



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

No. 6

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 11, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRANDON WILLIAMS 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, 2024, 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 11:50 a.m.

### WASTEWATER SEWAGE IS AN EMBARRASSMENT

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue that may not be on the top of the agenda for most politicians in Washington but could very well be the greatest ongoing environmental disaster in the United States today. I am referring to the billions of gallons of raw wastewater sewage, industrial waste, and other pollutants that flow from Mexico down the Tijuana River into San Diego and onto our beaches.

Those flows sicken our communities, they shutter our local businesses, they harm our tourism industry, and they threaten our servicemembers and Border Patrol agents stationed in San Diego.

The solution is simple. The United States owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant on our side of the border that in the past decades has not been maintained and is in desperate need of repair and expansion to handle the flows. President Biden included \$310 million in his supplemental funding request that would make those repairs and upgrades possible. It is not a small price, but is there any more worthy investment than in the health of our constituents?

Air quality monitors that were recently installed in the region have confirmed what residents have felt for years—that unhealthy levels of pollution are present not only in the ocean, but sewage that washes up on land dries up and is sending dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide into the air around people's homes.

Many of the communities hit hardest by this are low income and communities of color. I can't help but think that if this was happening somewhere that wasn't 3,000 miles from here like the Chesapeake Bay or even the Great Lakes, it would already have been taken care of.

The public health disaster alone should be enough to force action. The harm it causes our local small businesses alone should be enough to force action. But in addition to all of that, the cross-border pollution poses a grave national security threat.

Coronado, which is in my district, is home to the Naval Special Warfare Command where Navy SEALs train in waters polluted with human feces. I am proud to represent these brave warfighters, but I am ashamed that we have not done more to protect their health.

Everyone expects this training to be tough and uncomfortable, but it should not pose potential long-term health problems.

Some former SEALs who now serve in Congress—all Republicans, by the way—have told me about the disgusting waters they had to train in, and I am thankful to have their support to get this funding.

Now, we know that Mexico must also do its part, and much of their infrastructure has also fallen into disrepair. The good news is that Mexico is bound by a treaty we signed in San Diego in 2022 to spend nearly \$150 million to fix their pipes and their treatment plant. That is on top of the \$2 million plus that Mexico pays the United States annually to treat these contaminated waters.

Mexico, to its credit, has made great strides in the last year on their side of the border. They have repaired and replaced key infrastructure like sewage pipes that redirect the contaminated water. And just today, January 11, they are breaking ground on replacing the wastewater treatment plant on their side of the border that has been broken, as well.

We should be embarrassed—embarrassed—that Mexico is acting with more urgency than we are.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is an urgent public health, business, and national security disaster. The more we delay in addressing cross-border pollution, the more costly and difficult it will be to fix it in the future.

I urge all my colleagues to support this funding, and I ask that congressional leadership and appropriators include this funding in any upcoming spending package.

### KANSAS COLD

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

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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the farmers and ranchers whose work does not stop. Even in the face of extreme freezing temperatures and abnormal snowfall, Kansans are standing strong and getting the job done.

The Big First District of Kansas is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the country. It is home to more than 60,000 farms and ranches and is made up of farmers, ranchers, feed lot managers, nutritionists, ethanol producers, ag lenders, millers, and agribusiness owners who feed, clothe, and fuel the world.

I grew up in the Big First, and I spent thousands of hours on a tractor in fields and on horseback doctoring cattle in our family's feed yard. I know well agriculture's working conditions are demanding on a good day but especially so when our business partner, Mother Nature, is as unforgiving as she has been lately.

In the past few days, parts of Kansas have seen 15-plus inches of snow, electricity outages for days, and road closures that stretch from every corner of the State. But those who stand with snow up to their knees in the depths of winter or haul water in the drought of summer know agriculture does not take days off. In fact, in weather like this, producers work even harder to keep livestock and commodities safe and secure. No matter the temperature, they go to work long before most of us are awake and stay out until many of us have already laid down our heads at night.

They are the people volunteering their time to move snow at nearby feed lots so cattle can continue to be fed and watered. They are the people hauling new cows on their truck floorboards out of snowbanks and onto dryer ground. They are the people breaking ice at all hours of the day. They are the men and women staying up through the night so a baby animal gets a shot at life, a piece of equipment is ready to go early the next morning, the neighboring producer has the help they need to milk their herds, and so people like you and I have a safe and secure food supply.

As many across the country have learned in the past few years, our food does not come from a grocery store shelf. The importance of agriculture in the food supply chain cannot be overstated. This supply chain represents millions of people working every day in the U.S. It begins with farmers, ranchers, and growers, and it includes food processors and manufacturers, millers, shippers, transportation workers, and, finally, those working in grocery stores and restaurants all across the country. Each of these people are vital in ensuring we have food on our plates.

While most of us in the Big First of Kansas know how important agriculture is, I know that message can sometimes get lost on the way to the grocery store. So on behalf of all of Kansans and Americans, I sincerely

thank the farmers, ranchers, and producers who supply our food, fuel, and fiber. I thank them for pulling the baby calf out of the snowbank and nursing it back to life. I thank them for busting ice early and feeding hay late. I thank them for putting the needs of their livestock before themselves. I thank them for their never-ending, back-breaking days. I thank them especially on cold days for working so hard for the extra hours and extra strength. Their efforts keep all of us warm and fed.

It is an honor to represent them in the House of Representatives on the House Agriculture Committee. May God bless them and keep everybody safe.

#### COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day and honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is an important day to Michigan's 12th District Strong. It is a reminder of the legacy of a man who dedicated his last breath to the pursuit of equality and justice for all.

I am honored, Mr. Speaker, to represent the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country, the city of Detroit, where we birth movements, where every corner reminds us of the civil rights movement, of the labor movement.

Dr. King knew the struggles to end racism, poverty, and war were all interconnected, as well, and 2 weeks before he was assassinated, Dr. King speaking to sanitation workers on strike said: "All labor has dignity . . . You are reminding the Nation that it is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages."

As we strive to make Dr. King's dream a reality, may we continue to fight for justice for all.

#### SOUTH AFRICA'S GENOCIDE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today South Africa will present its case against the Israeli Government at the International Court of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link for the case: <https://d12t4t5x3vyizu.cloudfront.net/tlaib.house.gov/uploads/2024/01/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>

It is incredibly powerful to witness people who defeated apartheid in their own country hold the Israeli apartheid regime accountable for its crime of genocide in Gaza.

Today, I am thinking of Nelson Mandela's powerful words: "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."

In the past 3 months, Israeli forces have killed over 23,350 Palestinians, including more than 9,600 children. They have injured more than 59,400 Palestinians. More than 8,000 Palestinians are still missing under the rubble.

This week, Secretary of State Blinken called the case meritless. Let me read directly from the case file starting on page 59: "Expressions of Genocidal Intent Against the Palestinian People by Israeli State Officials and Others" so you can hear directly from the Israeli officials in their own words, not mine.

President Herzog said: "It's an entire nation out there that is responsible. It's not true this rhetoric about civilians not aware not involved. It is absolutely not true. . . . and we will fight until we break their backbone."

He is one of the many Israeli officials to have handwritten messages on the bombs to be dropped on the children of Gaza.

Netanyahu said in his own words: "A struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between humanity and the law of the jungle." And he continues to say: "This is a battle not only of Israel against these barbarians, it's a battle of civilization against barbarism."

Israel's Minister of Defense said: "imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals . . ." Again, that is a direct quote from the Minister of Defense.

He continues on to say: "Gaza won't return to what it was before. We will eliminate everything."

Israeli Minister for National Security—again, an official within the Israeli Government—speaking of those living in Gaza said: " . . . they're all terrorists, and they should also be destroyed."

Israeli Minister of Energy and Infrastructure said: "All the civilian population in Gaza is ordered to leave immediately. . . . They will not receive a drop of water or a single battery until they leave the world."

Israeli Minister of Heritage said: "The north of the Gaza Strip, more beautiful than ever. Everything is blown up and flattened, simply a pleasure for the eyes . . . we will hand over lots to all those who fought for Gaza over the years."

I am not done.

The Israeli Minister of Agriculture said: "[w]e are now actually rolling out the Gaza Nakba."

Deputy Speaker of the Knesset said: " . . . we all have one common goal—erasing the Gaza Strip from the face of the Earth. Those who are unable will be replaced."

Israeli Army Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories speaking of the Palestinians living in Gaza said: "Human animals are dealt with accordingly."

The Israeli Army Reservist said: ". . . don't leave anyone behind. Erase the memory of them. Erase them, their families, mothers and children. These animals can no longer live. . . Let them drop bombs on them and erase them."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the entire South African genocide case

against Israel in the International Court of Justice: <https://d3i6fh83elv35t.cloudfront.net/static/2024/01/192-20231228-app-01-00-en.pdf>

Mr. Speaker, there is simply time to save lives, to stop the Israeli Government from carrying out the genocide in Gaza. This body and the Biden administration are complicit in this genocide. Congress must stop funding the genocide of the Palestinian people with our American tax dollars.

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

□ 1015

#### BORDER CRISIS REACHED BOILING POINT

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, 3,400 students at James Madison High School in Brooklyn, New York, were unable to attend their classes in person. Instead of learning in their classrooms, being with their fellow students, and eating lunch in the cafeteria, these students were forced from their own school in order to make room for 2,000 illegal immigrants who recently came to New York City.

This crisis has reached a boiling point, and action must be taken to address the impact that it is having on our communities. We know the historic learning loss that occurred with school lockdowns during COVID. Now, instead of using the proven and effective remain in Mexico policy, President Biden has thrown open our doors to a record number of illegal immigrants in the past year.

It is time to secure our border. It is time to stop making American families pay the price for President Biden's weak leadership and failed policies. It is time for President Biden to join us and demand that the Senate pass the Secure the Border Act and finally address this catastrophe impacting American families because of the porous southern border.

#### ADDRESS MEDICARE PAY CUT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in rural communities like those in south central and southwestern Pennsylvania, millions of patients rely on Medicare to see their doctors, fill their prescriptions, and live healthy lives.

Now, if Congress fails to act, those patients will be in jeopardy. Medicare pay cuts, when compiled with a 4.6 percent medical inflation, will ultimately result in higher costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

When I first came to Congress, I pledged to support Medicare and pledged to support the patients who rely on those Medicare benefits. These cuts will make it impossible for rural providers to keep their doors open. These cuts will mean longer travel and

wait times for patients to see family doctors, to see surgeons, and to see specialists.

Right now, thousands of Medicare patients are in need of a primary care physician. These Medicare cuts will drive further consolidation and force patients into higher cost settings of care that will both increase their wait times and increase their out-of-pocket expenses.

Congress must step in and address these cuts before they do irreversible damage to our healthcare system. America and our patients are relying on us to make the right choices.

#### HONORING JACKIE WALLIN

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jackie Wallin, a beloved figure in Laughlin, Nevada, and the architect of so much success across our community.

Jackie is retiring from her position as the president and CEO of the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce after dedicating 36 years of service to southern Nevada and the tristate area. She has been instrumental in promoting small businesses, tourism, and philanthropic work for families, veterans, and seniors across the community.

Just last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with Jackie during a round-table conversation with the chamber. We discussed issues that face local businesses and how I can better help them here in Washington. We are working together to make sure that life is more affordable and to cut through red tape.

Notably, I got to see Jackie's work in action—not only her persistence in fighting for the interests of her community but also the genuine care and charisma she brings to every interaction.

Throughout the day, I had the pleasure of touring the beautiful riverfront in the downtown area in Laughlin, where I witnessed the incredible community development that would not have been possible without Jackie's decades of hard work. I wish Jackie the best of luck as she moves on from leading the chamber.

Laughlin is a tight-knit community that looks out for one another. Rest assured, Jackie will never stop looking out for her neighbors, no matter where she is. I expect to see her riding a motorcycle in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Jackie for all she has done for our community. Laughlin and all of southern Nevada are better off because of her.

#### RECOGNIZING MIKE HULL

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a newly retired pub-

lic servant from central Washington, Mr. Mike Hull of Pateros.

Mike has been an educator for 42 years and has taught some of the most important subjects that engage our students to become better informed on the democratic process. It is more important than ever to instill this in our young people, and Mike has done so by fostering an environment of inclusion, curiosity, and learning. In fact, it was not uncommon for former students to return to his classroom to visit with him and to speak about the positive impact that he had on their lives.

His work in education extended well beyond the classroom. As those of us living on the West Coast know, wildfires significantly impact our daily lives and our safety. During the 2014 Carlton Complex recovery, Mike was the principal of the Pateros school, the central location for food distribution and temporary shelter, and was instrumental in coordinating recovery efforts and volunteer work. Mike led his community even when his own home was at risk from the flames.

He is truly deserving of an honorable public service recognition. I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

#### TIME TO END THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I will enter in the RECORD my comments that I would have made today.

Mr. Speaker, I am sad and I am angry.

I have been working for 50 years leading the effort to end the failed, unfair, cynical, dangerous war on drugs that targeted Black people, that discouraged the legal use of a therapeutic good, something that could have enriched our economy, but instead criminalized behavior, had unintended consequences, and continues to fail us today.

You have been reading comments lately about the problems we have in terms of the use of cannabis for some pregnant women who are unaware of the impact that that can have on a developing fetus. We are looking at impacts on our children from a cannabis that is much more potent than it used to be.

We don't have a system that regulates it, that taxes it, that keeps it out of the hands of children. No neighborhood drug dealer looks for identification, and they are perfectly happy to sell kids other, more dangerous and potent drugs. We don't have to do this.

The House of Representatives has passed a number of items that would remedy this situation. We passed the comprehensive MORE Act that would put it on equal footing. Frankly, we have legislation that would stop the unfair practice of taxing State-legal

cannabis businesses two or three times higher than regular businesses. No wonder they can't compete with the black market.

We have a situation now where the State-legal cannabis companies have to pay their taxes with shopping bags full of \$20 bills, because we still deny them access to banking services. That is not just unfair; it is insane. It promotes money laundering, and it inhibits the opportunity of enterprises that are legal now for most Americans for either medical or adult use.

It is time that the Federal Government get its act together and stop making these problems worse. The Biden administration has taken some halting, positive steps, pardoning people who didn't need to be caught up in this in the first place, and they are looking at rescheduling cannabis to make it easier to do the research, and it would overnight end the unfair taxing situation. They would be able to deduct their business expenses. How novel. It is time for Congress to stop making this problem worse.

The Federal Government created the situation with the failed war on drugs, unfair to millions of Americans, and denied an opportunity for something that the American public has demonstrated time after time they want to happen by their State votes legalizing it.

It is not too late for this Congress to take the legislation that we have in the process to solve this problem, to be fair in the failed war on drugs, be able to allow State-legal businesses to not be at a disadvantage to the cartels and the cheaters, and get this right.

After 50 years, it is time to finally end the failed war on drugs and be fair to the American people.

Let's reflect for a moment on the cost of our failure to act on the critical cannabis reform proposals before this Congress.

Tens of millions of Americans have been trapped by the deplorable failed war on drugs and archaic prohibition of marijuana.

While this prohibition has harmed Americans across the board, it has not been enforced equally.

In every single state, Black people are more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their white neighbors.

