDER THE IRFA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter, drafted by respected experts—including former members of Congress—in the field of religious freedom, and sent to members on Capitol Hill today, underscoring the dire state of religious freedom in Nigeria, and calling for that country to be designated a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. Their stark appraisal of the situation, and the immediate threat to the lives of thousands of Nigerians, merits immediate action by the Biden Administration.

DECEMBER 12, 2023.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As religious freedom advocates and proponents, and leaders of grassroots organizations with millions of American members, we appeal to you to urgently respond to the Department of State's failure to adequately address egregious, systematic, and ongoing religious persecution in Nigeria, as required by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) of 1998.

We specifically urge Nigeria's designation as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) under the IRFA and the appointment of a special envoy for Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region. Additionally, we urge you to support and cosponsor the bi-partisan legislation authored by Rep. Chris Smith and Rep. Henry Cuellar House Resolution 82, which calls for the State Department to carry out these two steps.

A staggering 90 percent of all the Christians killed for their faith worldwide last

year were killed in Nigeria, according to Open Doors, an increase from the 80 percent it reported in 2021. Over 5,000 Nigerian Christians are reported to have been killed for their faith in 2022.

Most of this slaughter is now carried out by militants within the Fulani Muslim herder population, who have been allowed to act largely with impunity. While some Muslims have also been killed by the same forces, the Observatory for Religious Freedom in Africa found that, from October 2019 to September 2022, Christians in Nigeria were 7.6 times more likely to be killed and 6 times more likely to be abducted than Muslims by terrorist and militia groups, when taking into account their population's proportions in Nigeria's states.

Catholic priests, evangelical pastors, and Methodist bishops have been special targets of kidnapping by Fulani and unidentified gunmen, typically shouting ''Allahu Akbar.'' The pontifical organization, Aid to the Church in Need, reports that, since early 2022 alone, 100 Nigerian Catholic priests have been kidnapped and not yet freed, 20 of whom were murdered, with many of these attacks occurring on church grounds. Nigerian media also reports the kidnapping of two imams from their mosques in 2022. Since 2009, some 17,000 churches have been burned and attacked, while many of them—such as St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Ondo State that was attacked on Pentecost Sunday last year—were filled with worshippers. We are not aware of a single case that has been prosecuted.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reports that in ''northcentral Nigeria, ethnonationalists fighting to promote Fulani interests target Christian civilians based on ethnoreligious identity.'' In recommending CPC designation, it concludes that the Nigerian Government has ''routinely failed to investigate these attacks and prosecute those responsible, demonstrating a problematic level of apathy on the part of state officials.''

In addition, terror groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province have attacked and killed thousands of Christians and Muslims who reject their dictates. Unknown numbers of Christian girls and women have been kidnapped into sexual slavery. Boko Haram kidnapped over 200 schoolgirls in 2014 in Chibok, Borno State, half of whom remain captive and are pressured to convert to Islam, while Leah Sharibu remains enslaved following a terrorist raid of her school in Dapchi, Yobe State, in 2018.

Lawlessness has resulted in millions of internally displaced Nigerians and hundreds of thousands of refugees. Just this year, in Nigeria's north central Benue State, whose population is overwhelmingly Christian, nearly two million farming families were displaced by Fulani militants. Some of them were then hunted down in their places of refuge and brutally hacked to death. Catholic Bishop Wilfred Anagbe of Benue's Makurdi diocese recently shared video documentation of the aftermath of one such attack with numerous Members of Congress.

Authorities also engage directly in religious persecution by enforcing Islamic blasphemy laws that have resulted in recent death sentences for Sufi musician Yahaya Sharif-Aminu and two Muslim clerics, and ''religious insult'' laws that led to a 24-year sentence for Nigeria's Humanist Association head, Mubarak Bala. Moreover, these laws have been accompanied by a routine grant of impunity for extrajudicial attacks against their perceived violators. Last year, there was the unprosecuted mob killing of student Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu after she was accused of blasphemy and the unprosecuted serious death threats against the Sultan of Sokoto, Sokoto's Catholic bishop, and Rhoda Jatau, a Christian woman, all three of whom were targeted for expressing disapproval of Yakubu's murder.

IRFA requires frank assessments in the face of such grave religious freedom violations. The Secretary of State should acknowledge that Nigeria has ''engaged in or tolerated'' severe religious freedom violations, the statutory criteria warranting CPC designation. This is particularly important since the United States is a major partner of Nigeria, having given it over $1 billion in foreign aid in 2022, alone.

As Africa's most populous country and its largest economy, Nigeria wields significant influence in Sub-Saharan Africa. By allowing religious persecution to proliferate within its borders, Nigeria is compounding already heightened regional insecurity. Both American interests and the International Religious Freedom Act require a response. We view the passage of the bi-partisan House Resolution 82 as an essential first step.

Sincerely,

David Curry President and CEO, Global Christian Relief; Governor Sam Brownback, Former Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Summit; Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice Co-Chair, International Religious Freedom Summit;

Nina Shea, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Religious Freedom, Hudson Institute; Kristen Waggoner, President and CEO, Alliance Defending Freedom; Tony Perkins, Chairman, Family Research Council; Leonard Leo, Former Chair, US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

F. Brent Leatherwood, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Southern Baptist Convention; Congressman Frank Wolf, Former Member of Congress 1981–2015, Retired; George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center; Mary Ann Glendon, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, Learned Hand Professor of Law, emerita Harvard University; Eric Patterson, President, Religious Freedom Institute; Jane Adolphe, Founder & Executive Director, International Catholic Jurists Forum; Jeff King, President, International Christian Concern (ICC).

The Rt. Rev. Julian Dobbs, Diocesan Bishop The Anglican Diocese of the Living Word Anglican Church in North America; Timothy R. Head, Executive Director, Faith and Freedom Coalition; Dr. Randel Everett, President, 21Wilberforce; Stephen S. Enada, Executive President, International Committee on Nigeria; Faith McDonnell, Director, Katartismos Global; John Stonestreet, President, Colson Center for Christian Worldview.

Kelly Monroe Kullberg, Director, American Association of Evangelicals (AAE); Robert Nicholson, President and Founder Philos Project; Amanda Bowman, Chair, The Catholic Herald Institute; Gregory H. Stanton, Founding President, Genocide Watch; Kathryn Jean Lopez, Senior Fellow, National Review Institute; Alejandro Chafuén, Founder, International Freedom Educational Foundation; Mark Tooley, President, Institute on Religion and Democracy; Dede Laugesen, Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians; Richard Ghazal, In Defense of Christians.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF TEMPLE, TX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT AND CEO ROD HENRY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate Temple, TX Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Rod Henry as he embarks on his richly deserved retirement after decades of devoted public service. He leaves behind a rich legacy of accomplishment and will remain an example of excellence for all who follow.

With integrity, honesty, and transparency, Rod has served 10 years as the President and CEO of the Temple Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, the Chamber has enhanced the success of members, provided opportunities for business owners, leaders, and their employees to learn and grow, and has served as a thoughtful and effective voice for the business community.

With his infectious "can do" spirit, Rod lives his life in service to others. Over his 46-year career, he has devoted his talents and energies to numerous community and professional organizations that make the world a better place and make cities like Temple great places to call home.

While Rod isn't tired of the privilege of public service, he knows that everything has its season. But stepping away from the Chamber won't give him much idle time as looks forward to watching Temple's continued growth and spending time with his beloved wife Benita and their family.