Black people are more than three times as likely than whites to be arrested for marijuana possession, despite comparable usage rates.

The public finally recognizes this injustice.

Ending to this failed policy is more popular than ever before.

Seventy percent of Americans support legalizing marijuana, including majorities of Republicans and Independents as well as Democrats.

It is states, led by my home state of Oregon, that have led the way to end this prohibition.

Twenty-four states and multiple territories having legalized adult-use marijuana.

Many of these states have worked valiantly to make these markets accessible to those directly impacted, especially communities harmed in the weaponization of marijuana prohibition.

They have invested in equity licensing structures, tax relief, and more.

However, it is clear, that without a comprehensive federal framework for legalization, these programs will continue to fall woefully short.

A state-by-state patchwork of legalization doesn't work.

To meaningfully address the harms facing our communities—particularly Black and Brown Americans targeted in federal cannabis prohibition—we must act on the critical proposals before this Congress.

Obviously the MORE Act is the gold standard for comprehensive reform. This critical legislation:

Deschedules marijuana;  
Expunges prior convictions;

Implements a real federal tax structure for these products;

Makes SBA funds available to these small businesses; and

Invests in programs that minimize barriers to marijuana licensing and employment for the individuals most adversely impacted by the failed war on drugs.

The House has twice passed this legislation with bipartisan support. It is devastating that the Senate has failed to act.

The SAFE Banking Act makes banking services available to regulated marijuana businesses—denying the benefits that keep employees safe and lower costs for vulnerable small businesses by getting cash off the streets.

The Veterans Equal Access Act allows veterans to work with their preferred providers to decide if medical marijuana is the right treatment option for them instead of denying them their preferred provider for care.

And, finally, perhaps most important for struggling cannabis businesses is tax reform.

Under Section 280E of the federal tax code, marijuana businesses are not able to deduct any business expenses from their federal taxes.

This exponentially increases their tax burden compared to other regulated businesses.

My Small Business Tax Equity Act would end this inequity, making it far more accessible for small businesses to enter the legal marijuana markets and fairly compete with the illicit market.

While Congress considers these critical pieces of legislation, President Biden has taken some action to address the ongoing harms of criminalization.

In 2022, he issued thousands of pardons for simple federal marijuana possession convictions and challenged governors across the country to do the same for state convictions.

This past December, he expanded this relief to convictions in D.C. and to those with federal convictions for attempted possession of marijuana.

For the people eligible, these pardons are tremendously impactful—restoring their rights to education and housing and so much more.

The Drug Enforcement Administration has also confirmed their authority to deschedule marijuana.

Descheduling marijuana will allow full deduction of costs of marijuana business.

Allowing these businesses to deduct their expenses as the tax code was intended will help level the playing field for those who do not have the benefit of existing dominance in the industry.

Descheduling is a vital, common-sense leap forward that will make the federal government the partner our states and communities need to address the ongoing harms of our failed cannabis policies.

Congress must act on the common-sense reforms to meaningfully end the failed war on drugs and repair the harms caused by a state-by-state patchwork of marijuana legalization.

It is past time for simple bipartisan reform.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAULA TROUTMAN

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a remarkable individual whose impact on western New York, the southern tier, and our educational system is immeasurable. Paula J. Troutman, the beloved principal of Fredonia Middle School, left us unexpectedly on New Year's Day at the age of 60.

I have had the honor to know Paula Troutman and her beautiful family since the late 1990s when I was a student at Pine Valley High School. Her passing has left a void that is deeply felt by her family, her friends, her colleagues, and the thousands of students whose lives she touched.

Paula Troutman was a lifelong educator, a coach, a school administrator, and a proud alumnus of Pine Valley Central School who went on to teach young people in her hometown. She ultimately went on to be the principal of Fredonia Middle School.

In our small towns in the southern tier, our schools are the epicenter of our communities, and Paula Troutman was a community leader who touched many, many lives.

Her ultimate legacy is her beautiful family. Married for 40 years to her husband, Dan, they operated a family farm. They have four amazing children, Danielle, Kourtney, Justina, and Cody, all of which have followed in their mother's footsteps in education or coaching. Paula was a loving grandmother to six beautiful grandchildren.

A shocked community is mourning her sudden passing, expressing their love and support for her family, and also reflecting on the leadership role she played for many in the community.

Fredonia Central School District Superintendent Brad Zilliox aptly captured Paula's essence, stating: "It is Paula's impact on fostering relationships, a work family, that our staff is leaning on as strength to be there for our students and each other."

Colleagues and friends have shared heartwarming stories of Paula's unwavering support and genuine care. From reassuring a worried mother about a school transition to coaching with passion and dedication, Paula left an enduring mark on the lives of those around her.

As we mourn the loss of Paula Troutman, we remember her not only for her

professional accomplishments but for the kindness and understanding that made her a cherished figure in the lives of many.

In one of her very last social media posts, Paula Troutman said her new year's resolution for 2024 was to "Love More." I think that is a resolution that we could all strive for. In her passing, it is clear that she gave her community and those around her a lot of love, and those people that she touched truly loved her back.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to Paula's family during this very difficult time. May her legacy inspire us to embrace the values that she held dear, values of compassion, dedication, and the unwavering belief in the transformative power of education.

□ 1030

#### HONORING SERGEANT PHILIP DALE NIX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the late Sergeant Philip Dale Nix of the Greensboro Police Department.

On December 30, Sergeant Nix, while off duty, was at a gas station, where he saw three young people stealing several cases of beer. When he approached the robbers' car, the 18-year-old thief shot Sergeant Nix five times, killing him for over less than \$100 worth of beer.

Dale Nix's loss is a tragedy that has been a terrible blow to Greensboro and the Triad. Our entire community is grieving, from his fellow officers and emergency responders, to those he helped at the Guilford County Family Justice Center, to people across the city who, like me, are shocked and saddened over the loss of this fine man.

Sergeant Nix joined the Greensboro Police Department in 2001, where he served our community with distinction for 22 years. As mentioned at our recent community vigil by so many of his colleagues, Sergeant Nix was a standout leader. He went above and beyond in all his roles on the force and was dedicated to justice and helping others.

In his 22 years on the force, Sergeant Nix served as a Criminal Investigation Division detective, a patrol corporal, patrol sergeant, team leader for the peer support team for 12 years, assistant team leader of the GPD Honor Guard, and his latest assignment was as detective sergeant of the Family Victims Unit, where he worked closely with the Family Justice Center, helping victims of crimes, particularly women and children, who were the victims of domestic violence.

As Catherine Johnson, who runs the Family Justice Center, said at the vigil, Dale Nix had an extraordinary ability to connect with people, espe-

cially people in pain. He was able to work so well with the victims of crimes because he listened to them. He gained their trust. They knew he would fight for them because they knew he cared.

The impact Sergeant Nix made on families in Greensboro is incalculable. The stories have poured in from people he impacted, stories that have been both heartwarming and heartbreaking. Here was a man who was devoted to others, a man who made a real difference, whose ability to help those in need was cut far too short.

In addition to his valiant service to our community, Dale Nix was a beloved husband and father, a true family man. At this difficult time, my heart breaks for his wife, son, parents, and his entire family. I share my condolences with the Greensboro Police Department, the fire department, the 911 emergency center, those at the Family Justice Center, and all who served with him.

Sergeant Nix was a man of integrity, family, and service. He protected the innocent, advocated for victims, and made a difference in countless lives. It is truly tragic that, while Sergeant Nix dedicated his career to preventing crimes and helping victims, he lost his life to violent criminals.

As a Member of Congress and a member of the Greensboro community, I am outraged by the act of senseless violence that stole Sergeant Nix's life. I will continue to use my role in Congress and in my community to work towards solutions that will stop this painful cycle of violence that has claimed far too many innocent lives.

I know that Sergeant Nix's legacy will live on. He will long be remembered as a father, a husband, a man of integrity and service, an advocate, a true hero, and a pillar of justice in Greensboro, North Carolina.

May his memory be a blessing to all.

#### A CALL TO CHAMPION FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this body to champion fiscal responsibility.

It is no secret that the U.S. is steamrolling its way to fiscal ruin, rapidly barreling toward economic collapse and unfairly burdening future generations, yet few here in Washington seem to notice this fiscal calamity, let alone care enough to fix it. Far too many have not only become numb to our ballooning national debt and out-of-control deficit, but completely addicted to spending money that we simply don't have.

The U.S. national debt climbs higher every second, swelling at such an alarming rate that hitting new trillion-dollar milestones has now become routine. In fact, in June, just 7 months ago, the national debt reached \$32 trillion. This figure surged to \$33 trillion 3 months later in September, and, just

days ago, in just another 3.5 months, our national debt surpassed \$34 trillion, amounting to roughly \$100,000 for every American, for our constituents.

Racking up more than \$2 trillion in national debt in just 7 months' time is not a historic milestone; it is a historic failure. At this rate, we are adding roughly a trillion dollars to our national debt every 90 days—think about that—a trillion dollars every 90 days, setting us up to hit, if not exceed, \$37 trillion by the end of the fiscal year. Unsustainable is an understatement.

Every solitary Member should be enraged by this ill-fated trend, but despite all the warning signs, it is business as usual here in Washington, as evidenced by the recently announced agreement on the overall price tag for fiscal year 2024 appropriations.

Make no mistake, the bipartisan spending deal is a total sham. No amount of smoke and mirrors can hide the swamp's irresponsible, wasteful, and reckless spending agenda. While leaders from both parties claimed that the top-line spending level matches the \$1.59 trillion statutory cap set last year by the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the true total of programmatic spending is actually more than \$68 billion higher at \$1.658 trillion.

The statutory FRA cap, which, in my opinion, is already far too high, should have been the ceiling, not the floor, to hide or excuse this excessive spending. That is right: New year, same uniparty.

I vehemently oppose this sham bipartisan spending deal, and I am deeply disappointed that, yet again, at President Biden and Senate Leader SCHUMER's pleasure, critical leverage and key policy wins were abandoned.

My constituents didn't send me here to greenlight more of the swamp's spending as usual, exacerbate our national debt, or concede in conservative policy battles. They sent me here to change the course of Congress, to change the status quo.

I am fighting to do just that, but, if we are ever going to save our Nation, economy, and future generations from financial failure, we need more Republicans in both Chambers to join the fight. After all, we should be far more afraid of fiscal calamity than fighting the swamp.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to take our rapidly approaching financial ruin seriously by rejecting this irresponsible deal. Let's champion fiscal responsibility and return fiscal sanity to Washington by cutting spending, not carrying on business as usual while our fiscal House falls into a sinkhole of skyrocketing debt.

#### IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, now that we are back in Washington and starting some very serious conversations, I wanted to make clear where I stand on

an issue that I think most Americans, certainly most Members of Congress, believe is of urgent importance, and that is on the issue of immigration.

Immigration is now part of a larger negotiation that is going on, largely in the Senate, in addition to funding things like Ukraine, the Middle East conflict, and support in Taiwan. It is all in the mix.

Truth be told, since becoming a Member of Congress, I have never seen an issue more politicized than the issue of immigration. I think most of us, regardless of party, would agree that our immigration system is broken. It is not working for anyone—not the communities struggling to handle thousands of migrants; not our own economy, where we actually really need immigration; not the migrants themselves who are walking, in some cases, a thousand miles with their children to get to our border.

Both Democrats and Republicans share blame on this situation. We have had chances to reform this totally broken system in the past, but we have fallen short over and over again.

It does not have to be this way. I think, as rational, practical people, we should be able to come together and have a conversation about how we think this most American of issues should go, and as we do, we should follow what I consider the five core pillars to address this comprehensive crisis:

Number one, immigration in the United States should be based on the needs of the U.S. economy and the employers in the United States. Right now, every single employer that I know is looking for legal labor, and our economy can take new people coming into the workforce.

We should key our immigration numbers to the economy. Immigration numbers, visa numbers, are set by Congress—not by the White House, but by this body that I sit in, so if we want to raise the caps of legally allowed visas in the United States, that is on this body.

Number two, we have to change the system so that immigrants can come to this country by applying from their home countries. Have it be faster to get a legal work permit from your home country rather than walking, as I said, a thousand miles, making this dangerous journey to the border, or paying a whole bunch of unsavory people to get themselves over.

This is how it works on the northern border. I am from Michigan. You don't have border agents making decisions about whether someone gets to come into our country or not. They are checking the visas and the paperwork, stamping approved or unapproved and moving them through.

Number three, we need to invest in border security. Every country in the world deserves to know who is coming inside their borders.

I am a national security person. I spent my entire life trying to make sure our homeland was protected.

Every country has the right to know who is coming in. We need strong border security, and there are plenty of bipartisan proposals, including ones that I have presented, that can accomplish this.

Number four, we have to address the root causes of migration. Why are people risking their life to come to this country in the first place? It is poverty. It is violence back home. We have got to help those countries improve their situation, so we don't have such a flood of people feeling desperate to come to the United States. That is in their interests and ours.

Lastly, we need to live up to our values and morals as a country of immigrants, as a Nation of immigrants. I am guessing everyone in this room right now owes their lives in America to an immigration story, and we always should remain a place where people fearing persecution and death can come to for a chance to live.

I am willing to talk with anyone, Democrat or Republican, who wants to uphold commonsense conversations. I am willing to make progress, even if it is not popular, even if plans are imperfect. The truth is there are a lot of bipartisan ideas out there. They are just not sexy. They just don't get attention.

I am the cosponsor of something called the Dignity Act. It is a comprehensive reform plan. It is bipartisan. It was put together by folks in the Problem Solvers Caucus. To be honest about those future negotiations, we have to be honest that our immigration system is broken because of that partisanship, because all sides—Members of the House, the Senate, and the White House—are pointing fingers at everybody else.

There is a way out of this mess. It is the same thing our constituents do every day. They go to work. They have negotiations. Not everyone is happy, but they come up with a compromise.

As we kick off 2024, we know that this issue of immigration is on the top of all of our news feeds. It is being discussed in the Senate right now. I am willing to work with anyone who is actually focused on getting something done.

---

CONGRATULATING SUNY CORTLAND FOOTBALL TEAM ON FIRST-EVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARBARINO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor SUNY Cortland's football team for winning its first-ever national championship.

In a thrilling showdown at the 50th Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Red Dragons defeated the previously unbeaten and top-ranked North Central College by a narrow 38-37.

This victory marks the culmination of a phenomenal season where

Cortland's junior quarterback, Zac Boyes, showcased brilliance with 349 passing yards, 5 touchdowns, and 123 rushing yards.

□ 1045

The championship game, a showcase of two prolific offenses, unfolded in dramatic fashion, featuring three lead changes and three ties. In the closing moments, North Central sought a comeback, narrowing Cortland's lead to 38-37, with a 60-yard pass, but the Red Dragons held firm, stopping the two-point conversion and securing the win.

This triumph is not just a win for the team, but a testament to their resilience defeating a program that held a 29-game winning streak and defending the Division III national champions. Cortland's journey through the playoffs, with five consecutive wins against top 25 opponents, underscores their exceptional prowess.

As we applaud this victory, we also acknowledge the broader significance. This is the first New York school to reach the Division III title game since 1991.

In a season that saw them ranked 11th nationally, the Red Dragons soared to unparalleled heights, achieving their 26th team title overall. Today let's recognize and celebrate their hard work, dedication, and indomitable spirit that defines champions.

On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District, congratulations to SUNY Cortland on this historic and well-deserved win. May their success inspire future generations to strive for greatness on and off the field.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JIM DUNHAM

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a cherished member of our community, Mr. Jim Dunham of Kinderhook, New York.

Jim passed away on December 18, leaving behind a legacy of selfless dedication and a profound impact on the Kinderhook community. Jim's early life was shaped by the support of his family, and he went on to become an exemplary son, husband, father, and grandfather.

A devoted public servant, Jim volunteered for over five decades, ultimately serving as a village trustee and mayor. This summer, Dunham Park in the village square was named in his honor, recognizing his extensive service and lasting impact.

Jim's commitment to family, community, and public service extended to his roles in the Kinderhook Reformed Church, as a volunteer firefighter, and a Little League coach. An avid baseball fan, he found joy rooting for Cleveland and his hometown Kinderhook Robins.

In addition to his civic contributions, Jim earned a B.S. in civil engineering and had a 35-year distinguished career with the New York State Department of Transportation.

Today, as we express our condolences to Jim's family and friends, let us also

celebrate the life of a man whose humility, sincerity, kindness, and love for his community were the hallmarks of his character.

May Jim rest in peace, and may his memory inspire us all to serve.

#### INVESTING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. VASQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly announce that two of my communities in various parts of southern New Mexico will receive \$63 million in Federal investment to construct two medium- and heavy-duty commercial electric truck charging stations along Interstate 10 thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Lordsburg, in Hidalgo County, is home to only 2,300 people, and Vado in Dona Ana County is home to nearly 3,000 people.

This type of investment in these small, rural communities will spur economic development in these places for generations to come.

While we talk about these new electrification opportunities across the country, I am always asked: What jobs will this bring to the rural communities like mine?

This \$63 million award coming to New Mexico is the largest award in the United States and will go a long way to not just helping us transition to cleaner trucks and transportation but it will also boost economic development in rural communities.

Larger metropolitan areas continuously benefit from Federal investments, so this is why I fight to make sure that towns like Lordsburg and Vado are not being left behind by the decisions here in Washington.

The construction of these new charging centers will provide critical resting places along the I-10 corridor, a route that facilitates the transportation of millions of dollars in goods from the Ports of Los Angeles through New Mexico and through the rest of the country.

Along with this project comes new jobs and other investments like lodging, food services, and fuel stations that will serve the truckers who are utilizing the new center.

This critical funding is also helping grow American manufacturing, including in my district in New Mexico. In fact, in September, Hota, an auto parts maker, announced that they are opening a factory in Santa Teresa that will support 350 new jobs building these parts for electric vehicles.

I am committed to growing the rural economies in my district, whether that is supporting new manufacturing jobs or establishing new charging hubs along I-10. This shows that we can work together in a bipartisan way and deliver for the American people and for our rural communities.

#### SECRETARY MAYORKAS HAS FAILED TO UPHOLD HIS OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, Americans have had enough.

I rise today to call upon the House of Representatives to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and for the Senate to convict and remove him from the office he has failed to uphold.

Since being sworn in 3 years ago, Secretary Mayorkas has neglected his duty to secure the border; he has abused his power to exercise proper discretion over America's immigration process by refusing to enforce Federal laws, and he has breached the public trust and put the safety of the American people at risk.

Secretary Mayorkas is the worst Cabinet-level official in our Nation's proud history, and he has subverted our Nation's laws so many times. With respect to his impeachment and removal, I want to focus on two main points: the reassigning of Border Patrol agents away from the border, and the lack of vetting of migrants paroled into our interior.

First, Secretary Mayorkas continues to require Border Patrol agents be taken off of the border and, instead, sit behind a desk at migrant processing centers to process more and more dubious asylum claims and facilitate migrants' parole into our Nation's interior.

This is an abuse of power by the Secretary to exercise proper discretion over our Nation's immigration process. The diversion of border agents away from the border leaves the already mostly unsecured border even more vulnerable to cartels looking to illegally traffic people and narcotics, including fentanyl.

Fentanyl has been coming through legal and illegal border crossings, overwhelming our law enforcement. The open and agentless border can be tied to the death of the 73,000 Americans who were poisoned by fentanyl in 2022 alone. In redirecting personnel away from the border, leaving it wide open for tens of miles in many places, Secretary Mayorkas has neglected his duty to secure America's southern border and to keep our communities safe.

Second, Mr. Speaker, Secretary Mayorkas' scheme of paroling hundreds of thousands of migrants into the United States who have not and cannot be properly vetted undermines our national security efforts to keep America safe in a post-9/11 world.

In just 2 years in office, Secretary Mayorkas paroled and allowed 541,000 migrants to enter the United States through immigration parole authority, which gives Federal officials the power to authorize the entry of foreigners who lack visas. Moreover, while this number on its own is objectionable, the impeachmentworthy part is Secretary Mayorkas has allowed these individ-

uals into our communities without a proper understanding of their criminal backgrounds or national security intentions.

According to the not-so-conservative New York Times, more than 24,000 Chinese citizens illegally crossed into the United States in a 1-year time period under Secretary Mayorkas. Mayorkas then paroled a large fraction of them into the United States without any proper vetting whatsoever.

This has brought us to this week, where the Homeland Security Committee opened impeachment proceedings against Secretary Mayorkas. This was not an easy decision, but it is necessary for the well-being of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans' calls for the Secretary's impeachment and removal from office comes after exhausting all other efforts.

In May of last year, the House took action and passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which, among other things, would counter Secretary Mayorkas' alternative immigration scheme by reinstating the remain in Mexico policy and requiring the construction of more physical barriers at the border. Yet, this bill languishes on Senator SCHUMER's desk.

Despite the inaction from our Senate counterparts, we House Republicans have hosted multiple public hearings to show the American people the failures of Secretary Mayorkas' alternative immigration process with the hope that he would change course. These hearings have been complemented by numerous trips to the southern border to allow Members of this Chamber to hear directly from border communities, local officials, law enforcement, and families harmed by his crisis. House Republicans understand Americans want a more secure border, as is demonstrated by the staggering 68 percent disapproval rating on the President's handling of immigration.

Mr. Speaker, to summarize, Secretary Mayorkas has, one, neglected his duty to secure the border; two, abused his power to exercise proper discretion over America's immigration process; and, three, breached the public trust.

Secretary Mayorkas is intentionally circumventing the immigration and border security laws passed by multiple Congresses and signed by previous Presidents of both parties, and I believe he holds partial responsibility for thousands of our children dying from fentanyl poisoning. The majority of Americans want accountability.

#### FIRST-YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the first year of the 118th Congress, my focus was clear: ensuring the people of eastern North

Carolina were seen and heard in Washington, D.C., and not forgotten.

It was essential to champion healthcare, and I am glad North Carolina expanded Medicaid, securing over 3,000 jobs, making healthcare accessible for 95,000 residents, and saving rural hospitals in eastern North Carolina.

I voted to support our community health centers and twice to keep the government open, realizing the devastating impact a shutdown would have on eastern North Carolinians.

I am proud to say our office resolved over 970 constituent cases. We held over 1,000 meetings, returned over \$3 million to families, distributed over \$260 million in grants, and submitted more than \$16 million in community project funding. I crisscrossed our district and visited all 19 counties multiple times hearing from constituents.

We are working to create a brighter future in eastern North Carolina by empowering young leaders, and that is why I visited schools in all 19 counties to talk to students as a part of our Live the Dream Down East Tour.

We honored Sarah Keys Evans, an American hero, highlighted the aviation sciences program at Elizabeth City State University, and Lady Pirate Marissa, the first live female pirate mascot at East Carolina University.

We stood staunchly with our farmers, servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we must secure the border, so it was essential to travel to the southern border and speak with Border Patrol agents within my first 4 months of office to hear from those on the ground about their challenges.

I made it clear that we must always stand with our ally, Israel, in their fight against Hamas terrorists and keep our F-15 Strike Eagles at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

I have proudly sponsored 17 bills, 12 bipartisan, and cosponsored over 350 bipartisan pieces of legislation.

As we now forge ahead in 2024, I will continue to provide hope and keep the American Dream within reach for Eastern North Carolinians.

#### HONORING NASSAU COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is trivia time.

What year was it, “Sanford and Son” and “All in the Family” were the most popular shows on television; the top songs on the radio were “The Way We Were” and “The Loco-Motion;” the top movie in America that year was “Blazing Saddles;” and Gerald Ford was our brand-new President?

What year was it?

It was 1974, 50 years ago.

It was that same year a group of forward-looking and caring citizens in Nassau County, Florida, who met, in-

cluding George Crady, Elsie Harper, Edgar Lindsay, and Buddy Jacobs fresh out of law school. They met to establish the Nassau County Council on Aging.

Today, I rise to honor Nassau County Council on Aging for turning 50 years old and for 50 years of service to Nassau’s wise and seasoned residents. I think we can all agree they don’t look a day over 29.

From its inception, the council has selflessly met the needs of our senior citizens, providing meal delivery, household chores, and transportation needs in its early days.

Then it launched its core mission of remaining steadfast to enhance the lives of older adults with compassionate care. Today, they are led by a young and dynamic CEO, Janice Ancrum. Under her leadership, the council has thrived. It has a brand-new headquarters, and it is poised for future greatness.

Soon, there will be a fancy black-tie gala in Nassau County to celebrate—hopefully, there will be cake—the selfless thousands of volunteers who have participated to serve the tens of thousands of residents who have taken advantage of the Nassau Council on Aging’s services.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this signature milestone for the Nassau Council on Aging. I thank everybody who has been involved. The future of Nassau County citizens is, indeed, bright.

□ 1100

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN’S POLICIES CAUSING CHAOS AT BORDER

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, can you guess how many times President Biden visited the border in 2023 compared to how many days he went on vacation? One versus 138. Maybe if President Biden spent more time at the border, he would understand the chaos his policies have created.

This is my first term in Congress, and I just returned from my second visit to the border. I went with Speaker JOHNSON and a record number of other Members to see firsthand just what is going on. What I saw was shocking.

Illegal immigrants simply walk across what was formerly known as our border. They are walking across assisted by Border Patrol and then chauffeured to the processing center where they have been given free bus and airline tickets to cities all across America.

Mr. Speaker, our porous border is open. It is an open wound being taken advantage of by bad actors, criminals, traffickers, cartels, and even terrorists from around the world. The massive caravans will not stop until we secure our border. No, taxpayer funding shouldn’t be going forward to continue our same old policies of processing more immigrants around our Nation.

This administration can deflect, deny, and detract, but President Biden

cannot escape the fact there is an invasion going on at our southern border, the root cause of which is his senseless and reckless open border policies.

In typical fashion, President Biden has attempted to shift the blame for the influx of illegal immigration to one of his favorite political targets—House Republicans. Mr. Speaker, here is the truth: It was President Biden who ended the remain in Mexico policy. It was President Biden who ended title 42. It was President Biden who stopped the construction of the border wall. It was President Biden who instructed Border Patrol to cut the razor wire to allow more to come in.

Furthermore, as a result of his policies, just recently in New York City, students—can you believe this?—are being kicked out of a school in order to house illegal immigrants who have willingly broken our laws, and our taxpayer dollars are funding every bit of it.

Our southern border remains open for one reason and one reason alone: because President Biden refuses to shut it down.

One question, Mr. Speaker: Why? Why is President Biden keeping our border open? Why?

It is time for President Biden to stop turning his back on America and its citizens, the hardworking and taxpaying men and women who make this country great, and secure our border.

#### COMMEMORATING KANSAS CITY CHIEFS’ FIRST SUPER BOWL VICTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand before you with immense pride and a spirited “Go Chiefs” to introduce a resolution commemorating a historic moment in sports history.

We gather to recognize the 54th anniversary of the Kansas City Chiefs’ first Super Bowl victory, a day that remains etched in the hearts of many.

On January 11, 1970, the Chiefs triumphed over the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV with a score of 23-7, with the late, great Lenny Dawson, pictured here, leading the way.

By the way, you may not know this, Mr. Speaker, but the term “Super Bowl” was coined by the Chief’s owner, Lamar Hunt, who saw his kids playing with a Superball. He thought, hey, that sounds like a great name for a contest, so he named it the “Super Bowl,” and the rest is history.

This wasn’t just any Super Bowl. It was a historic moment as it was the final game played at an American Football League franchise before the AFL-NFL merger.

This resolution is a tribute to that victory, a celebration of the team’s enduring legacy, and an acknowledgment of the joy and unity it brought to fans, our community, and our State.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. As we prepare to attend the Chiefs' playoff game this Saturday at Arrowhead, which could be the coldest NFL game since 2016, a balmy 5 degrees, I say, once again: Go Chiefs.

202ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SEAL OF MISSOURI

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 202nd anniversary of the adoption of the great seal of the State of Missouri, seen right here and above our very heads on the ceiling of this distinguished Chamber.

On January 11, 1822, the Missouri General Assembly adopted an act that established a symbol of the State of Missouri for the people of Missouri. This seal symbolizes the bravery, strength, and unity of the Show-Me State.

“Salus populi suprema lex esto,” our State motto, means: the welfare of the people shall be the supreme law. The great seal designer, William Wells, intended the motto to represent the very fabric of the State government.

The crescent Moon symbolizes Missouri at the time of the seal's creation—of small population and wealth but would increase soon, just like the crescent Moon.

The two bears represent the strength of our State.

There are 24 stars. Twenty-three of them represent the States that were already in existence when Missouri became the 24th.

The clouds surrounding the stars represent the rocky process that led to Missouri becoming a State.

The seal itself declares and emphasizes: “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.” Our founders knew that if we work together, we can accomplish great things for our State and our Nation.

CONGRATULATING JIM LEYLAND ON ELECTION TO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jim Leyland on his well-deserved election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Jim Leyland was the baseball manager of the Clinton Pilots for three seasons and is now the first member of the team to enter the museum in Cooperstown, New York.

During his time with the Pilots, Leyland took the team to the playoffs in 1973 with a 73–51 record. The Pilots impressively ended the '73 season in first place for the North Division. Leyland finished his three seasons managing the Pilots with a satisfying record of 189–189.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jim Leyland and the Clinton Pilots.

CONGRATULATING MADISON HERRING FOR EARNING GIRL SCOUTS' SILVER AWARD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Madison Her-

ring, a Girl Scout from Maquoketa, Iowa, who received the Girl Scouts' Silver Award.

Madison collaborated with Vestas American Wind Technology on her sustainability project to construct a gaga ball pit, a popular children's game.

After visiting a Vestas facility and learning about wind energy possibilities, she pitched her idea to the city manager, Josh Boldt, to create this recreational area with recycled materials from wind turbines. With design and material support from both Vestas and Canvus, as well as assistance from the Maquoketa Parks Department, Madison's idea was brought to life.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Madison on her award for making our community in Maquoketa better and more beautiful, and for her commitment to sustainability and our community.

RECOGNIZING SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF QUAD CITIES VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the seventh anniversary of the Quad City Veterans Outreach Center in Davenport, Iowa.

The Quad City Veterans Outreach Center was founded by Lola VanDeWalle in memory of her father, Emerson “Ted” Walters, who served in World War II.