Retirement marks not the end of a career, but the beginning of a great adventure. As Rod Henry embarks on this new chapter in life, I thank him for his exceptional work, remain grateful for our friendship, and wish him the very best.

MONSERRAT DIAZ GARCIA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monserrat Diaz Garcia for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Monserrat has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Monserrat, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Monserrat's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Monserrat Diaz Garcia on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRATULATING HACIENDA-LA PUENTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the principals, teachers, board members, staff, students, and families of Glen A. Wilson High School, Mesa Robles School, Los Molinos Elementary, and Wedgeworth Elementary in the Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD), which all received the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award this year from the U.S. Department of Education.

In particularly want to commend the more than 450 students at these four distinguished schools who live in La Puente, Valinda, and West Puente Valley in California's 31st Congressional District: Wilson (197): Mesa Robles (137); Los Molinos (64); and Wedgeworth (55). I also extend my congratulations to Superintendent Dr. Alfonso Jimenez, Board of Education President Christine H. Salazar, and the entire district, whose distinguished schools have made a profound and lasting impact on the lives of the students and families in the community.

Each year, the Department of Education recognizes the academic excellence and success in closing achievement and opportunity gaps of a select few elementary, middle, and high schools across the nation through the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. The Blue Ribbon designation process is highly selective, with only 33 schools across the State of California and 353 nationally, receiving a 2023 Blue Ribbon designation.

On behalf of my constituents in California's 31st Congressional District, I want to proudly congratulate and thank everyone who has helped make these four Hacienda-La Puente schools the exemplary institutions that they are today.

HONORING JANET AARON

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor Janet Aaron, Supervisor of the Town of Skaneateles, as she marks 40 years of service to her community.

Ms. Aaron's municipal career began in 1983 when she served at the Village of Skaneateles as a part-time clerk. In 1988 she became Deputy Town Clerk for the Town of Skaneateles, serving under Juanita Newell. Ms. Aaron was elected Skaneateles Town Clerk in 1994 and served successfully in this position until 2017. During her tenure as Town Clerk, Ms. Aaron obtained $59,000 in grants for the Town Records Management Program, became a Certified Municipal Clerk, served as President of the Onondaga County Town Clerk's Association, and also served as the District Director of the New York State Town Clerks Association. As Town Clerk, Ms. Aaron worked with 7 town supervisors, several town councilors and a number of board and committee members. In 2017, Ms. Aaron was elected Skaneateles Town Supervisor, starting her first term in 2018.

In her career as Supervisor, Ms. Aaron has a host of achievements to her credit. Some of the many accomplishments realized under her leadership include upgrades to Austin Park, repair of the Soldiers and Sailors monument at Lakeview Cemetery, updates to the Mandana Boat Launch, establishment of the Town of Skaneateles Facebook Page, updates to the Comprehensive Plan, and new signage and branding throughout the Town. In addition, Ms. Aaron helped organize the Skaneateles Watershed Municipal Partnership, formed a Hamlet Committee, and oversaw the refinancing of the joint fire department bond with the Village of Skaneateles saving over $100,000 over the life of the bond, Always focused on the needs of residents, Ms. Aaron lobbied Spectrum to provide internet to parts of Skaneateles's rural community and oversaw the purchase of town streetlights and conversion to LED, saving the lighting district over $30,000 per year. Ms. Aaron worked tirelessly to continue services during COVID–19 by developing protocols, providing protection for employees and residents that included remotely connecting employees to the office so they could work during the pandemic to meet the needs of residents. As a dedicated advocate of the town, Ms. Aaron helped to acquire grant funding for Smart Cities security cameras, hamlet planning, shared services, and most recently the water district, securing $4.4 million, the largest grant the community has ever received.

Ms. Aaron is a third-generation member of the Skaneateles community. Her grandparents owned Pine Grove Dairy which provided door to door milk delivery in both the village and town. Ms. Aaron graduated from Skaneateles Central School and then attended Cayuga Community College earning her degree in Business Administration. She was married to the love of her life for 40 years until his passing in 2012. Her family includes a son, stepdaughter and 4 grandchildren. In addition to her work for the village and town, Ms. Aaron has dedicated many hours to volunteer work with various organizations including the Skaneateles Historical Society

Janet Aaron's love for her community is evident in her decades of municipal and volunteer service. On behalf of New York's 22nd Congressional District, I offer my sincere appreciation and congratulations on the occasion of her retirement.

HONORING GENESIS HOUSE FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate Genesis House, which for the past 30 years has provided meaningful opportunities and hope for people living with mental health challenges in Livingston County, Michigan.

Founded in 1998 in Howell, Genesis House is a program of Livingston County Community Mental Health and part of the evidence-based Clubhouse International model designed to improve the lives of those who participate by providing social support, education, and employment. One of more than 300 such clubhouses worldwide, Genesis House is so much more than a physical gathering space; it's a place members can call home. At Genesis House, people navigating life with mental illness can learn, grow, and develop the individual skills they need to increase their independence and continue their recovery. In this model, Clubhouse members and staff work together to carry out daily duties, with staff mainly serving as coaches, cheerleaders, and talent scouts, pouring their faith into those who may not yet believe in themselves,

In addition to providing a place for meaningful social and recreational opportunities for hundreds of members, over the past 30 years Genesis House has partnered with dozens of local employers and organizations to help members find and retain gainful employment.

It's a powerful vision of social and economic inclusion, and one that I had the chance to see firsthand when I visited Genesis House in 2019 at its Fowlerville location. There, as members answered phones, prepared meals, and tidied the facility, I heard how much the Clubhouse meant to them. I saw what a restorative atmosphere it was, and that it was clearly a community of people dedicated to walking alongside one another on the path to a better life, no matter how long it takes or how difficult it is.

Recently, Genesis House returned to its Howell roots and took over a larger, brighter space with the capacity to serve even more members. The new location, where sunlight pours in through floor-to-ceiling windows, is a powerful metaphor for the light that Genesis House shines in the community, and the glow of resilience of its members. As we mark 30 years of success for Genesis House, I salute all those who have supported this organization along the way, by fundraising, volunteering, and helping to spread the word about the organization and break the stigma around mental illness. I pay tribute to the members and the staff for the hard work they do each day to make this house a home. Long may Genesis House, a beacon of hope for so many, continue to shine in Howell and beyond.

MICHELLE DAVILA ROJAS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Davila Rojas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Michelle has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Michelle, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Michelle's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Michelle Davila Rojas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. ELEZ BIBERAJ

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Elez Biberaj, who is retiring after 43 years of service in the news organization Voice of America (VOA).

Voice of America's mission and commitment to the highest journalistic standards have been the central focus of Dr. Biberaj's professional journey. Throughout his career, he's done his very best to uphold the values that have made VOA one of the world's most preeminent and most trusted journalistic organizations. He's had the privilege of serving in various roles, from being a radio broadcaster in the Albanian Service (1980–1982), to Senior Writer/Editor specializing in Soviet and East European Affairs in USIA's Press Division (1982–1986), Chief of the Albanian Service (1986–2004), Managing Editor of the Eurasia Division (2004–2005), and since 2005, Director of the Eurasia Division. He also served as VOA's Acting Director from June to December 2020.

Through Voice of America, Dr. Biberaj witnessed and covered consequential world events. Dr. Biberaj covered the Cold War to the collapse of communism, the rise of democracy in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the Balkan wars, the integration of East European nations into Euro-Atlantic institutions, Russia's shift towards an authoritarian regime, and more recently, Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine. He is honored and privileged to have worked alongside so many remarkable colleagues as he advanced the noble mission of delivering accurate and objective news and information to global audiences, telling America's compelling story, and championing its democratic values.