The center is a nonprofit organization that provides various outreach services to veterans in the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

With them, I have handed out and delivered food to over a thousand veterans in line when they do their food drives. The center also helps with job placement, housing assistance, and veterans benefit counseling, and it provides monthly programming free of charge.

Most importantly, it provides our veterans a place to go where there is no judgment, no questions. I have seen remarkable recovery of veterans who are suffering from PTSD and have not had contact with their families.

They recently have acquired a building in Davenport that they will be turning into a housing center for homeless veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lola and the Quad City Veterans Outreach Center on their seventh anniversary. I thank them so much for all they do for our veterans and for their continued generosity.

CONGRATULATING NORTH SCOTT VOLLEYBALL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North Scott Volleyball team for winning their first State championship since 1985.

In true Cinderella story fashion, the Lancers beat out the top-ranked Clear Creek Amana in the semifinals.

For their final match, North Scott defeated Indianola 25–12 in set three to secure the State championship title.

What does this say about perseverance and tenacity?

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate North Scott Lancers for bringing the 4A State championship back to Eldridge.

Mr. Speaker, I offer best wishes and a very good retirement to my sister, Marianne, the oldest girl of the eight children, and I wish her a very happy birthday.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF COMMANDER DELBERT AUSTIN OLSON

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Commander Delbert Austin Olson.

Commander Olson was born on January 4, 1926, in Arthur, North Dakota. In 1943, while still in high school, Commander Olson enlisted in the Navy Reserves, listing Casselton, North Dakota, as his home.

Commander Olson was designated as a naval aviator in 1947. He served honorably in World War II, the Korean war, and then Vietnam.

Commander Olson's service was one of distinction. He was a member of the secret Observation Squadron 67, with his final mission declassified in 1998.

In existence for just 500 days, the Observation Squadron consisted of 12 9-man crews that flew along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and Cambodia. The purpose of the mission was to place sensors along the trail to monitor hostile movements and to listen in on conversations. This strategy was named “McNamara's Line” after Defense Secretary Robert McNamara. These missions were dangerous as they were required to fly close to the ground, making them prime targets.

On January 11, 1968, Commander Olson's plane went down. Commander Olson lost his life, along with his other crewmen and their mascot, a dog named “Skippy.”

In 1968, Commander Olson was first listed as missing in action and later changed to killed in action.

While ground conditions made recovery extremely dangerous, we are grateful that the U.S. military sent out multiple teams and that the remains of all the crew were recovered.

Commander Olson was laid to rest at the Arlington National Cemetery in 2003.

Commander Olson earned multiple awards for his service, including the Navy Commendation Medal with Valor, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign ribbon bar.

His name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall on The National Mall here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for all North Dakotans when I say that we are proud of Commander Olson's dedicated service to our Nation. By honoring him today, we ensure that Commander Olson has a permanent place in our country's history and that his memory will live on forever.

□ 1115

## CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, there is a proposal by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, often coupled with EPA as well on this topic, regarding corporate average fuel economy. This is a standard that was developed many years ago in order to increase the fuel efficiency of automobiles and trucks sold in America.

They have been cranking up that standard over the years, including a giant leap during the Obama era, where the manufacturers basically came into hearings and acquiesced to these really far-reaching standards they would have. This basically means the fleet of vehicles that the manufacturers would sell has to meet a certain level of average miles per gallon for cars and for light trucks.

Years ago, when it was first established, these were within reach, with work, with new technology, with the efforts modern manufacturers were making. During the Obama era they wanted to raise it from the ultimate goal of, I believe, 27 miles per gallon by X year to 55 miles per gallon by, I believe, 2025 at the time. Think about that a minute, 55 miles per gallon. This is before any of this electric car mess we are talking about right now being forced upon consumers.

How many cars do you know of today that get 55 miles per gallon that are not electric assist or electric in total, which gets, I guess, infinite miles per gallon in that sense? Now, the electricity still comes from somewhere, whether it is a coal plant, a natural gas plant, or a windmill that runs only when the wind blows or a solar plant that is taking up many hundreds of acres of land that only works when it is daylight or not cloudy or rainy or snow covering the solar panels, but I digress a bit.

Basically, during the Obama era they wanted to double it to 54. There are not a lot of cars that most people want to drive day in and day out that get 54, 55 miles per gallon. Indeed, right now, the fleet, when you average trucks and cars, at this moment is about 26.4 miles per gallon across the board. This is after some years of fuel efficiency since this first came out. Consumers have voted for what they want. They vote with their wallets, and that is where the average is right now.

Some folks want a high-mileage car for their commute or that is what they use every day, or what have you. Some folks want electric cars. They think they are being part of an ecological solution. However, a lot of Americans have shown already that they don't want to have electric cars forced upon them, the EVs. Indeed, we are seeing the manufacturers, after all this enthu-

siasm, the CEOs coming out and saying, Oh, it is the wave, it is the future; they are finding that after an initial jolt of people buying these vehicles, that market has more or less become saturated for this moment.

It has taken a lot of incentives, a lot of government money thrown around to help manufacturers put these out, and then giant incentives to buyers to buy these electric cars. Now we have the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration trying yet again to push even harder on these fuel standards to be what might take 58 miles per gallon to reach the goals that they set out.

They say "our" goals. Whose goals are these? This is government, this is not people's goals. You are going to be even availed less choice of vehicle to drive and use, and it has shown by sales. People are less inclined to want to buy an electric vehicle unless they are forced to. They like internal combustion engines.

What has not really been given a whole lot of credit is that in the last 30, 40, 50 years there has been an incremental gain. When electronic fuel injection really started hitting in the 1990s on more and more, and pretty much all vehicles, the efficiency jumped up as far as MPG; it improved. Emissions dramatically improved, as well. However, nobody really gives credit for that.

It is like, oh, no, that doesn't count because we have the California Air Resources Board in California just dreaming up a new regulation every month because that is what they do. They just grind them out. Other States follow along blindly and say, oh, let's be like California, the so-called progressive States. We find out that we are going to have fewer choices. We find out that we are going to have an issue where people can't buy what they need.

If a person needs an F-150, F-250 truck to do their job, it is not going to be solved by buying four Priuses, okay? Other people just like what they like. I personally am a car enthusiast. I like a Mustang with a V-8. It feels good, and it is fun to drive. I don't want that taken away from me or even the people who drive Camaros. They may not have as good a taste. I am kidding.

It is a deal where the car enthusiasts have this thing they like to do together, whether it is a rivalry, but it all works together, car shows, the whole thing. That is an important part of Americana, including politicians who like to ride in these cars in parades. Who doesn't like a 1972 Cadillac convertible to use in a parade? No, I am going to go back to using my Prius or acting like I am later on.

This corporate average fuel economy is going to take away choices that people want, that people can afford. This forced mandate of electric vehicles by NHTSA is basically what they are doing here. They are not even supposed to be using electric vehicles in calculating the corporate average fuel econ-

omy standard, yet they are sneaking that in there in this proposal. They take away consumer choice via this.

## STOP ILLICIT SUBSTANCES IN PRISONS

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5266, because the Federal prison system is in a crisis. Overdoses have skyrocketed 600 percent in prisons and jails, with 65 percent of inmates suffering from active substance abuse disorders.

The influx of fentanyl and contraband into the prisons through fentanyl-soaked mail and forged legal correspondence is a threat to inmates and our prison staff who risk exposure to tainted mail.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons deployed successful pilot programs at two Federal prisons which digitized all mail for 1 year. During the trial, 100 percent of fentanyl was intercepted, and no opioids or other drugs were introduced into the facilities via the mail.

I introduced H.R. 5266 with Representative CARTWRIGHT to ensure the safety of staff and inmates in custody. The bill calls for stringent inspection protocols to halt the flow of illicit substances. We must reverse the dangerous trend of drug consumption and trafficking in our prisons. I urge the House to embrace this legislation and pass it.

## 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 o'clock and 21 minutes 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. DESJARLAIS) at noon.

## PRAYER

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

Today, O Lord, may we hear Your voice. Inspire us not to harden our hearts, as we are so often inclined to do. Keep us from our quarreling when we find ourselves without answers, without direction. Save us from our anger when we are tested by demands and doubts and frustrated with misgivings and mistrust.

Though we test Your patience day after day, do not be angry with us nor abandon us even when we turn away from You.

Show us how to mend fences with one another, to turn disputes into discussions, to bridge impasses with compassion, and to set aside our irritation and yield to Your direction.

Today, O Lord, may we hear Your voice and set our will aside and obey Your own.

In Your merciful name we pray.  
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 North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina 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.

#### BIDEN MAKES FALSE CLAIMS

(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, Biden issued a statement in December falsely claiming job creation and reduced inflation as the American people have endured the highest inflation in 40 years. His war on energy independence has led to devastating fuel costs for cars and homes.

The reality is much different, as American families know. As described by Stephen Moore of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, also last month: "The economy is still creating jobs. . . . The bad news: It is government spending and debt that continue to finance the job creation. This year . . . the largest employers have been Federal, State, and local governments. . . ."

I am grateful that, last year, Republicans passed the largest deficit reduction package in American history, supporting job creation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists. It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11 attacks

across America imminent, as our country has been warned by the FBI.

#### COMMITTING TO AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is the new year. Congress is back in session; students are back in school; and parents are preparing for the year ahead. For many families, that means figuring out childcare.

I remember when I was a young mother running a small law firm with two other women. Two of us were working mothers. We worked with our kids literally on our hips, and we were lucky to be able to do that. This isn't the case for millions of parents, and it shouldn't have to be.

Fourteen million parents rely on childcare, and daycare, on average, costs \$11,000 per year. That is if parents can even find it.

It is often an impossible cycle. Parents can't find work if they can't secure childcare and can't pay for childcare without working, which is why we need to bring bills to the floor like the Child Care for Every Community Act. Under this bill, half of American families would pay no more than \$10 a day for childcare.

High-quality, accessible, and affordable childcare deserves our attention and commitment this year and every year because it is good for our economy, good for parents and children, and good for our future.

#### CALIFORNIA GUN LAW BLOCKED

(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, yet another California law forbidding residents of the State from carrying guns in most public areas has, thankfully, been blocked from taking effect, at least for now. This is good news for California, for other States that tend to copy our bad ideas, and for the constitutional right to bear arms.

This is not, however, Governor Newsom's first unconstitutional attack on our Second Amendment, and it is certainly not going to be his last. The law, SB 2, would increase California's requirements for trying to lawfully obtain a concealed carry permit and also ban carrying concealed weapons in most public areas.

Many county sheriff's offices throughout the State, including in northern California, opposed the law. Sutter and Yuba Counties made the decision to "exercise [their] common sense and discretion to ensure the law is not enforced in a way that would violate the rights of our citizens." Good on them.

As the Member of Congress representing Yuba and Sutter Counties, I

applaud their decision to stand up against the State's unconstitutional attack on the Second Amendment. Law-abiding concealed carry permit holders are not the problem. It is the criminals that are the problem. Start going after the bad guys and leave the good guys alone.

Mr. Speaker, other States that are watching this should not act like we do in California.

#### BURDEN OF RISING COSTS

(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 shed light on a pressing issue weighing heavily on residents of eastern North Carolina: the burden of high costs.

One constituent shared: "On a retired educator's budget and as a part-time employee, it is impossible to keep up with rising costs. I can't win for losing. I find myself borrowing from Peter to pay Paul."

Many are finding it extremely difficult to put food on the table. Another constituent shared: "Groceries are extremely expensive. We are just a family of two and have to budget so much of our paychecks for groceries."

In North Carolina, approximately 10 percent of the population is battling food insecurity. The need for good-paying jobs in eastern North Carolina is more critical now than ever.

I strongly encourage Congress to prioritize the Southeastern Crescent Economic Empowerment Act and broader access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PASTOR CLARENCE SEXTON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my dear, good friend, Pastor Clarence Sexton, who passed away on December 12 at the age of 75. He was very kind to me through some tough times and would often pray with me and congratulate me on tough wins and an occasional loss.

Pastor Sexton loved the Lord, and everything he did was to serve Him. He founded Crown College in 1991 to train students to serve Jesus Christ in local churches and all across our great world and to help spread the Gospel.

Everyone who met him knew of his faithfulness as well as his support for conservative ideals and family values, which is why he was given the opportunity to conduct the funeral of Robert Trump in 2020.

My dad always used to say that if preachers would just preach the Gospel, we would solve most of the world's problems. Pastor Sexton did preach the Gospel faithfully, without any agenda except to serve the Lord.

I offer my sincere condolences to his lovely wife, Evelyn, of 56 years, his two sons, Shannon and Matt, and everyone else who knew him and loved him. Ms. Evelyn said her husband loved people, his country, and, most of all, loved his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. She said he lived his life to advance God's kingdom on Earth.

We will certainly miss Pastor Sexton, but he is with the Lord now. We will never forget him.

On a personal note, I always remember that when I adopted my little girl, he came and prayed for us. He will be missed.

#### END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, after the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, Democrats, led by Speaker PELOSI and President Biden, established a program to provide eligible families \$120 per child over the summer for nutritious food.

I thank Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Deputy Under Secretary Stacy Dean for standing up the new summer EBT program.

Thirty-five States, including my own State, Massachusetts, five territories, and four Tribes signed up to participate in 2024, helping 21 million kids across the country.

I hope that the States that are working with the USDA to adopt programs in 2025 keep at it. Hungry kids are counting on them.

To the Republican Governors who rejected this program, like Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, who said it "does nothing to promote nutrition," or Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, who said, "I don't believe in welfare," oh my God, what the hell is wrong with these people, Mr. Speaker? I say to them: Shame on you for taking food from hungry kids.

Summer EBT will make a huge difference as we work to end hunger now.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE KENNETH SPANAGEL

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Parma Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Spanagel. Judge Spanagel served his community with distinction for 36 years as a municipal court judge.

After graduating from Northwestern University and Case Western Reserve School of Law, Judge Spanagel ran his own law office until 1988, when he was first elected as Parma's municipal court judge.

Over his three decades of service, Judge Spanagel has distinguished himself with his kind heart and commu-

nity outreach, and he has received multiple awards and honors. He leaves a legacy of fairness and justice in northeast Ohio.

On behalf of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I thank Judge Spanagel for his dedication to our community. We all wish him a happy retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the immense contributions of Korean Americans and in support of my resolution honoring Korean American Day.

It has been 121 years since the first Korean Americans arrived in the United States. Over that period of time, they changed our country's history, from business to music to even the foods we eat.

That is why I am proud that we are developing the first Korean-American national museum in the United States in the heart of Los Angeles' Koreatown. I am proud to have secured the first \$7 million that will help not only design it but get it off the ground.

In our communities, Korean soldiers who served alongside Americans in Vietnam were shut out for too long. With my colleagues, we secured veterans benefits for these heroes.

Now, I am pushing to name a local post office in honor of Korean American leader Dosan Ahn Chang Ho. This Korean American Day, let's celebrate these stories that are intertwined with the fabric of our Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING ANNETTE LEWIS ON HER RETIREMENT

(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 Annette Lewis of Total Action for Progress on her retirement after 35 years of service.

Annette began her career with TAP as a summer youth counselor and quickly rose to eventually become president of the organization with which she started.