Dr. Biberaj accelerated the Eurasia Division's shift in Voice of America toward engaging digital audiences and harnessing the power of mobile and social platforms. He also worked closely with his counterparts at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to create the Current Time network, the first joint VOA/RFE/RL programming brand in the history of U.S. international broadcasting, launched to provide fact-based alternatives to Russian-language disinformation.

Dr. Biberaj's commitment to the fundamental ethos of promoting freedom, democracy and providing independent fact-based reporting serves as a source of hope and a shining beacon of truth for millions of people around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Elez Biberaj on his longstanding career as a leader in journalism.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. JOHN McKENZIE

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my constituent, Mr. John McKenzie, a Wisconsin business owner who plays a significant role in the revitalization of Dane County through his generous philanthropy.

Mr. John McKenzie, through his highly successful family business, consistently gives back to his community by maintaining improving, and reinvesting in properties throughout Dane County.

Beyond his obligation to his business, Mr. McKenzie spent years working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County because of a heartfelt desire to improve the lives of young people, especially those belonging to underrepresented communities.

Mr. McKenzie partnered the Madison Area Builders Association with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County to introduce opportunities and careers in the skilled trades to young people looking to better their lives.

This great idea gained momentum and not long after, with the help of Mr. McKenzie, the National Association of Home Builders and the national Boys and Girls Clubs created their own partnership, extending new opportunities to millions of kids across our Nation.

Mr. McKenzie not only sought to shrink the racial and gender wealth gap, but also to mentor kids on how to save, invest, and build for the next generation. On July 15, 2023, with $30.4 million dollars' worth of investments and donations, Mr. McKenzie opened the McKenzie Regional Workforce Center, a place where kids of all ages can participate in career introductory programming.

Mr. John McKenzie demonstrates that business-driven organizations and organizations with a social focus can form partnerships that benefit the entirety of their respective communities. For that, I commend him, and I join his friends, family. and colleagues in offering him best wishes and continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVE ABDALLAH

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Dearborn Heights Council Chairman Dave Abdallah. Since he was first elected to serve the people of Dearborn Heights in 2015, Mr. Abdallah has been a tireless advocate for every corner of the city.

Before he ever considered a career in public service, Dave Abdallah was an already well-known community member. Mr. Abdallah immigrated to Michigan from Lebanon at the age of ten and started school speaking no English. He worked hard at school and pursued studies in finance before he made his career in real estate, a natural fit for his outgoing and gregarious personality. In addition to his successful real estate career, Mr. Abdallah became involved with numerous community organizations, including Bint Jebal Cultural Center, and Michigan's Commission of Middle Eastern Affairs, which spurred his interest in elected public service.

In his eight years serving as a member of Dearborn Heights' City Council, Mr. Abdallah has strived to give back to the community and make lives better. He has sought to uplift the voices and concerns of the residents he serves and he has worked to strengthen economic development within Dearborn Heights by attracting businesses to the area. When he isn't helping residents, he is cheering for our Detroit Lions every chance he gets.

Please join me in recognizing Dave Abdallah for his outstanding commitment and service to the people of Dearborn Heights in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

JONATHAN LORANCE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jonathan Lorance for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jonathan has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jonathan, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jonathan's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jonathan Lorance on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING DOCTORS MAHENDER AND JAYALAKSHMI PAMPATI

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two remarkable physicians, a husband and wife, Mahender and Jayalakshmi Pampati, in recognition of their retirement from the healthcare field after nearly 33 years of dedicated service to the people of Eastern Kentucky.

Drs. Mahender and Jayalakshmi Pampati moved to Hazard, Kentucky in 1990 with a goal of providing high quality care to the underserved communities of Eastern Kentucky. Through their respective careers and the life they built together in Hazard, they became part of the fabric of the community. They raised three kids, Ashwin, Rudra, and Shivani, in Hazard, participating in the local Parent Teacher Association and engaging with their patients beyond their medical practices. For decades, both doctors centered their careers on providing quality care and service to their community.

Dr. Mahender Pampati, born in Hyderabad, India, son of Dr. Kishen and Mrs. Suwarna Pampati, started and grew a radiology practice upon arrival to Hazard. With his partner Dr. Ashok Patel, he built a radiology practice, Hazard Radiology Associates, that served the entire Appalachian Regional Hospital System in addition to Mountain Comprehensive Health Care. Mahender was the first specialty trained neuroradiologist in Eastern Kentucky and facilitated the installation of state-of-the-art CT and MRI equipment for more specialized care.

Mahender also brought the first mobile mammography and MRI services to Eastern Kentucky to ensure all patients had access to adequate imaging and screening services.

Dr. Jayalakshmi Pampati, born in Chennai, India, daughter of Mr. G.C. Krishnamoorthy and Mrs. G.Y. Thilakam, led a successful and patient forward career as the region's only rheumatologist. As one of few female physicians of her generation, she continuously broke barriers throughout her career, from medical school to her practice. She started her own rheumatology practice in Hazard, Kentucky shortly after moving there. Jayalakshmi was the only rheumatologist within a 60-mile radius for her entire career, serving a significant portion of Eastern Kentucky. Jayalakshmi diagnosed and treated several debilitating autoimmune diseases for the first time in the region and treated many of these patients for many decades. Jayalakshmi treated all patients, both insured and uninsured, guaranteeing all patients would be treated and advised on the most cost-effective and quality treatment plan.

Together they broke many firsts. Most significantly, they opened the first after hours clinic in the region in 1996, the Mountain After Hours Clinic (MAHC). MAHC provided a range of care, from primary care services to pediatrics to mental healthcare services. This groundbreaking clinic brought access to healthcare for the many patients who were unable to take off work to receive care during the workday and accepted patients whether they were insured or not.

Dr. Mahender Pampati received his medical degree from Magadh Medical College in 1979, and completed his radiology residency at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1987 with a fellowship in neuroradiology from Stony Brook University in New York. Dr. Jayalakshmi Pampati received her medical degree from Madras Medical College in 1981, and completed her residency in internal medicine at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn, New York in 1988 with a fellowship in rheumatologv from Stony Brook University in New York.

Dr. Mahender and Jayalakshmi Pampati have dedicated their lives and careers to providing specialized, quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare to the people of Eastern Kentucky, and their work has critically improved the healthcare landscape in an underresourced and underserved part of our state. Mahender and Jayalakshmi Pampati will continue to be stewards of public service through their work with community organizations in Kentucky, the Bluegrass Indo American Civic Society and the Bharatiya Temple and Cultural Center. What a wonderful vocation for a truly special couple. I know their patients, fellow healthcare workers, and colleagues in Eastern Kentucky will miss their service. I wish them all the best in retirement and hope they enjoy time with their children, daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. I ask that my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking Dr. Jayalakshmi and Mahender Pampati for their lifelong commitment to serving Kentucky families and communities in need and congratulating them on their well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on December 11, 2023, I was unable to be in attendance for votes on the House floor due to official Congressional travel. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 707, YEA on rollcall No. 708, and YEA on rollcall No. 709.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NEIL T. FREEMAN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Neil Thomas Freeman, an Army Veteran and resident of Tilton, New Hampshire, who passed away in November. Neil was a beloved husband, son, and brother, who proudly dedicated his life to public service both in the United States Army and as a civilian federal employee.

Born in Somerville, MA, Neil enlisted in the United States Army shortly after graduating from high school in 1984. Following his military service, Neil was a proud member of the DAV, VFW, and AMVETS. Neil continued to serve his country as a civil servant for over 30 years, working for the United States Postal Service, Veterans Affairs, and United States Customs and Immigration. Most recently, he was a Congressional Liaison in the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service's Manchester Field Office.

Neil was known by his coworkers, friends, and family for being incredibly selfless, patient, and kind. He will be fondly remembered by the communities he touched and those he loved for years to come. His legacy of service, connection, and family will continue to inspire others.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I share my condolences with the Freeman family, including Neil's loving wife, Lisa his son, Cole, and his many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends. I would once again like to extend my condolences to the Freeman family and wish them all the very best in this time of grieving.

JAMES DURAN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Duran for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

James has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like James, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to James's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate James Duran on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP SEDGWICK DANIELS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again with a heavy heart to extend my condolences to the family and community mourning the passing of the esteemed Bishop Sedgwick Daniels. Bishop Daniels passed away on November 12, 2023, at the age of 64. Having been friends with Bishop Daniels and his family for decades, I personally admired and appreciated his unwavering commitment to both congregation and the greater community.

Bishop Daniels was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin into the loving union of John and Kathleen Daniels. He was not only a spiritual leader but also an authentic advocate for empowerment, leaving an indelible mark on the Milwaukee area, both physically and spiritually. His dedication to fostering positive change extended beyond the confines of the Church, impacting our community, and reaching global proportions.

As the Pastor and Establishmentarian of the Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ (COGIC), Bishop Daniels played a pivotal role in our region's spiritual and community development. His visionaly leadership transformed lloly Redeemer COGIC into a thriving institution, addressing educational and social service needs with a multi-million-dollar impact,

His commitment to youth success manifested through the establishment of educational institutions like Holy Redeemer Christian Academy, Young Coggs William Preparatory Academy, and Katherine T. Daniels University Preparatory Academy. Initiatives such as Trained Pulpit and Trained Pew underscored his dedication to shaping the future of the Milwaukee community.

In 2001, Bishop Daniels was appointed Bishop by Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson and the COGIC General Board, a recognition of his exceptional spiritual leadership. Overseeing the growth of his jurisdiction from 39 congregations to more than 100 churches in Wisconsin and northern Illinois, Bishop Daniels became a beacon of inspiration in steering the spiritual course of the Church. His passing marks the end of an era, and we collectively grieve the loss of a visionary leader and spiritual guide. His leadership was impactful, and his absence will be deeply felt in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels was a revered member of Milwaukee, the 4th Congressional District, and the entire State of Wisconsin. I commend and sincerely appreciate his contributions as a public servant and am honored to pay tribute to the late Bishop Sedgwick Daniels.

REMEMBERING ISIDORO, SHIRLEY, AND JEFFREY GREENBLUM

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of several members of the Greenblum family of South Texas. Over the past 14 months, South Texas lost three members of this beloved family, all who made a deep impact on our community. Isidoro Irving Greenblum, Shirley Jean Katz Greenblum, and Jeffrey Lee Greenblum will all be greatly missed.

Isidoro Irving ''Pancho'' Greenblum lived life by one of his favorite dichos—''Que mala hiebra nunca muere''—''A tough weed always survives.'' He was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and later raised in Laredo, Texas, and he was proud to be a citizen of ''Los Dos Laredos.'' He worked for his family's successful furniture business in Nuevo Laredo while also serving as a member of the International Bank of Commerce's Board of Director for 40 years. His command of both Spanish and English and his tendency to treat everyone he met like family made him an invaluable member of the board, and he traveled extensively to Mexico and throughout Texas to form relationships with customers.

Shirley Jeannne Katz Greenblum was known for the warmth she radiated in everything she did and was dedicated to her family and community. As the mother of four sons, she undoubtedjy had her hands full, but she built a home that was nurturing and open to all, with her children having fond memories of their mother hosting their friends for refreshments almost daily.

Shirley and Isidoro were loving life partners, sharing 72 years of marriage after meeting while in school at the University of Texas. Together in Laredo, they raised their sons, Jeff, Gary, Brad, and Robbie. They were also proud and adoring grandparents and great-grandparents.

Shirley and Isidoro shared a passion for charity and volunteering. Isidoro was the Founding Board Member and served as the first President of the Laredo Area Community Foundation, with the goal of making local charitable giving easy. He served on the board of several other charitable organizations, including for the Jewish community he was dedicated to, and created a scholarship at his high school alma mater for immigrant students attending college. Although Shirley was born and raised in Dallas, she made Laredo her home and gave back to the community through several organizations like the Laredo Art League, the Laredo Children's Museum, and more.

Jeffrey Lee Greenblum, known as Jeff, was a proud son and brother, and a proud father himself to his son William ''Billy'' Greenblum. He graduated from his parents' alma mater and went on to get a law degree from Southern Methodist University. Jeff found success in both business and public service, serving as a senior executive for an oil and gas company, a mining company, and a natural resource consultancy and serving his country during the George H.W. Bush Administration at the Departments of Energy and Commerce.

Isidoro, Shirley, and Jeff leave behind a lasting legacy in South Texas, and the love they had for each other, and their family will never be forgotten.

HONORING LISA GOODMAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Minneapolis's longest serving City Council Member, Lisa Goodman. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Goodman has been dedicated to improving the lives of those who call Ward 7 home—her constituents in the Bryn Mawr, Cedar-Isles-Dean, East Isles, Elliot Park, Kenwood, Loring Park, Lowry Hill, and Steven's Square-Loring Heights neighborhoods, as well as parts of downtown.

Prior to being elected to the City Council in 1997, Ms. Goodman was the Executive Director of Minnesota NARAL where she was a champion of reproductive freedom and women's rights. Since taking office, she has invested in our community by supporting her constituents through driving development and fighting for her strongly held beliefs.

Of her seven terms in office, one of Council Member Goodman's lasting legacies will be her commitment to growing the arts and entertainment district along Minneapolis's Hennepin Avenue. She was instrumental in supporting the stabilization of the Orpheum Theater, the State and Pantages Theaters, and the Cowles Center for Dance & Performing Arts. She also helped move forward the design and construction of the Downtown Library and promoted sidewalk cafes and food trucks.

During Ms. Goodman's 25 years on the City Council, the residential population of downtown more than doubled and she has played an important role in the development of an affordable housing trust fund, which has invested more than $250 million in the community and has garnered over $1 billion in public financing.

To address access to food for downtown residents, Ms. Goodman helped bring two Lunds & Byerly's grocery stores to her Ward and more recently Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. She was also an early champion for improved environmental sustainability, advocating for the addition of green roofs at Target Center and City Hall.

In her career spanning four decades, Ms. Goodman prioritized building long-lasting relationships with policymakers of the Minnesota Legislature and her constituents through monthly ''Lunch with Lisa'' events, neighborhood meetings, ice cream socials, and community gatherings. The strength of her convictions has served her well over the years. She has been a strong advocate for her community and we are grateful for her years of public service.

VALERIA HOLGUIN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valeria Holguin for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Valeria has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Valeria, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Valeria's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Valeria Holguin on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 11, 2023, I was not able to be recorded on Roll Call Numbers 707, 708, and 709.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 707; YEA on Roll Call No. 708; and YEA on Roll Call No. 709.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 707; YEA on Roll Call No. 708; and YEA on Roll Call No. 709.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday December 11, 2023, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on three roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll Call No. 707, YES on Roll Call No. 708, and YES on Roll Call No. 709.