Since TAP's inception, Annette, with the help of donors and volunteers, has improved countless lives in our community, serving several cities in the Sixth District of Virginia.

The organization focuses on helping the most vulnerable citizens and families achieve sustainable and equitable economic and personal independence through education, employment, affordable housing, and safe and healthy environments.

Because of her outstanding work, many folks in the Shenandoah Valley have been assisted by the organization and are now thriving both personally and financially.

I congratulate Annette Lewis on her many years of success, and I wish her a wonderful retirement.

□ 1215

#### ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA'S DEVASTATING TORNADOES

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 1-year anniversary of the devastating tornadoes of January 12, 2023, that struck Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, including my hometown of Selma, Alabama. In the year since the disaster, my team and I have been working diligently with our Federal, State, and local partners to coordinate an effort and a response to this disaster.

We are immensely grateful to President Biden for his expedited approval of Governor Ivey's disaster declaration and for granting my request to increase the Federal cost share for debris removal to 100 percent.

Following the storms, I hosted our first community conversation, so that our friends and neighbors could share their thoughts about our recovery. With that in mind, we were able to successfully secure a \$500,000 Federal planning grant from EDA to support long-term recovery efforts in Selma and Dallas County.

Working together, we have delivered more than \$22 million in FEMA and SBA, small business assistance, to Greene County, Hale County, Sumter County, and Dallas County. We also secured \$2 million from the Delta Regional Authority to repave Selma roads, and a \$500,000 CHOICE grant from HUD to build more affordable housing.

While there is so much more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the progress we have made, and I extend my sincere thanks to every individual, every agency that has helped us. We are on the road to recovery, and we will build back better because of your efforts.

#### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF TARVER MICHEL BRADDOCK

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, today my community is hurting. They are mourning the loss of Tarver Michel Braddock, a student athlete at Neville High School in Monroe, Louisiana, who left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him.

Tarver was known for his contagious positive attitude and his love of making people laugh. To know Tarver meant your life was made better just by being in his presence.

As I look up into the House gallery at the faces of his classmates who are

with us here today, Mr. Speaker, I see them. My heart aches with them, and our prayers will be with them as they face the coming days and weeks ahead. Please know that Tarver will never be forgotten, and today, we celebrate his legacy.

I pray his loved ones find comfort in knowing that Tarver's life will have a ripple effect for years to come.

As those who loved Tarver experience the pain of losing him, it is my prayer that the Lord will bless you and keep you, make His face to shine upon you, be gracious unto you, turn His countenance towards you, and give you peace.

#### HONORING ED SMITH

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a tireless champion for working people, a mentor, a dear friend, and a wonderful human being, Ed Smith, a native of southern Illinois and a lifelong supporter of workers.

Ed Smith made a difference and inspired so many, including myself. When I needed a place to stay during the Kerry-Edwards campaign in 2004, Ed and his wife, Betty, took me in. I will always remember Ed waiting up most evenings to have a beer and talk about the latest happenings on the campaign trail.

He loved politics, and he had the best instincts of anyone I have met. I have leaned on him for advice in every step of my career since.

When I got to Congress and before deciding to run, Ed was one of the very first people to be on board. You never forget the people that believe in you, especially when you have your own doubts.

Ed was special to so many people because he himself was a special person—always generous, smart, kind, dedicated, and full of wisdom.

Ed was like a father to me, and I will miss him so much.

Rest in power, my dear friend.

#### RECOGNITION OF CHARLETTTE DAVIS

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charlette Davis, a seventh grader from Sonoran Science Academy East.

Charlette is the winner of the Congressional App Challenge from Arizona's Sixth Congressional District for the app titled, "The Best Pets App." This app is used to assist people in selecting the most suitable pet for their preferences while providing insight into the most popular pets.

Charlette told me she designed this app with the intention of guiding peo-

ple towards a pet that aligns with their personality and lifestyle. As a dog owner myself of Louie, our Corgi, I know that having a well-suited pet is undeniably beneficial, offering companionship that can bring great joy to the whole family.

The Congressional App Challenge was established in 2013 and involves middle and high school students from all over the country. Charlette and her fellow winners from other districts have been featured on the House of Representatives website. I am impressed every day by the students in my district and the potential of our young people across the State.

Once again, congratulations, Charlette.

#### OPPOSITION TO THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON IDAHO ABORTION BAN

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Supreme Court's recent decision allowing Idaho's extreme abortion ban to go into effect.

The Idaho law will prevent women from accessing abortion even when the health of the mother is at risk. This dangerous decision rejects medical science, ignores established precedent, and imperils the rights and safety of women. I am terrified that women will die, and doctors will be treated like criminals.

Unfortunately, this isn't the only case before the High Court with grave implications for our reproductive healthcare. As the Supreme Court reviews the disastrous decision from the Fifth Circuit, restricting the availability of mifepristone, the future of abortion access nationwide now hangs in the balance.

Mr. Speaker, women across America will not accept this assault on our basic rights. We won't do it without a fight, and we will make our voices heard this year.

#### OPPOSITION TO IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, I joined Speaker JOHNSON and a group of my House Republican colleagues in Eagle Pass, Texas, where we witnessed firsthand the catastrophe that is ensuing at our southern border. Illegal immigrant encounters have reached an all-time high, and human trafficking and fentanyl smuggling are destroying our communities.

We heard from local law enforcement, ranchers, and community members about the catastrophic effects of this lawlessness happening in their

backyard, and we spoke with Customs and Border Patrol personnel, who shared the profound physical and emotional burden of working every day on the front lines of this crisis.

These agents are ready, willing, and able to secure our border, but are being prevented from doing so by the reckless immigration policies of this administration.

It is past time for us to secure our border, restore accountability, and bring back law and order in America.

#### FUND THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, we are living in a digital age, where access to high-speed, reliable internet is a necessity. It is no longer a luxury. I have heard from so many constituents in urban and rural communities about the detrimental effect that slow, spotty, or a nonexistent internet connection has on them, whether it is trouble logging on for virtual school days, telehealth appointments, a job interview, or anything else.

The Affordable Connectivity Program has allowed millions of Americans, including one in seven households in my district, to access broadband internet and, with it, expand educational and economic opportunities, more easily access telehealth, and connect with loved ones.

With 22.5 million Americans depending on this program, you would think that Congress would be acting to protect the funding for the ACP, but you would be wrong, because extremists in the GOP leadership have refused to bring a bill forward to extend the funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which runs out at the end of April.

We must get this funding done. It is far too important to every American.

#### SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CREDIT UNIONS

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank over 4,700 credit unions across the Nation, including 111 in my home State of Wisconsin, who are improving the financial well-being of Americans and their communities.

Starting this month, these credit unions are represented by a newly launched America's Credit Unions, which will serve 3.8 million Wisconsinites who are members of a credit union now. This new organization will be headquartered in the great State of Wisconsin. I congratulate them on this new endeavor.

I have recently introduced legislation to allow credit unions to provide

their members with an expanded offer of loan products. My bill, the Expanding Access to Lending Options Act, will increase the cap on the maturity of a loan from 15 to 20 years, allowing the flexibility to offer longer terms with lower monthly payments for consumers, while offering greater competition for lending products, including products for small business, student, and agricultural loans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this bipartisan bill to support Wisconsin credit unions and their members.

---

#### HONORING THE KING KAMEHA-MEHA III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REBUILDING CREWS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, among the cherished symbols of our Lahaina community burned and lost last August was the former King Kamehameha III Elementary School.

If the historic banyan tree represents the proud roots and history of this community, then King Kamehameha III, right next to it, represents its future. Since the 1880s, generations of Lahaina residents went to school here. Our commitment and promise to Lahaina keiki are that they and their children will one day go to King Kamehameha III Elementary again.

Last month, while many of us took off for the holidays, I visited construction crews on Maui working around the clock to build a temporary school that will give some stability to the 600 students and staff displaced by the fires.

This project is personal for every single person involved. Some went to school there. Others have family currently enrolled. Each person on the build site has a strong sense of “kuleana,” “responsibility” to get this done right. So committed to their mission, crews worked even on Christmas and New Year’s Day to keep on track.

To the Army Corps and the crew of Pono Aina Management who worked so hard over the holidays and continue to do so, mahalo, and I cannot wait to walk through the new school again.

---

#### HONORING ALAN C. YOVICH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Alan Yovich, who passed on September 14, 2023, at the age of 77.

Alan was born in Union City, Pennsylvania, and later on moved to Savannah, Georgia, with his wife. Promptly after his high school graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and proudly served our country as an E5 sergeant in Vietnam.

Alan then became a pharmacist, receiving his degree from the University

of Pittsburgh. Alan always enjoyed cars, boating, and travel. In his retirement, Alan was active with the Marine Corps League and served on the board of the Savannah Navy League Council of the United States. He was a role model for so many of the enlisted men and women.

He will be remembered by many, including his family; his patients; his friends; his best buddy, Dexter; and his community and Nation, which he served well.

---

□ 1230

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DONA ADELA OBREGON

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dona Adela Obregon who passed away on December 14.

Adela was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, where she met her husband and started a family. Eventually they made their way north in search of a better life for their children. Like many Mexican immigrants in my district, Adela was undocumented for several years. After two of her sons served in the U.S. Army, she applied for residency, and years later she became a citizen.

Whether it was fighting for better healthcare for seniors in our State capital, or as president of the Harrison Park Seniors Club where she organized folkloric dance groups, or legendary games of lotería and much more, Adela became a pillar of our community.

Throughout her life, Adela won many awards. Indeed, the list is far too long to mention in 1 minute, but they confirm what many in our community already know.

Adela was the definition of service and activism. We are grateful for her life, and my heart is with her family as they mourn her passing.

---

#### REFORMING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, Americans bought nearly 60 million guns between 2020 and 2022. It is not hard to understand why. People are scared. Each day brings news of another gun violence tragedy, and most don’t even make the headlines.

It is natural to think that we need guns to feel safe, but the way to stop gun violence is not with more guns. The risk of homicide is three times higher when there are guns in a home. Women who own handguns are 35 times more likely to commit suicide than those who don’t; men are eight times more likely.

To be clear, this isn’t about taking away guns from responsible gun own-

ers. We can live in a country with a healthy Second Amendment but where we don’t have multiple mass shootings or 68 gun suicides a day.

Democrats want reasonable solutions to get us there, and we stand ready to work with Republicans and gun owners on policies that will save lives.

A few commonsense steps are to ban high-capacity weapons of war, to expand background checks and red flag laws, to increase access to mental health care, and to hold gun manufacturers accountable.

This is the number one cause of death for American children, so let’s stop the denial. This crisis won’t end until we take decisive action. We can’t just shoot our way out of it.

---

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

---

#### NO RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE ACT

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4768) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for investment in projects that decrease reliance on Russia for agricultural commodities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4768

*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 “No Russian Agriculture Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. UNITED STATES ADVOCACY FOR INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS THAT DECREASE RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title XIV of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262n–262n–3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### SEC. 1405. ADVOCACY FOR INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS THAT DECREASE RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution (as defined in section 1701(c)(2)) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States, to the maximum extent practicable, to encourage the respective institution to—

“(1) support projects that decrease the reliance of countries on Russia for agricultural commodities, particularly fertilizer and grain;

“(2) ensure the resilience of global grain supplies; and

“(3) stimulate private investment in the projects.

“(b) *WAIVER AUTHORITY.*—The Secretary of the Treasury may waive subsection (a) with respect to a project upon notifying Congress that

the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.”

(b) REPEAL.—Section 1405 of such Act, as added by this section, is repealed effective on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date that is 30 days after the date the President reports to the Congress that the termination of such section 1405 is important to the national interest of the United States, with an explanation of the reasons therefor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4768, the No Russian Agriculture Act, introduced by the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, the former chair, MAXINE WATERS.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the global agricultural markets have been severely disrupted.

Post invasion, Russia withdrew from an agreement allowing Ukrainian grain shipments to pass through the Black Sea to international markets, thus eliminating a major competitor to Russian exports in the process.

As a result, Russian agricultural exports have remained robust. Additionally, Moscow-imposed export taxes and quotas have only further secured its own domestic food supply at the expense of the international community.

Nearly 2 years later, Moscow continues to diligently weaponize its agricultural trade to ensure dependence on Russian exports. Russia’s actions have not only impacted farmers in Ukraine and Europe but across America, as well. As with many things, the United States should never have to rely on foreign adversaries for our food supply.

Diversifying agricultural supplies is imperative for our economic growth and our national security. International financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF can play a critical role in providing financial and technical assistance to develop the agricultural sectors of poorer countries.

Ranking Member WATERS’ bill is a critical step in the right direction. It will deter Russia’s calculated acts by limiting the reliance of other countries on Russian agricultural commodities.

The voice, the vote, and the influence of the United States is a powerful mechanism at the international financial institutions that we are a part of, and it will allow the world to continue to fight Russia in its path of destruction and injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the committee, Ms. WATERS, for her leadership on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4768, the No Russian Agriculture Act. I thank Chairman MCHENRY for his support of my bill and his efforts to get it to the House floor. I certainly appreciate the ability to start the new year on this bipartisan note.

Over nearly 2 years, Russia’s unprovoked and criminal war against Ukraine—led by Russian President Vladimir Putin, his military, and his mercenaries—has inflicted tremendous harm to Ukraine’s people and infrastructure.

Among its many horrific acts, Russia has endeavored to strangle Ukraine’s economy by restricting the country’s exports, including those of its agricultural sector, which is critical to maintaining the world’s food supply.

Prior to the war, Ukraine was the world’s fourth largest corn exporting country and the fifth largest wheat exporting country. Annually, 400 million people were fed with Ukrainian food products with more than 50 nations receiving those goods. It is why Ukraine has been called the breadbasket of Europe.

Russia previously agreed to the Black Sea grain initiative, pledging to allow for Ukrainian commercial food and fertilizer exports from three Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea.

In July of last year, however, Russia withdrew from that initiative, causing global food prices to spike and hunger and pain around the world. Since then, Russia has attacked ports and grain stores in Ukraine, limiting the entrance of its agricultural products into the global market.

Today, Russia is not only trying to unjustly seize Ukrainian land, but it is also trying to sell its own grain and stolen Ukrainian grain into the world’s market to support its war efforts.

This bill will help to push back on Russia while also increasing grain supply resiliency in the face of the shocks that Russia is causing in the world’s agricultural markets. Specifically, H.R. 4768 would require the Treasury to press the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other multilateral development banks to fund projects that decrease the reliance that countries around the world have on Russian agricultural commodities, particularly fertilizer and grain.

Doing so will help to undercut the financing of Russia’s war and will help to improve global resiliency to the food supply disruptions that are caused by Russian President Putin.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4768, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

The brutality that Russia has unleashed upon the Ukrainian people is having profound effects in Ukraine and around the world. This includes significant cuts to global food supply and steep prices for countless foods and fertilizers.