CORINNE JAMES BOWDEN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corinne James Bowden for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Corinne has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Corinne, who strive to make the most of their education develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Corinne's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Warren Tech North and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Corinne James Bowden on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGIZING AMERICAN SHIPBUILDING ACT OF 2023

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act" with U.S. Senator ROGER F. WICKER (R–MS). I thank U.S. Senator ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. (D–PA) and Congressmen ROBERT J. WITTMAN (R–VA) and BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK (R–PA) for their support as the original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan bill would help to recapitalize America's domestic shipbuilding and maritime industries by requiring that increasing percentages of exported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil be transported on U.S.-built, flagged, and crewed vessels. In total, our bill would require that 15 percent of total seaborne LNG exports by 2045 and 10 percent of total seaborne crude oil exports by 2037 be on U.S. vessels. This would result in the construction of more than 40 American ships: approximately 28 LNG carriers by 2045 and 12 oil tankers by 2037. This will support thousands of new, well-paying jobs in American shipyards, vessel component manufacturers, and across the U.S. maritime industry.

As President Vladimir Putin's unconscionable invasion of Ukraine has shown, continental Europe's overreliance on imported Russian oil and gas is both untenable and dangerous. While I support the global transition away from fossil fuels to fight the climate crisis, I also support increasing American energy exports to Europe to replace Russian imports in the near term. Unless Congress acts, all U.S. seaborne LNG and crude oil exports will be on foreign-flagged vessels, operated by foreign crews.

In 1995, Congress required that crude oil exported from Alaska's North Slope be transported on U.S.-flagged vessels to preserve the tanker fleet essential to our national defense. The "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act" would implement a similar requirement. The vessels built under our bill would be available to meet the U.S. military's sealift and supply needs around the globe.

I am deeply troubled that our military, namely the Defense Logistics Agency, relies on foreign-owned oil tankers including state-owned enterprises closely linked to the Chinese government. Our bipartisan bill also counters other export countries' similar requirements including the Russian-flagged vessel requirement for arctic oil and natural gas exports announced by the Kremlin in December 2018.

The United States was a net crude oil exporter in 2022 and is projected to become the top LNG exporting nation in the coming years. Exports of these two strategic national assets—LNG and crude oil—should be on American vessels, which is exactly what our bill would require. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to cosponsor the "Energizing American Shipbuilding Act."

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) and to congratulate the recipients of the 26th Annual Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public-private coalition formed to fight drunk driving, drugged driving, and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Through educational and innovative public outreach programs, WRAP is credited with keeping local alcohol-related death rates consistently below the national average. Its programs educate students and the general public on the dangers of alcohol and drugs, particularly driving while under the influence. Through the WRAP Holiday SoberRide program, individuals who are impaired can request a free cab ride home. Since SoberRide was launched in 1991, 80,047 safe rides have been provided in the Washington Metropolitan area, preventing potential accidents and deaths.

Since 1997, WRAP has sponsored an annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony to honor local law enforcement professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the fight against drunk driving. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2023 Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention recipients:

Officer Zachary Anderson: City of Alexandria Police Department

Corporal Steven Yanda: Arlington County Police Department

Officer Ashley Kumar: Arlington County Police Department

Officer Zackery Lauw: City of Falls Church Police Department

PFC Maurice Anderson: City of Fairfax Police Department

PFC Brian Castello: Fairfax County Police Department

PFC Bryce Cooper: Town of Herndon Police Department

Deputy First Class Tyler Giles: Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Corporal Anthony Wallace: Maryland State Police

Officer Jeremy Brady: Metropolitan Police Department (Washington, DC)

Corporal Joshua Morris: Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Police Department

Seargeant Patrick Keep: Montgomery County Department of Police

PFC Juan Rodriguez: Prince George's County Police Department

Officer Godson Vondee: Prince William County Police Department

Officer Aram Karapetyan: United States Capitol Police

Officer Kevin Brennan: United States Park Police

Trooper Jordan Corvin: Virginia State Police

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the recipients of the Law Enforcement Awards of Excellence and in recognizing WRAP for its 41 years of public service.

I commend the staff of WRAP under the leadership of President and CEO Kurt Erickson and Board Chairman Patrick Burke for their tireless dedication to eradicating underage drinking and drunk or drugged driving. Their efforts combined with the support of partner organizations and law enforcement agencies have saved lives and are deserving of our highest praise and gratitude.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT YESENIA MERCADO, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sergeant Yesenia Mercado, U.S. Army, Retired, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Her patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of Texas.

During SGT Mercado's service in the Army, she went above and beyond to serve her country. She completed the demanding training in elite specialties and served multiple tours in Iraq, earning numerous commendations including the Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism—Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

The end of SGT Mercado's military service didn't bring about the end or her dedication to others. She commits her free time to a host of activities, ranging from helping those less fortunate, supporting families impacted by natural disasters, and contributing to our brave first responders. She stays active in local business development and her work has brought millions of dollars to Central Texas. These efforts speak to the character of devoted public servant unafraid to contribute her energies to the betterment of her fellow citizens.

I commend SGT Mercado's dedication to her community and Nation. I join her colleagues, family, and friends in honoring her career, saluting her commitment to public service, and celebrating her outstanding achievements.

FIDEL FLORES

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidel Flores for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Fidel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along

the way. Students like Fidel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Fidel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Fidel Flores on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for H.R. 5378—Lower Costs, More Transparency Act. I have long supported the critical medical and social services that community health centers provide and fully support their funding. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 708.

TRIBUTE TO DAN BERGER

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize B. Dan Berger as he prepares to step down from his role at the President/CEO of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU) at the end of the year.

Dan first joined NAFCU in 2006 and helped the association become a strong advocate for credit unions in Washington. I have had the pleasure of working with Dan on several issues before the Financial Services Committee during that time.

Dan became the President/CEO of NAFCU in 2013. In a decade under his leadership. NAFCU has grown its membership by nearly 50 percent, while increasing assets and revenue. His final act for NAFCU will be leading it into a merger with the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) to create a new voice for credit unions—America's Credit Unions.

Dan earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from The Florida State University. He is a member of The Economic Club of Washington, DC, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, and was an adjunct professor at The George Washington University in the communications department. He also serves as Vice Chair of the conservation group Bonefish and Tarpon Trust and formerly served as Chair of The Florida State University Alumni Association.

I know the credit union community will miss Dan as he heads back to Florida to spend more time with his wife Aimee and daughter Shelby. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dan Berger and wishing him the best of luck with whatever comes next.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL HAMILTON KELLY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a doting wife, devoted mother, and darling matriarch to many on her 104th birthday. Mrs. Ethel Hamilton Kelly of Charleston, South Carolina, will celebrate this milestone surrounded by family and friends on December 16, 2023. We joyfully celebrate her longevity.

Ethel Hamilton was born in 1919 in Colleton County, South Carolina, and was raised along with six siblings. She was joined in holy matrimony to Isiah Kelly, and together they had ten children. While Isiah worked various jobs, Ethel remained home to care for her large family. She instilled in all her children the importance of kindness and the ability to respectfully resolve disagreements with others. In addition to caring for her own children, Ethel regularly fed other children that frequented her home.

Ethel and Isiah raised all their children to be faithful servants of God. The Ten Commandments guide Ethel's life, and she believes adhering to them is of principal importance.

As Ms. Hamilton Kelly celebrates her 104th birthday, she remains in good health and retains her sharp mind. She continues to follow current events and votes in nearly every election. Her eight surviving children, twenty-two grandchildren, two sisters, and numerous other relatives will join her to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Ethel Hamilton Kelly. She continues to display her boundless maternal love to her family and others every day. We congratulate her on a life well lived and wish her continued good health and happiness in the days to come.

HENRY THOMPSON

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Thompson for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Henry has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Henry, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Henry's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K–8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Henry Thompson on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MAYOR MARK SENTER'S SERVICE TO PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Mayor Mark Senter, who is completing his tenure of dedicated service to Plymouth, Indiana at the end of this month.

Currently serving in his fourth term, Mayor Senter has advanced solutions that have made Plymouth a better place to live, work, and raise a family. In particular, Mark can and should be proud of his work in helping create downtown Plymouth's River Park Square, which hosts the popular ''Mayor's Month of Music'' event every August.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Mark served as a trooper and detective with the Indiana State Police for 28 years. Mark's service on the thin blue line has given him valuable firsthand knowledge of the public safety issues our communities face as well as the brave sacrifices law enforcement officers make in the line of duty every single day.

As he prepares to step down as Mayor, spend more time with his family, and write the next chapter of his life, I am proud to congratulate Mark on a distinguished career and a job well done. The Plymouth community and all of Marshall County is unquestionably better off thanks to this good man with a servant's heart.

I join Hoosiers throughout Indiana's Second Congressional District in expressing our gratitude to Mayor Mark Senter for his service and in wishing him, his wife Leanne, and their family all the very best going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's vote series due to my attendance at an unscheduled meeting. During that time, I was unable to make roll call votes No. 707, No. 708 and No. 709. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: YEA on Roll Call No. 707, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 3224—Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Extension Act of 2023; YEA on Roll Call No. 708, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 5378—Lower Costs, More Transparency Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 709, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 6503—Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II.

RECOGNIZING NHDOT WORKERS FOR SAVING DROWNING MAN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of 12 New Hampshire individuals

for their recent act of bravery in the Town of Alton. When a man's jet ski began to sink into the frigid November waters of Lake Winnipesaukee, seven New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) employees and five Top Notch Tree Service employees stepped in to save the man from drowning. I commend the NHDOT workers and the Top Notch Tree Team, as well as the EMS response crew, for their efforts to rescue the man and provide him with needed care.

While removing an old dock from the Alton shoreline, the team of good samaritans heard screams and cries for help from the water. As soon as the workers discovered that a man on a jet ski was sinking deeper into the lake, they jumped into action. Some rescuers ran to Sandy Point Beach Resort to secure a kayak and canoe to row to the man, others called 911 and urged him to continue swimming. When the kayaker reached the sinking jet ski, the drowning man latched onto the rescuer's kayak and was paddled to shore. Although the man was initially unresponsive when brought to shore, hard-working EMS personnel quickly revived him.

The NHDOT and Top Notch Tree teams' quick and effective response to the situation is a result of their empathy, brilliance, and sound judgment. By acting quickly and delegating responsibilities, the rescuers were able to reach the man and save him before it was too late. I commend these individuals for demonstrating a calculated and successful save in a difficult situation.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank these selfless and courageous individuals. Let their courage and heroism serve as an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL LEE SHAW, JR.

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Gabriel (Gabe) Lee Shaw, Jr., a dedicated individual, a family-oriented man, a lifelong learner, and one of my dearest friends. I fondly referred to him as my ''brother-in-love,'' it saddens me to say that Gabe passed peacefully on Thursday, December 7, 2023, with his beloved wife of 41 years, Shirley Ellis, District Director of Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District by his side. The breadth of Gabe's accomplishments far exceeds his 78 years.

Gabe was born in Osceola, Arkansas, into the loving union of Gabriel Lee Shaw and Mary Hall Shaw. Gabe's life began as the first son among eight children, including five daughters and three sons. Graduating from North Division High School in 1963, he embarked on a path of hard work and continuous learning, which led him to proudly join the United States Air Force at the age of 17 the same year.

His dedication was evident as he graduated from the U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordinance Disposal School at Eglin AFB in Florida. Gabe's military service was exceptional, marked by holding one of the highest security clearances during the Vietnam era, concluding with an honorable discharge in 1968. Gabe's work ethic and commitment to detail became a hallmark of his character. He often declared, ''you cannot talk work done,'' demonstrating his resolve to address and solve any challenge thrown his way. Following his military service, his pursuit of knowledge persisted, leading him to enroll in both UW-Platteville and UW-Milwaukee with a focus on mathematics. His passion for cars propelled him to become an Automotive Service Excellence Certified technician.

Known for his love of challenges, Gabe accomplished the remarkable feat of passing all eight comprehensive exams required for the Automotive Excellence certificate on his first attempt, maintaining this certification for an impressive 15 years. He later attended Milwaukee Area Technical College and became a certified Air Conditioning and Heating Specialist. Gabe retired from Miller Brewing Company in 2005 after 30 years of service. His illustrious 30-year tenure at Miller Brewing Company showcased his dedication and loyalty.

Gabe, son of a carpenter, had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge that extended to various subjects, including taxes, carpentry, electrical work, masonry, and heating/cooling. This extensive expertise paved the way for his successful career, culminating in becoming a licensed Real Estate Broker in 1977. With a wealth of knowledge, Gabe thrived as a property owner. His ability to repair and maintain properties enabled him to support his family and community. He bailed out countless people with home and auto repairs operating as a contractor under the telling banner of GOOD AND FAIR.

Gabe's four daughters, son and grandchildren all benefited from his talent, intelligence, love, and generosity. In the weeks before his death, Gabe shared with me a message to all our progeny. ''Don't make excuses, if you work hard, look forward and not backwards you can accomplish anything with just an average aptitude.'' Gabe shared his life with his beloved wife, business partner and best friend, Shirley A. Ellis, who for over 41 years supported each other in health and sickness, exemplifying a dynamic and supportive partnership.

Gabe's role as a great provider extended beyond his immediate family, as he generously shared his wisdom with mentees, especially young men, offering valuable insights into the trade.

Personally, Gabriel supported me during some of the most challenging times of my life. My brother-in-love was a comforting resource for me as an 18-year-old new parent, as a candidate without a dime to donate to my own campaign, as a ''handy'' friend who rescued me time and time again as a new homeowner of an old house.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Lee Shaw, Jr., was a cherished member of Milwaukee, the 4th Congressional District, and the entire State of Wisconsin. He is an example of how patriotism, hard work, lifelong learning, and kindness can create a fulfilling life,

I will always treasure his personal impact on me, and I rise to honor the late Gabriel L. Shaw, Jr.

HONORING ANDREW JOHNSON

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Minneapolis City Council Member Andrew Johnson for his hard work and dedication to public service over the past decade. Over the years, Mr. Johnson has been applauded for his community engagement and commitment to small businesses and affordable housing. I had the pleasure of working for Mr. Johnson from 2013 to 2015 as his campaign manager and then Senior Policy Aide.

Council Member Johnson was first elected to office in 2013 and, at the time, was the youngest member on the Council. For three terms, he has proudly served the constituents of Ward 12, which includes the neighborhoods of Cooper, Ericsson, Hiawatha, Howe, Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Morris Park, and Standish, in the southeastern corner of Minneapolis. During his tenure, Mr. Johnson served as the chair of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and the Information Technology Subcommittee.