This bill provides a novel way for the United States to further counter Russia; to stand with our fellow democracy, Ukraine; to reduce the world’s reliance on Russian food; and to undercut Putin’s use of food as a weapon. However, I would emphasize that this bill is not a substitute for providing additional funding for Ukraine so that it can stand up to Putin and his invasion. Congress must come together to stand behind Ukraine and to display U.S. strength in the face of injustice.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just reiterate that Ranking Member WATERS’ bill is a critical step in the right direction. We are trying to deter Russia’s calculated acts by limiting the reliance of other countries on Russia’s agricultural commodities.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4768, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### 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 o’clock and 42 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. BUCSHON) at 1 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.



[Roll No. 5]

AYES—211

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

NOES—202

|             |             |                |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Adams       | Casar       | Davis (NC)     |
| Aguilar     | Case        | Dean (PA)      |
| Allred      | Casten      | DeGette        |
| Amo         | Castor (FL) | DeLauro        |
| Auchincloss | Castro (TX) | DelBene        |
| Balint      | Cherifilus- | Deluzio        |
| Barragán    | McCormick   | DeSaulnier     |
| Beatty      | Chu         | Dingell        |
| Bera        | Clark (MA)  | Doggett        |
| Beyer       | Clarke (NY) | Escobar        |
| Bishop (GA) | Cleaver     | Eshoo          |
| Blumenauer  | Clyburn     | Espalliat      |
| Bonamici    | Cohen       | Evans          |
| Bowman      | Connolly    | Fletcher       |
| Boyle (PA)  | Correa      | Foster         |
| Brown       | Costa       | Foushee        |
| Brownley    | Courtney    | Frankel, Lois  |
| Budzinski   | Craig       | Frost          |
| Bush        | Crockett    | Gallego        |
| Caraveo     | Crow        | Garamendi      |
| Carbajal    | Cuellar     | Garcia (IL)    |
| Cárdenas    | Davids (KS) | Garcia (TX)    |
| Carson      | Davis (IL)  | Garcia, Robert |

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

H.R. 788

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023”.*

**SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON DONATIONS MADE PURSUANT TO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS A PARTY.**

(a) **LIMITATION ON REQUIRED DONATIONS.**—An official or agent of the Government may not enter into or enforce any settlement agreement on behalf of the United States directing or providing for a payment to any person or entity other than the United States, other than a payment that provides restitution for or otherwise directly remedies actual harm (including to the environment) directly and proximately caused by the party making the payment, or constitutes payment for services rendered in connection with the case.

(b) **PENALTY.**—Any official or agent of the Government who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to the same penalties that would apply in the case of a violation of section 3302 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subsections (a) and (b) apply only in the case of a settlement agreement entered on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—The term “settlement agreement” means a settlement agreement resolving a civil action or potential civil action.

**(e) REPORTS ON SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than at the end of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall submit electronically to the Congressional Budget Office a report on each settlement agreement entered into by that agency during that fiscal year that directs or provides for a payment to a person or entity other than the United States that is providing restitution for or otherwise directly remedies actual harm (including to the environment) directly and proximately caused by the party making the payment, or that constitutes payment for services rendered in connection with the case, which shall include the parties to each settlement agreement, the source of the settlement funds, and where and how such funds were and will be distributed.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.**—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection.

(3) **SUNSET.**—This subsection shall cease to be effective on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

**(f) ANNUAL AUDIT REQUIREMENT.**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than at the end of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Inspector General of each Federal agency shall submit a report on any settlement agreement entered into in violation of this section by that agency to—

(A) The Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) The Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.**—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, 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.

**ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1**

Roy

**NOT VOTING—18**

|                 |            |             |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| Blunt Rochester | Jeffries   | Rogers (KY) |
| Boebert         | Kelly (IL) | Scalise     |
| Buck            | Kim (NJ)   | Scanlon     |
| Carter (LA)     | Nunn (IA)  | Underwood   |
| Cartwright      | Pappas     | Wexton      |
| Hinson          | Phillips   | Wilson (FL) |

□ 1409

Mr. ROY changed his vote from “aye” to “present.”

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.

□ 1415

**STOP SETTLEMENT SLUSH FUNDS ACT OF 2023**

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 947, I call up the bill (H.R. 788) to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, 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 (Mr. NEWHOUSE). Pursuant to House Resolution 947, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-18 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the amendment printed in House Report 118-342, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOODEN), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 788.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act. This legislation seeks to repair a loophole that has been exploited by the executive branch agencies to redirect funds from Federal law enforcement settlements to outside, non-government entities.

Under this third-party settlement policy, agencies reach a settlement and include mandatory donation terms to externally divert these funds to third parties instead of either depositing them with the Treasury or exclusively using them to provide restitution to the victims.

Instead of depositing these settlements with the Treasury or compensating the victims, which should be the only appropriate use of these funds, agencies give sizable chunks to third parties diluting the share of the victims and even cutting out the Treasury completely.

Let me summarize this. Currently, when the Department of Justice reaches a settlement, oftentimes we don't know where it goes. More often than not, they give favorable terms to whoever they are settling with and say, if you divert XYZ dollars—in many cases millions—to a charity of our choosing, then we will call this quits, we will let you off, and you will get out of here.

What is happening, though, is, one, the people don't know where these settlements are going; two, Congress has no oversight of where this money is going and how it is spent; and, three, executive branch is going around Congress and spending dollars without going through the appropriations process. That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, what you will hear from the other side today is that this is an essential tool. I would like to go back and forth and give you examples of failures of this policy, Mr. Speaker.

To be fair, this is not just something that the Biden administration is guilty of. This has happened in prior Presidential administrations. Fortunately, under President Trump's administration, this policy was stopped temporarily. Unfortunately, Congress did not end it because it was stopped.

What we should have done when President Trump was President is ended this policy then. Unfortunately, here we are. The Biden administration has reactivated it, and millions of dollars that could have gone to victims or could have gone to the U.S. Treasury for this Congress to then appropriate are now going to special groups, often liberal groups that are pet projects of this administration. It is my goal to end this policy once and for all. It is bad business for the American people, it is wrong, and it needs to be stopped no matter who the President is.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 788, the so-called Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023.

This harmful legislation would prevent the Justice Department from negotiating settlements to include payments to third parties, primarily nonprofits and community-based organizations, that are best positioned to remedy harms to society at large that were caused by a corporate wrongdoer's violation of Federal environmental, labor, consumer, and financial protections.

This bill is nothing short of a gift to large corporations that would leave victims of their misconduct out in the cold.

No credible facts justify H.R. 788. This bill is based on the false premise that the Justice Department uses these types of settlements as illegitimate favors for an administration's political allies, with the bill's supporters describing such settlements as politically motivated slush funds.

This is an outlandish attack on a perfectly legal and constitutional type of remedy and is an argument that both the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service have thoroughly debunked.

Yet, House Republicans have spent countless hours and taxpayer dollars over several Congresses, going back at least a decade, chasing the conspiracy theory that the Justice Department is attempting to fund liberal activist groups and causes through negotiated settlements.

This included a multiyear investigation of the settlements that the Justice Department entered into with several big banks following the 2008 financial crisis, banks whose greedy appetite for mortgage-backed securities led to predatory lending practices that ultimately left millions of homeowners facing foreclosure. The big banks turned a blind eye to these practices, while they packaged mortgages that they knew were of questionable value

as securities and sold them to individual and institutional investors alike.

Although the big banks' illegal conduct led directly to the 2008 financial crisis, it was difficult, if not impossible, for individual borrowers or homeowners to hold them legally accountable for the harms they suffered from the bank's near implosion of the Nation's financial system.

In response, roughly 1 percent—a tiny fraction—of the settlement monies in suits brought by the government ultimately went to third-party organizations specializing in aiding private homeowners to obtain mortgage relief or other related community services—a perfectly reasonable way to help remedy the harm caused by these large financial institutions' irresponsible behavior.

Unsurprisingly, the House Republican investigation into these settlements produced not one shred of credible evidence to support their allegations that this represented some sort of improper action—a common result when it comes to the majority's oversight priorities it seems.

Nonetheless, the majority seeks to enact H.R. 788, a bill that purports to address a problem that does not exist while its proposed solution would create real negative consequences for the American public.

Were Congress to pass H.R. 788, it would reward corporate lawbreakers and further victimize the families and communities suffering from the consequences of corporate misconduct, including injuries from civil rights violations, environmental justice harms, or harms caused by fraudulent lending practices.

During the Rules Committee hearing earlier this week, my colleagues on the other side began to argue that these settlements are, in fact, a sweet deal for corporate lawbreakers at the expense of the taxpayer. Nothing could be further from reality.

First, let us not lose sight of the fact that the majority of settlement funds go to the U.S. Treasury.

Second, these settlements enable Federal agencies to efficiently resolve enforcement actions. In many of the kinds of cases from which these types of settlements arise, litigation is complex, expensive, and time consuming. It could take the government years to hold wrongdoers accountable if they are unable to reach a settlement.

Justice delayed is justice denied. These settlements save the taxpayers millions of dollars in litigation costs, boosting the value of the settlements to the U.S. Treasury beyond the listed dollar figure, while at the same time providing more immediate relief for victims of corporate lawbreaking.

H.R. 788 is simply a tired attempt by the majority to paint a constitutional veneer upon their unpopular antiregulatory agenda, which includes enacting legislation that will undermine critical financial, environmental,

public health, and safety protections for the American public.

This antiregulatory bill is a solution in search of a problem, designed to serve deep-pocketed corporate interests at the American people's expense.

It is a shame that House Republicans have chosen this unjustified and harmful bill as one of their first measures to bring to the floor in this new year. We could have started the new year by considering bipartisan legislation to address a real problem. At the same markup where the Judiciary Committee considered this bill, we also considered legislation that would have addressed bipartisan concerns about Federal civil asset forfeiture laws. That bill passed the committee by a 26-0 vote in favor, and I have no doubt we would have enjoyed strong bipartisan support on the floor.

Be that as it may, here we are, once again, at the precipice of a possible government shutdown, and House Republicans have chosen instead to waste time on H.R. 788, recycling an unnecessary bill that has no chance of passage in the Senate at a time when the House should be working expeditiously to ensure that the government stays open.

In short, rather than considering ill-conceived and harmful legislation, we ought to be devoting this first legislative week of the new year focused on serving the actual needs of the American people, which is the basic job that we were elected to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 788, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me read this to you. This is from Bob LeClair, head of the Hawaii Legal Aid Foundation and executive director of the Hawaii Justice Foundation: "I would be willing to have us build a statue [to Obama DOJ Associate Attorney General Tony West] and then we could bow down to this statue each day after we get our \$200,000."

Now, what is that about?

That is about one of these liberal groups getting money from the Justice Department in backroom settlements, and this is just one little quote that we found in an email that we were privy to, because at the end of the day, we don't even know about all these settlements.

I want to show you all this. Let's assume that everything my colleague said was true about these settlements and how great they are. Let's just assume for a second that we all agree that all these groups that are getting settlements are good groups and that this is a worthy cause and a worthy use of settlement.

Everything he just told you only relates to the 1.4 percent of where these settlements have gone because the rest of the 99 percent of settlement funds, we have no idea where they went. We don't even know what groups got them

because the DOJ is making these backroom deals.

One of the problems that I have with my friends across the aisle is saying that this is a gift to big business.

Mr. Speaker, what they are going for is to preserve the status quo. The status quo is giving breaks to big businesses.

Mr. Speaker, let me give you an example. Bank of America settled with the government in exchange for getting to walk away from these charges. They were allowed to pay some money to some of these liberal groups to help with banking needs, et cetera. If they are not forced to admit guilt and write a check to the U.S. Treasury and say we are guilty, then we are letting them get away. That is what Democrats want to do.

Democrats want a corporate violator to be able to come forward and say, hey, I made this big donation to this great group, and don't tell anyone that we actually pled, and we didn't have to admit guilt.

So the shreds of evidence are actually much greater than just shreds. We have so many instances of waste and corruption within this process, but, unfortunately, everything I am telling you and everything the gentleman is telling you only relates to 1.4 percent of it. We don't even know how bad the other 99 percent of it is.

It is Congress' job to appropriate funds; it is the Department of Justice's job to carry out justice, and that is that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it should come as no surprise that this administration, known for its reckless spending and misuse of congressionally appropriated money, has resumed the Obama-era practice of redirecting settlement funds away from the American people and to activist groups championing the radical left's projects.

□ 1430

Instead of going to those harmed by a defendant or placing such funds into the U.S. Treasury to serve the American people, vast sums of money, literally millions and tens of millions of dollars, are instead being directed to Democratic Party-aligned groups by Federal agencies, placing these newly acquired Federal funds outside of Congress' purview while also funding radical progressive agendas to boot.

These groups are then free to spend dollars on partisan priorities expressly denied by Congress or to fund their own sue-and-settle tactics against the Federal Government.

Simply put, these funds are weaponized against the American people and are yet another way Democrats are abusing their power. Twice, the Trump administration limited this practice, only to have each attempt reversed by Joe Biden.

Clearly, this is not a partisan abuse. It is coming from only one side. As a

Member of Congress, such actions are a blatant affront to our power of the purse and an effort to sidestep congressional oversight.

These slush fund activities deprive victims of the proper restitution our justice system promises.

H.R. 788 will end this unconstitutional, fraudulent, and immoral practice and provide Americans greater transparency in Federal settlement practices.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas and the gentlewoman from Wyoming are simply wrong as they describe the situation.

In all of these settlements, the Federal Government is given money, the bulk of the money. It doesn't go to a third-party group. A small fraction then goes to a small group to help make the victims of the fraud or the malfeasance somewhat whole, but the Federal Government gets the bulk of the funds in the first place.

It is a two-part payout. The Federal Government gets most of the funds, and then a third party helps some of the victims get a little part of the funds.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. FOUSHÉE).

Mrs. FOUSHÉE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this bill that undermines our ability to hold corporate wrongdoers accountable for unlawful conduct. This bill will prevent Federal agencies from entering into settlements that set aside funds for third parties, such as legal aid, housing, or financial counseling groups, or community assistance, settlements that provide some relief for victims of corporate misconduct.

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. My amendment would have provided for exceptions in the case that a settlement agreement pertains to the abuse of opioids, and that includes allegations of false claims against the United States related to a healthcare benefit program.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues join me in voting for this motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of this amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023.

This act is one step in the reform process to return spending power back

to the hands of Congress and ensure the proper use of every dollar that comes into the Treasury.

This bill would help to ensure the damages owed to victims of wrongdoing actually reach them rather than being used to support organizations that are friends of the executive branch, regardless of the party.

For those who don't know, settlement slush funds result when defendants settle with government agencies and, based on the terms of that settlement, direct the settlement proceeds to politically favored third parties instead of victims or the U.S. Treasury for use in correcting the actual wrongdoing.

In these cases, the victims often have little to no say in how the settlement will be structured and certainly have no redress when the government directs these monetary settlements elsewhere.

In the past, these types of settlements have been used to support the pet projects of prior administrations or the friends of prior administrations, and this is simply unacceptable.

Settlement funds should go to the victims and to remedy the actual harm created by these wrongdoers, not to help and support friends of the current administration—again, regardless of which party is in power.

Reform is needed to end this practice, and Congress should enact H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023, immediately because not only do we see that these funds are redirected in inappropriate ways but these settlements amount to a form of executive branch spending that has not been approved or even reviewed by Congress.

Accordingly, these settlement slush funds undermine congressional oversight, agency accountability, and the power of the purse. The responsibility of the power of the purse falls solely on Congress, and we should have the authority to direct the funding of these settlement agreements, not the executive branch's special interests.