Over the past ten years, Council Member Johnson has participated in nearly 400 community meetings with his constituents. As a devoted advocate for housing, he worked on the creation of hundreds of housing units within Ward 12. Mr. Johnson also led the City in creating its first new public-housing project in more than a decade. He has been a champion for transit throughout his tenure, working on ordinances to ensure that sidewalks were clear of ice for residents, pushing for funding for street repairs, and advocating for more lanes and safety precautions for bikers. He worked to ensure that all constituents, whether they walked, biked, drove, or used public transit had access to safe transportation.

Council Member Johnson has had an impressive track record of serving his community. Key accomplishments that I want to recognize include the creation of the Small Business Office and Business Portal to serve local small business owners. He also authored the ordinance that allowed gender-neutral single-stall restrooms, led the efforts to rewrite the Animal Care and Control Ordinances to improve the quality of life for animals in shelters and was a co-founding member of the Transgender Equity Council. Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Johnson was also the lead sponsor of an ordinance that granted paid sick leave to over 100,000 constituents.

No problem has ever been too big or too small for City Council Member Johnson. Although his time as a city council member is coming to an end, the legacy of his work for our community and the City of Minneapolis will never be forgotten. He will truly be missed at City Hall and by his constituents.

QUENTIN BANKS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Quentin Banks for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Quentin has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Quentin, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Quentin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Quentin Banks on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KAREN CLEVELAND FOR HER SERVICE TO LEADERSHIP FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Karen Cleveland on an inspired career in community service. Earlier this year, Karen announced she would be transitioning from her role as President & CEO of Leadership Fairfax (LFI), which is Northern Virginia's premier leadership development organization.

Karen has become a pillar of our community during her eight-year tenure with LFI, so I am pleased to report this is not so much a retirement as a turning of the page to her next chapter. I've had the pleasure of knowing and collaborating with Karen for the past three decades, starting with my service on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Since 1988, LFI has dedicated itself to shaping the future leaders of tomorrow. The dedication of LFI to this endeavor is one that I know well; a number of my staff from my time as Providence District Supervisor and later as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors are LFI alumni.

I know firsthand the value that LFI adds to both the graduates and the organizations to which they return. When you walk into a crowded room it's easy to spot the graduates of LFI—they just stand out!

Karen has been an invaluable resource to leaders in both the public and private sectors, serving as a facilitator, mentor, partner, and friend to us through her work on multiple community initiatives.

In addition to her role with LFI, Karen has made important contributions to our community as the first executive director of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, inaugural chair of the Reston YMCA Board of Directors, and executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. She also previously served on the Wolf Trap Foundation Board of Directors, supporting the only national park dedicated to presenting the performing art.

On behalf of our grateful community, I wish Karen, her husband, Jim, and their family all the best as she embarks on her next chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation for Karen Cleveland's commitment to helping our community reflect the LFI motto to lead, unite, and thrive.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF STAFF SERGEANT WILLIE A. CURTIS, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Staff Sergeant Willie A. Curtis, U.S. Army, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His excellent service to both the Army and his local community is a shining example of citizenship and commitment to duty.

During SSG Curtis's 20+ years of service to the United States Army, he went above and beyond to serve his country. Due to his extensive period serving our country, he earned many awards such as the Army Commendation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, and a National Defense Service Medal, among other medals, decorations, and badges.

Upon retirement, SSG Curtis settled in Taylor, Texas. An eternal optimist, he has an enormous heart and an endless capacity to contribute his time, energy, and resources to assist local students, the homeless, and first responders. Whether it's organizing public music events or celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., SSG Curtis is renowned as a man unafraid to do the hard work to do good for his neighbors.

When I reflect on SSG Curtis' life of service over the years, I am reminded of the teachings of Christ when he taught, ''Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'' To SSG Curtis, these are not mere words but a summons by which to live a fulfilling life. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5901–S5925

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3464–3479, and S. Res. 493–495. **Page S5919**

Measures Reported:

S. 195, to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854. (S. Rept. No. 118–129)

S. 382, to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation. (S. Rept. No. 118–130)

S. 595, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System and the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the Rio Jemez Stream System in the State of New Mexico. (S. Rept. No. 118–131)

S. 1088, to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–132)

S. 1097, to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 118–133)

S. 1277, to modify the boundary of the Mammoth Cave National Park in the State of Kentucky. (S. Rept. No. 118–134)

S. 1657, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 118–135)

S. 1760, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–136) **Pages S5918–19**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration 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, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S5912–15**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S5912–15**

By 85 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 341), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill. **Page S5915**

Schumer motion to recommit the conference report to accompany the bill to the Committee on Conference, with instructions, fell when cloture was invoked on the conference report to accompany the bill. (By 26 yeas to 73 nays (Vote No. 340), Senate earlier failed to table the motion.) **Pages S5914–15**

Schumer Amendment No. 1373 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit the conference report to accompany the bill to the Committee on Conference), to modify the effective date, fell when Schumer motion to recommit the conference report to accompany the bill to the Committee on Conference, with instructions (listed above), fell. (By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 339), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S5912–15**

Schumer Amendment No. 1374 (to Amendment No. 1373), to modify the effective date, fell when Schumer Amendment No. 1373 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit the conference report to accompany the bill to the Committee on Conference) (listed above), fell. **Pages S5912–15**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, December 13, 2023;

and that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and Leader remarks count post cloture. **Page S5925**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 59 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 338), Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director. **Pages S5901–11, S5911–12, S5925**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 59 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 337), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5901–11**

Messages from the House: **Page S5917**

Measures Referred: **Page S5917**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S5917**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5917–18**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5919–21**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5922–24**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5916–17**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5924–25**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5925**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5925**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—341) **Pages S5907, S5912, S5914–15**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:30 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5925.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine communities in crisis, focusing on what happens when disaster recovery funds are delayed, after receiving testimony from Senator Welch; Ransford Reinhard, South Carolina Office of Resilience, Columbia; Shaun Donovan, Enterprise Community Partners, Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Gray Thompson, After the Fire USA, Sonoma, California.

MINING LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Steve Feldgus, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; Troy Heithecker, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest Systems, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Rich Haddock, Barrick Gold Corporation, Bountiful, Utah; Chris Wood, Trout Unlimited, Arlington, Virginia; and Katie Sweeney, National Mining Association, Washington, D.C.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on Iran and its proxy threat to U.S. policy and personnel post-October 7 from John Bass, Under Secretary for Management, Barbara A. Leaf, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, and Brett M. Holmgren, Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research, all of the Department of State.

COAST GUARD ACADEMY WHISTLEBLOWERS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine Coast Guard Academy whistleblowers, focusing on stories of sexual assault and harassment, after receiving testimony from Commander Jennifer L. Yount, USCG, Ret., Coast Guard Academy, Class of 1981, Petaluma, California; Caitlin E. Maro, former member of Coast Guard Academy, Class of 2008, Collierville, Tennessee; Lieutenant Melissa K. McCafferty, USCG, Ret., Coast Guard Academy, Class of 2011, and Colonel Lorry M. Fenner, USAF, Ret., Service Women's Action Network, both of Washington, D.C.; and First Class Cadet Kyra Holmstrup, Coast Guard Academy, Class of 2024, New London, Connecticut, on behalf of Cadets Against Sexual Assault.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CORPORATE CRIMINALS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine cleaning up the C–Suite, focusing on ensuring accountability for corporate criminals, after receiving testimony from Nicole Argentieri, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, and Matthew Olsen, Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, both of the Department of Justice; Andrew E. Lelling, former United States Attorney, District of Massachusetts, Boston; Brandon L. Garrett, Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina; and Ryan Hampton, Las Vegas, Nevada.