Moreover, money from settlements with companies and individuals should benefit the harmed and remedy the underlying actual wrongdoing. Those funds should not be redirected to non-profits supporting the political agendas of the administration.

Let's stop this practice today. We can do it if we pass this bill. Let us pass the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the full committee and the manager of this presentation on the floor for dealing with H.R. 788.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to save lives. This baffles me when good work is being done and has been done over the years. No one has complained about misconduct of the recipients of the settle-

ment funds helping people who have been impacted negatively, sometimes with irreparable harm. They are assisted by a number of organizations making a difference.

Rather, we want to go forward with the corporate unaccountability act, making this an unreasonable attempt and unconstitutional attempt by Members on the other side to stop protecting victims and protect wrongdoers, which is a continuation of the dangerous behavior that has brought about this settlement.

What do Americans look to their Federal Government for? They look to the government to be their rock, their anchor in times of natural disasters, man-made and otherwise. They look to their government in times of war and peace for us to defend this Nation. They certainly look to make sure that in the normal comings and goings of their work with their families, their communities, that someone is looking out for them. That is what the settlement opportunities give to our various agencies.

This would allow the continued work, rather than the taking away of these dollars from legitimate groups that are helping to make life better. This weakens the Federal Government's ability to settle these issues. It takes away the idea of legal aid and legal aid organizations being able to help individuals without access to legal assistance. It helps develop community banking, financial institutions. It gives housing opportunities to those who have been taken advantage of.

We know that we are in a condition of toxic air and toxic contamination in our neighborhoods, and what does the ability to settle the disaster that has been created do? It tells those offenders this is how they make the community whole. This is how they save lives.

I know it well in Fifth Ward, Texas, and the surrounding areas. For a long time, a corporate offender contaminated the soil. They were growing plants and flowers, so whole neighborhoods had an epidemic of cancer. There were whole generations that lived around this particular toxic site, but it was only the Federal Government—the EPA, in particular—under the Biden administration that came in and got a handle on this and insisted that the health needs of these individuals, the cleanup needs of these individuals, was going to be taken care of.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, the ranking member, for yielding additional time.

This is not that s-word. I don't even want to say it because it means that it is something wrong. This is a good settlement opportunity that will help the public in fighting against bad actors. It will work on improving the criminal

justice system, bankruptcies, the environment, civil rights laws, the Fair Housing Act, and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

This is a pathway to disaster. That is what H.R. 788 is. Don't be fooled, Mr. Speaker. What we want to do is help the American people and eliminate H.R. 788, which is going to take away the tools to be able to help them.

Mr. Speaker, I started out by saying we want to save lives, and that is what we want to continue to do in these dastardly conditions that have happened all over the Nation. We want the Federal Government to be standing next to Americans and to be able to help them.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from several organizations that oppose H.R. 788.

JANUARY 8, 2024.

Re Oppose H.R. 788—The Prevention of Community Restoration Act.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We urge you to oppose H.R. 788, the so-called "Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023". The bill prohibits settlement agreements where the United States is a party from including certain "donations" to non-federal actors, primarily non-profits, educational, and community-based organizations.

Under existing laws, settlements from federal enforcement actions can include payments to third parties to advance programs that assist with recovery, benefits, and relief for communities harmed by lawbreakers, to the extent such payments further the objectives of the enforcement action. H.R. 788 would cut off any payments to third parties other than individualized restitution and other forms of direct payment for "actual harm." That restriction would handcuff federal enforcement officials by limiting the ability of federal enforcement officials to negotiate real relief for harms caused to the public by illegal conduct that is the subject of federal enforcement actions.

This bill would be a gift to lawbreakers at the expense of families and communities suffering from injuries that cannot be addressed by direct restitution because the bill would prevent federal agencies from negotiating forms of relief that would address injuries to the public that may be either non-quantifiable or indeterminate. These forms of relief are crucial when harm is difficult to monetize, such as damage to the environment, the collateral consequences to communities resulting from predatory lending by financial institutions, or unknown health outcomes to individuals resulting from chemical exposures in the workplace.

Under current law, the legitimacy and utility of federal enforcement settlements that include payments to third parties is clear, as long as such payments bear a nexus to the prosecutorial objectives of the agency. This bill would supplant the wisdom of officials at DOJ and federal agencies to craft appropriate remedies.

This bill is also just another example of Congressional overreach into executive branch decision-making. Not only does it disregard the needs of future Administrations, but the bill is sloppily drafted, failing to provide even a basic definition of the "donations" or payments in question.

Further, the bill assumes that the government is always going to be the party seeking to enforce the law, but this is a fallacy. Laws are often enforced against the government, and the government sometimes pays restitution to litigants. There is a role for third parties to ensure that settlements involving the government are followed and enforced.

Third parties that receive third-party payments include nonprofits, community organizations, or trusts or foundations that provide vital services in their communities. Members of Congress should applaud the good work of these organizations that serve the public good rather than vilify them.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 788.

Sincerely,

Yosef Robele & Brielle Green, Earthjustice, American Association of Justice, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), American Federation of Teachers, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Justice & Democracy, Center for Progressive Reform, Clean Water Action, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Environmental Working Group, Government Information Watch, Impact Fund, League of Conservation Voters, National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Consumers League, NRDC, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Public Justice, Union of Concerned Scientists, Waterkeeper Alliance.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 788. Don't take that tool away. Help the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023.

This bill would undermine our ability to hold corporate wrongdoers accountable for unlawful conduct.

H.R. 788, which otherwise could be called the "Corporate Unaccountability Act," is another unconscionable attempt by some extreme members on the other side of the aisle to protect corporate wrongdoers at the expense of their victims and a continuation of this majority's dangerous quest to prevent federal agencies from enforcing key protections.

H.R. 788 is yet another in a series of harmful bills that pose a direct threat to a broad range of critical protections Americans rely on in their daily lives by making it harder for federal agencies to implement, execute and enforce the laws passed by Congress.

These bills are part of the extreme MAGA Republican agenda, which seeks to render the federal government ineffective by any means necessary.

First, they proposed defunding and abolishing agencies that do not suit their radical views.

Then, they broadened their scope and put forward their Default on America Act, and later their extreme CR, which would have massively underfunded the federal government, hurting its ability to address our nation's most important priorities.

This week, the sabotage continues with legislation that puts corporate interests over communities by making it harder for agencies to hold corporations accountable for unlawful conduct and depriving victims of meaningful relief.

H.R. 788 would prohibit federal agencies from entering or enforcing legal settlement agreements that include payments to third parties in cases of corporate misconduct.

These third-party payments are important when the conduct at issue results in generalized harm, such as violations of public health, environmental or consumer protections.

Recipients are often nonprofit, educational and community-based organizations.

For example, the Department of Justice has reached settlement agreements in connection with the mortgage lending practices of major

banks that required payments to legal aid organizations, community development financial institutions and housing counseling groups.

Eliminating this practice, as H.R. 788 threatens to do, would materially weaken the federal government's ability to hold bad actors accountable for their unlawful conduct in a way that effectively addresses the societal injuries they have caused.

This extreme and misguided legislation has earned opposition from both the Biden Administration and a broad coalition of groups, has zero Democratic cosponsors and only advanced out of the House Judiciary Committee by a party-line vote.

According to President Biden's Statement of Administration Policy, H.R. 788 is unnecessary and "would have adverse effects on the Federal government's ability to enforce key laws protecting the public, including criminal, bankruptcy, environmental and civil rights laws such as the Fair Housing Act and the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act."

It should also be noted that the following groups who have come out in opposition of this irresponsible and dangerous bill:

American Association for Justice; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Teachers; Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Justice & Democracy; Center for Progressive Reform; Clean Water Action; Coalition for Sensible Safeguards; Earthjustice; Environmental Defense Fund; Environmental Law & Policy Center; Environmental Working Group; Government Information Watch; Impact Fund; League of Conservation Voters; National Association of Consumer Advocates; National Consumers League; NRDC; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Public Justice; Union of Concerned Scientists; and Waterkeeper Alliance.

Let me also highlight the fact that the Administration strongly opposes the House passage of H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023, because the legislation is unnecessary and would harm the public interest.

H.R. 788 would prohibit the Federal government from entering into settlement agreements that include payments directed to appropriate parties.

This legislation seeks to address a problem that does not exist—the Federal government does not create or use "slush funds."

When the Federal government settles a case with those who violate the law, it seeks to hold bad actors accountable, to appropriately remedy the harm they have caused, and to prevent the recurrence of those harms.

H.R. 788 would have adverse effects on the Federal government's ability to enforce key laws protecting the public, including criminal, bankruptcy, environmental, and civil rights laws such as the Fair Housing Act and the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act.

This bill would needlessly prohibit a widely respected and effective enforcement tool.

Specifically, it would block many agencies from including certain terms providing for payment to third parties in settlement agreements to which the United States is a party.

In the past, agencies have sometimes opted to work with entities that have violated regulatory requirements to agree to alternative forms of remediation.

These efforts have resulted in settlement agreements that include payments by those

entities to third parties to advance programs that assist with recovery, benefits, or relief for communities harmed by the wrongdoing addressed in the enforcement action.

In this way, H.R. 788 would thwart federal enforcement officials' ability to negotiate appropriate relief for harm caused to the public by parties that are the subject of the enforcement action.

The criticisms of third-party settlements are misplaced: they do not unduly undermine congressional appropriation power, and they must satisfy basic requirements to be used.

The Congressional Research Service has found settlement payments to non-federal actors are permissible remedies to the extent they bear a nexus to the prosecutorial objectives of the agency.

Moreover, developing guidelines on appropriate scope, purpose, and use of third-party payments appropriately lie with the executing agency, which has the benefit of expertise and experience.

In sum, this bill is counterproductive and would undermine law enforcement goals by reducing the availability of effective remedies to address injuries to individuals and communities caused by illegal conduct. We therefore urge you to oppose H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023.

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 788.

First of all, we should ask what good governance looks like. I know that in the House of Representatives today, perhaps we are not reflective of good governance, but good governance, I would say, should include transparency. It should also include, I think, fairness, rule of law, and defending the Constitution, to which we all have sworn an oath.

Article I, Section 9 in the Constitution says what? No money should be removed from the Treasury unless by consequence of appropriations by law. It is in the Constitution.

Let me share a story about when I was Secretary. It is called sue, settle, and seal. I am sure that my good friend, the gentleman from New York, is aware of it.

Let's say an administration writes a rule that is somewhat flawed. Let's say the administration invites a lawsuit from, let's say, the Center for Biological Diversity or other nonprofits. Let's say that department then decides to settle. On what conditions? Those conditions are met by the Department of Justice and not the Department of the Interior in this example. They are settled, and then the final act is that they seal them.

In one case, I asked the President of the United States, which would be President Trump, I said: Mr. President, I have serious concerns about the conditions of this settlement. I would like you to ask the Attorney General to allow the Secretary of the Interior to view those.

The President's answer was: I don't have the authority.

Then, I asked Congress: Mr. Speaker, you have the power of the purse by the

Constitution. I would like you, sir, to tell me the conditions of the settlement. Follow the money. Where did the money go?

His answer was: I don't have the authority.

When neither the President of the United States, the executive, nor the House of Representatives, which controls the purse, have the authority to look at sue, settle, and seal, something is wrong. That is what is called corruption.

All of this should attain to the same thing—transparency. Furthermore, whose money is it? I have heard today it is the Federal Government's money. It is not. The government does not have the money. It is the taxpayers'. It is the citizens of this great Nation whose money we allocate and, by Constitution, we appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of this bill, and I thank the great gentleman from Texas for bringing it forward.

□ 1445

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

My Republican friends seem to be under a misconception about the bill. They keep saying that it unconstitutionally removes money from the Treasury without appropriation. It does no such thing. It removes not a dime from the Treasury. None of this money is the government's money to start with.

The government sues some group or company for malfeasance, for damaging people. A settlement is reached. Under the terms of that settlement, the bulk of the money goes to the Treasury, and there it stays. A small proportion of that money goes to an organization that attempts to make somewhat whole the victims of the corporate malfeasance that caused the lawsuit in the first place, but no money is removed from the Treasury. On the contrary, money is placed into the Treasury, money from the corporate malefactor. Some money from the corporate malefactor, a small proportion, goes to an organization that tries to help make not whole but a little better the victims of the malfeasance by the corporation in the first place.

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

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

It is really not always the case that the government gets a cut of these settlements. Let me give one example. A recent and shocking example involves the Epstein scandal. JPMorgan Chase entered into a \$75 million settlement for its role facilitating Mr. Epstein's heinous practices.

It has been reported—of course, we don't know all the details here—that of the \$75 million settlement that they had in the Virgin Islands, \$30 million went to charity—we don't know which ones—\$25 million went to enhance Vir-

gin Islands infrastructure—I am sure that was all appropriately spent—and \$20 million went to attorneys' fees. None of it went to the U.S. Treasury. We now have reports of another settlement that they are working on with the Justice Department. We don't know where that went.

Again, I will bring you back to this graphic I have. Of all the settlement funds, no one in this Chamber, no one in this building, no Member of Congress knows where 98.6 percent of that money went.

Whatever you are hearing about how great these settlement slush funds are by the other side, they are only talking about what they think they know of the 1.4 percent, and what they think they know is what they are told because there is no accountability for these funds.

Unlike Federal funds, which Congress should be appropriating, where we hold organizations accountable—if an entity is receiving Federal dollars, they have to account for it—when these settlement slush funds go out to whatever organization they go to, we don't have any idea how they are being spent. No Member of Congress has any control over that money.

Mr. NADLER is right, it doesn't belong to the Federal Government, but when it is deposited into the Treasury instead of given to some aid group or whatever alleged great cause that the Justice Department is telling us exists, when it is deposited into the Treasury, then Congress gets to appropriate it because it is the people's money to handle as they see fit.

First of all, victims should be given restitution, not some slush fund that claims to do right by victims. Secondly, after the victims, the money, if we want to do right, if we want to go enhance the soils after a disaster in Congresswoman JACKSON's district, that is something that the executive branch should oversee with Federal dollars that this body appropriates. That is not something that we should outsource to some group at the direction of the executive branch.

I share my colleague's concerns about victims. I am disappointed that the other side would stand up for these big businesses that are actually getting great deals, unfair deals where they get to write some slush fund check to some group that we have no way of showing any kind of accountability over. These big businesses are walking away. It is shocking to me that the other side is standing up for a process that actually lets big offenders walk away with a sweet deal and a good little PR press release. It is a shame.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and oppose this practice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 788, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2023.

To be honest with you, I am amazed we are even debating this. The other side always takes the position they are for the little man. We are talking about giving money to people who have been harmed instead of letting the Federal Government keep it.

I also heard my colleague from Texas cite how government is the gold standard, how government provides clean air, clean water, clean streets. The very State that she and Representative GOODEN are from, Texas, is being overrun by illegals. Where is the government? Where is the government in stopping this illegal invasion on the border? It is for pure power. It is for re-election purposes. They are putting the American people at severe risk.

Let me give Congressman GOODEN some other examples of money that did not go to the victim. It went to a slush fund that was not revealed until people were asking about it. It is the example of the Obama-era EPA settlement with Volkswagen, where billions were diverted to projects Congress explicitly chose not to fund. It went to projects Congress didn't even fund.