GPO OVERSIGHT

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Government Publishing Office, after receiving testimony from Hugh Nathanial Halpern, Director, Government Publishing Office.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 6717–6733; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 924–930, were introduced. **Pages H6859–60**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6860–61**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5988, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish grants for tuition-free community colleges, student success grants, and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–309);

H.R. 1553, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–310);

H.R. 3063, to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–311);

H.R. 2627, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to prohibit limitations on closed-end companies investing in private funds, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–312);

H.R. 2365, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 118–313); and

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 (H. Rept. 118–314). **Page H6859**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Kustoff to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6819**

Recess: The House recessed at 11 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H6826**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:50 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H6832**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Monday, December 11th.

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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 20 nays, Roll No. 712; **Pages H6833–34**

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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 420 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 713; **Pages H6834–35**

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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 396 yeas to 28 nays, Roll No. 714; and **Pages H6835–36**

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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas to 37 nays, Roll No. 715. **Page H6836**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:58 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H6840**

Ensuring Accountability in Agency Rulemaking Act: The House passed H.R. 357, to require the head of an agency to issue and sign any rule issued by that agency, by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 203 noes, Roll No. 717.

Pages H6828–32, H6832–33, H6836–40, H6840–42

Pursuant to the Rule, 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. **Pages H6828–29**

Rejected the Mrvan motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 716.

Page H6840

H. Res. 922, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1147) and (H.R. 357) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 215 ayes to 207 noes, Roll No. 711, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 710. **Pages H6832–33**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6832–33, H6833, H6834, H6834–35, H6835, H6836, H6841, and H6841–42.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Committee Meetings

F–35 ACQUISITION PROGRAM UPDATE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled "F–35 Acquisition Program Update". Testimony was heard from William LaPlante, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; Lieutenant General Michael Schmidt, U.S. Air Force, Program Executive Officer and Director, F–35 Lightning II Program, Department of the Air Force; and Jon Ludwigson, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a 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". H.R. 3400, H.R. 6655, and H.R. 6585 were ordered reported, as amended. H.J. Res. 98 was ordered reported, without amendment.

RESTRICTING ROGUE-STATE REVENUE: STRENGTHENING ENERGY SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA, IRAN, AND VENEZUELA

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled "Restricting Rogue-State Revenue: Strengthening Energy Sanctions on Russia, Iran, and Venezuela". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE AGENDA OF REGULATORS, SROS, AND STANDARDS-SETTERS FOR ACCOUNTING, AUDITING

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets held a hearing entitled "Examining the Agenda of Regulators, SROs, and Standards-Setters for Accounting, Auditing". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REVIEWING THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY, PART II: U.S. EXPORT CONTROLS IN AN ERA OF STRATEGIC COMPETITION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability held a hearing entitled "Reviewing the Bureau of Industry and Security, Part II: U.S. Export Controls in an Era of Strategic Competition". Testimony was heard from Matthew S. Axelrod, Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, Department of Commerce; and Thea D. Rozman Kendler, Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce.

ADDRESSING THE SCOURGE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe held a hearing entitled "Addressing the Scourge of Anti-Semitism in Europe". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONSIDERING DHS' AND CISA'S ROLE IN SECURING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled ''Considering DHS' and CISA's Role in Securing Artificial Intelligence''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FROM FESTIVE CHEER TO RETAIL FEAR: ADDRESSING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence held a hearing entitled ''From Festive Cheer to Retail Fear: Addressing Organized Retail Crime''. Testimony was heard from Michael Krol, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations, Department of Homeland Security, New England; Jason Kane, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, Nashville Field Office, Tennessee; Jose Perez, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and public witnesses.

LOOKING AHEAD SERIES: OVERSIGHT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Looking Ahead Series: Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution''. Testimony was heard from Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a 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. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hageman and Steel; and public witnesses.

THE MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN AND THE NEW SPACE RACE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''The Mineral Supply Chain and the New Space Race''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEFT IN THE DARK: EXAMINING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST'S CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing entitled ''Left in the Dark: Examining the Biden Administration's Efforts to Eliminate the Pacific Northwest's Clean Energy Production''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a 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]. H. Res. 918 was ordered reported, without amendment.

A YEAR IN REVIEW: THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS IN AMERICA

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''A Year in Review: The State of Small Business in America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a business meeting on updated Committee rosters. The Committee rosters were approved.

ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: AN EXAMINATION OF GSA'S SITE SELECTION FOR THE FBI HEADQUARTERS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled ''Ensuring Transparency in the Federal Government: An Examination of GSA's Site Selection for the FBI Headquarters''. Testimony was heard from Elliot Doomes, Commissioner, Public Building Service, General Services Administration; and Nicholas Dimos, Assistant Director, Finance and Facilities Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

GUARDIANS OF THE SEA: NATIONAL SECURITY MISSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled ''Guardians of the Sea:

National Security Missions of the United States Coast Guard''. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Peter Gautier, Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard.

SSG FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANTS: SAVINGS VETERANS' LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grants: Savings Veterans' Lives Through Community Connection''. Testimony was heard from Erica Scavella, M.D., Assistant Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Todd Burnett, Senior Consultant for Operations, Suicide Prevention Program, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held a business meeting on a committee report addressing America's economic and technological competition with the Chinese Communist Party. The report passed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

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, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–226.

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.

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 Military Personnel, hearing entitled ''Recruiting Shortfalls and Growing Mistrust: Perceptions of the US Military'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, 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, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Leveraging Agency Expertise to Foster American AI Leadership and Innovation'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, 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, 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, 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, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Digital Copyright Piracy: Protecting American Consumers, Workers, and Creators'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

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, 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, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Modal Perspectives'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

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, 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, 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 a.m., Wednesday, December 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2670, National Defense Authorization Act, post-cloture.

Senators should expect roll call votes during Wednesday's session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, December 13

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 1147—Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023. Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Carter, John R., Tex., E1207, E1208, E1213, E1216
Castro, Joaquin, Tex., E1212
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E1214
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E1210, E1213, E1216
Emmer, Tom, Minn., E1212
Garamendi, John, Calif., E1213
Hoyle, Val T., Ore., E1207
Keating, William R., Mass., E1214
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1212
McGarvey, Morgan, Ky., E1210
McHenry, Patrick T., N.C., E1214
Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E1211, E1215
Napolitano, Grace F., Calif., E1209
Omar, Ilhan, Minn., E1212, E1215
Pappas, Chris, N.H., E1211, E1214
Pettersen, Brittany, Colo., E1207, E1208, E1209, E1210, E1211, E1212, E1212, E1213, E1214, E1216
Pocan, Mark, Wisc., E1210
Ruppersberger, C.A. Dutch, Md., E1214
Slotkin, Elissa, Mich., E1209
Smith, Christopher H., N.J., E1207
Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E1210
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie, Fla., E1212
Watson Coleman, Bonnie, N.J., E1207
Wenstrup, Brad R., Ohio, E1211
Williams, Brandon, N.Y., E1209
Yakym, Rudy III, Ind., E1214

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at *www.govinfo.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.