We have to restore accountability and order. This bill will correct a horrible trend that is developing in government, and the people who support government now is less than 5 percent. They have lost trust in government.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. GOODEN bringing this bill up. It is a great bill, and I hope we can get it passed.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Before I close, I will be nice and give my friends across the aisle a little gift. I realize they think all these are great, so for the sake of being bipartisan, I am going to give an example of a bad actor that was a Republican with respect to these slush funds.

Back in 2005, then-United States Attorney Chris Christie required the pharmaceutical company Bristol Myers Squibb to donate to his law school alma mater, Seton Hall University. In exchange for not charging the drug-making giant with securities fraud, Christie's office would require it to fund a professorship at Seton Hall University Law School, Christie's alma mater.

Do we really think that is good policy?

It doesn't matter who is in the White House, what party is controlling the executive branch, this is a wrong policy. I hope this bill passes.

My colleague did say it is dead in the Senate. Let's just assume it is dead in the Senate. I pledge here before this entire body that if we have a Republican President someday, I will carry this bill forward, and I am willing to bet that someone across the aisle will join me because they won't like the conservative, far-right groups that a

Republican Justice Department is diverting slush funds to.

I hope that my colleagues will get on board now. If this bill should not make it to the President's desk, I will be right back here in a year, God willing, if a Republican is President, and I hope my colleagues will join me then.

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

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

I reiterate that H.R. 788 is a solution in search of a problem that if enacted would seriously hamstring the ability of Federal agencies to hold corporate wrongdoers accountable to the American public.

Given its potentially broad impact, H.R. 788 is opposed by a wide range of environmental, civil justice, labor, and consumer advocacy groups, including the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the American Federation of Teachers, Earthjustice, the Environmental Defense Fund, the League of Conservation Voters, the American Association for Justice, the National Association of Consumer Advocates, and the National Consumers League.

If the underlying practice, as my friends on the other side of the aisle say, were really such a gift to corporations, why has the Chamber of Commerce come out in favor of this bill?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 788, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is really bad business for the American people. These settlement slush funds are wrong no matter who is in power and, frankly, victims are being overlooked. Victims should be made whole, and any other kind of settlement the government wants to work out with wrongdoers should be a fine to the United States Treasury because whatever good cause we may agree or disagree about for restitution for larger groups of victims, perhaps, that is something this Congress should decide through the appropriations process.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in stopping this practice. We have seen abuses all the way from the Bush administration to the present, and it needs to stop.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 788, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118-342.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 13, after "submit" insert ", and make available on a publicly accessible website."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 947, the gen-

tleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 788.

I thank Representative GOODEN and the Judiciary Committee for crafting this crucial piece of legislation that will further our mission of holding the executive branch accountable.

The underlying bill is trying to fix an important issue. The Biden administration, or any administration for that matter, should not be directing settlement funds to support their radical social agendas by financing politically favored third-party entities or programs, sometimes completely unrelated to the original litigation. This practice is just wrong.

My amendment is simple. It creates transparency by requiring the annual violation audits conducted by the inspector generals in section 2(f) of this bill to be made publicly available on an accessible website. The American people deserve to know what their government is doing. If a government agency, in violation of law, is directing these settlement payments to support political agendas, the public should know.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I will not take 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, for all the reasons I have stated here, this is a terrible bill. This amendment makes it no worse. Therefore, I don't oppose it.

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am glad he does not oppose it because it is transparency on a bill that is meant to create transparency. I hope nobody opposes that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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

Mrs. FOUSHÉE. Mr. 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:

Mrs. Foushee of North Carolina moves to recommit the bill H.R. 788 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. FOUSHÉE is as follows:

Mrs. Foushee moves to recommit the bill H.R. 788 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 2, line 7, insert after "settlement agreement" the following: "(except as provided in subsection (g))".

Add at the end of the bill the following:

(g) EXCEPTION.—The provisions of this Act do not apply in the case of a settlement agreement that pertains to the abuse and diversion of prescription and synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, and that includes allegations of false claims against the United States related to a health care benefit program (as such term is defined in section 24 of title 18, United States Code).

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.

Mrs. FOUSHÉE. 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.

□ 1500

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO "WAIVER OF BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS"

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 947, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 947, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 38

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers" (88 Fed. Reg. 10619 (February 21, 2023)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.*

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

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES), and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 38.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge support for S.J. Res. 38, which was introduced by Senator RUBIO of Florida under the Congressional Review Act, which would invalidate the Federal Highway Administration's waiver of Buy America requirements for electric vehicle chargers.

The joint resolution is intended to ensure our Federal dollars support American-made products rather than products from foreign competitors like China.

In November of 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act created the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program, funding these programs at \$5 billion and \$2.5 billion, respectively.

The Federal Highway Administration was quick to move a waiver of Buy America requirements for EV chargers to help achieve the Biden administration's very progressive policy agenda, citing a public interest need.

There is no public interest need here, Mr. Speaker. Rather, there is just a desire for the administration to continue to push its woke agenda without fully considering the far-reaching ramifications.

It is not better for the climate as China is the number one emitter of greenhouse gas emissions around the world, and it is certainly not better for American competitiveness or security as China has already demonstrated it will utilize infrastructure footholds as it did with telecommunications and Huawei to undermine America's national security.

Simply put, a waiver undercuts domestic investments and risks empowering foreign nations. If the administration is going to continue to push for a massive transition to EVs, it should ensure and comply with the Buy America requirements.

This joint resolution received bipartisan support in the Senate, underscoring the support of Congress for ensuring that these dollars aren't funneled to China.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the joint resolution, I and reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in opposition to this resolution. On the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, we know that investing in infrastructure means jobs for American workers and economic growth.

Our goal is for taxpayer dollars to deliver returns at home, not just for those who travel on the roads and bridges but for the women and men who build our highway infrastructure.

The Biden administration shares that goal and has made Buy America one of the centerpieces of its infrastructure policy as we build out modern transportation systems that are cleaner, greener, safer, and more accessible.

There is strong bipartisan support in Congress for strengthening Buy America, rebuilding the U.S. industrial base, and creating jobs.

We saw the result of this broad support with the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or BIL, which included a new domestic content requirement for all Federal infrastructure spending.

Congress should be focused on supporting implementation of these new Buy America and domestic content requirements so we can maximize the return of our infrastructure investments and support job creation.

Instead, we are here today debating a resolution that would undercut the BIL and the administration's aim to bolster a domestic EV charger supply chain.

Federal highway and transit programs have had Buy America standards for decades. These standards have insured that any investment in U.S. infrastructure is also an investment in U.S. workers.

Since 1983, all manufactured products have been exempted from Buy America under the Federal highway programs.

Under this policy, EV chargers funded by the Federal Highway Administration would not have been required to be built in the U.S.

Further, there would have been no requirements for those chargers to include any domestic content beyond the iron and steel components.

If this policy had been applied to the \$7.5 billion for EV charging included in the BIL, we would have supported jobs overseas instead of jobs for U.S. workers. The Biden administration took action to make sure that would not happen.

First, it deemed that the general manufactured products Buy America waiver would no longer apply to EV chargers.

Further, the administration created a new, stronger standard for domestic content in EV chargers. Under the new policy, and for the first time, all federally funded EV chargers must be manufactured in the U.S.

The new policy also includes domestic content requirements for all components, not just those made of iron and steel.

The domestic content requirements ramp up over time to allow manufacturers to expand their capacity in the U.S.

The policy is working. Since 2021, private companies have announced \$500 million in investments across the country in EV charging manufacturing facilities, according to the Department of Energy. The investment is creating jobs in an emerging and growing industry.

This is exactly how Buy America policies are supposed to work. You cannot change course overnight on a 40-year-old policy. You need to give time to the private sector to prepare.

That is exactly what the administration is doing. Beginning on July 1 of this year, all federally funded EV chargers will be assembled in the U.S. and will have at least a 55 percent U.S. content—consistent with the Build America Buy America policy included in the BIL.

This approach is a win for U.S. workers, the private sector, and all Americans will benefit from a more sustainable transportation system.

While this new standard is technically called a waiver, it meets the industry's current needs with greater precision and has a much stronger Buy America policy than the broad waiver it replaces.

Unfortunately, this resolution before us today would erase that progress. If we repeal the new Biden administration approach, EV chargers would once again fall under the broad general manufactured products exemption from Buy America.

We would lose the requirement that all federally funded EV chargers be built in the U.S., we would lose the domestic content requirements for components not made from iron and steel, and we would create uncertainty for the private sector who have based their investments and job creation on the new Buy America standards.

Many Members of Congress share the same goal of the strong Buy America standards. Repealing a Buy America waiver may sound great, but this resolution would actually weaken Buy America.

Some may argue the Biden administration could just repeal the general manufactured products waiver. In fact, the administration is in the process of reconsidering that waiver as we are required under the BIL.

It is a complex process to reconsider a 40-year-old policy that applies to hundreds of products ranging from traffic cameras to the changeable message signs that we see every day on our highways.

That process is going to take time to get it right and should not be used as a rationale for weakening Buy America standards that exist today.

The reality is that this resolution would weaken Buy America at a time when we are making record investments in EV chargers.

In fact, this week I expect the Federal Highway Administration to announce hundreds of millions of dollars

in funding to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure in communities and along vital travel corridors.

EV charging investment is already paying dividends for communities and creating jobs. After launching the first federally funded EV charging station, Mike DeWine, the Governor of Ohio, said electric vehicles are the future of transportation, and we want drivers in Ohio to have access to this technology today.

This resolution before us today would slow down similar investments across the U.S. and create incoherent industrial policy.

It is not just my opinion. This resolution is opposed by the women and men of the United Steelworkers, the AFL-CIO, the United Auto Workers, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers—those whose jobs will actually be affected by this policy.

The United Steelworkers said this resolution is shortsighted and misguided and would undercut American manufacturing, both near and long term.

The resolution is also opposed by the Zero Emission Transportation Association and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association whose members include EV charger and component manufacturers.

In a letter of opposition, these associations said that if this resolution were enacted, it would cause major disruption of major infrastructure projects across the country.

We know infrastructure investment creates family-wage jobs for U.S. workers. The Biden administration's approach to Buy America delivers on that promise.

I urge my colleagues to support Buy America and to reject this resolution.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), the chairman of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in full disclosure to everybody here, I am a car dealer, and I rise today in opposition to the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration that waives the Buy America requirements for electric vehicle chargers built in the U.S.

This allows for federally funded electric charging stations to be built in the U.S. without the use of American steel, iron, manufactured products, and construction materials, ultimately sending billions of taxpayer dollars to China.

The \$7.5 billion investment builds on Biden's mission to force his inefficient, expensive, and unreliable green energy agenda onto the American people.

Now, I can tell you exactly what a government charging station is going to look like. It is going to have graffiti on it after the first week; it is going to be broken, and it will never be fixed. That is what it is going to look like.

Instead, we should allow competition, not government, to drive innovation. Let the private sector decide when and how much to invest in the charging infrastructure.

When taxpayer dollars are spent, they should be used to invest in American businesses and quality manufacturing, not to line the pockets of the CCP.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the CRA and stop the Biden administration's America last, China first policies. In God we trust.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 38 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

For months, my colleagues across the aisle have strongly opposed efforts to support clean energy jobs, fight climate change, and deliver investments in our future.

The proposed legislation is no different. This resolution undermines efforts to expand our Nation's electric grid by weakening Buy America requirements and reverting back to outdated manufacturing guidelines of 1983—40 years ago.

This will allow taxpayer dollars—including \$7.5 billion for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—to be spent in competitor nations like China instead of right here in the U.S. by American workers.

This legislation will harm American manufacturing jobs and communities and worsen our country's reliance on foreign supply chains.

Currently, 44 manufacturing facilities in the U.S. are dedicated to making EV charger components, amounting to a combined investment of \$313 million and approximately 6,000 manufacturing jobs. We must let American innovation and technology protect good-paying jobs.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I guess the question here is: Yes, is it going to be buy American or not?

Now, these components we are talking about are, indeed, being force-fed upon the public with the whole big push for electrifying vehicles.

As we are seeing, the market has softened dramatically since the additional influx of electric vehicles has been pushed forward.

We are seeing them sitting on dealers' lots, so chargers probably still need to be made to catch up, to a certain point.

We don't need to be in such a giant hurry that we have to instead send all this business to the manufacturing leaders in China. Let's let Americans catch up to this.

Indeed, since we are going to spend the money that is in the trough anyway from the measure I did not vote for—that many of us did not vote for—at least spend it on American jobs and

keep the spirit of producing electric vehicle chargers in the United States.

We can catch up and we will catch up, especially if these artificial mandates to force electric cars are relaxed somewhat.

□ 1515

Now, we see the Biden administration setting the goal of half a million chargers by the year 2030—and they say that their goal has been met so far—but a recent article says that they have only built one charger under this program in the last 2 years. There is a long way to go to get to half a million.

Instead of realizing that the goals are unworkable and let the rules be what they have been on keeping Buy America, Make It In America as the priority, they are force-feeding something in such a hurry that hasn't been thought out for a market that is dramatically softening after the initial wave of electric vehicles.

Instead, let Americans work and not favor the Chinese Communist Party and their workers.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is a mistake to listen to each other, and perhaps that is where we are right now.

I am hearing Mr. LARSEN present the legislation, which actually would repeal the Make It In America provisions into the future. I hear Mr. LARSEN talk about how the President's rule would actually waive the Buy America requirements that we put into the bipartisan infrastructure bill until July 1, 2024—5 months from now. That waiver is for 5 months going forward, at which time the Buy America rules that we put into the law are back in effect.

I hear my colleagues who are proposing this CR say something quite different, that somehow this CR would re-establish the Buy America provisions. Unfortunately, it doesn't. It is just the opposite. It would eliminate going on beyond July 1 the requirement to Buy America.

Maybe I am confused. I think not.

I do know that in our T&I Committee we spent a lot of time on Buy America, but the CR not only eliminates the current Federal regulation that delays until July 1 the implementation of the Buy America requirements; it goes beyond that. It also reinstates another provision, that is a 1983 waiver of the Buy America requirements.

So if indeed we want to help American industry, if we want to help American labor, and if we want to really build out the infrastructure necessary for electric vehicles, then we are going to need to have those charging stations. Those charging stations can be made in America if we stay with the current regulations that the administration has put forward, which only extends the Buy America waiver to July 1, 2024.

If I am wrong, I am wrong; it is not the first time in my life. Read carefully what we are doing here. It is not just taking on the Biden administration, which is great fun for some, it is really about are we going to have Make It In America requirements or not.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time. I rise in favor of S.J. Res. 38 to rescind the Biden administration's careless rule, which waives Buy America requirements for federally funded EV charging infrastructure projects.

Instead of abandoning this crackpot environmental project that has wasted billions of taxpayer dollars with no tangible benefit, the Biden administration is now doubling down, waiving the Buy America requirements in a desperate attempt to save the floundering EV industry.

Under this change, hard-earned taxpayer dollars will not only be wasted on useless charging infrastructure; no, now these funds will be squandered on useless charging infrastructure produced from foreign materials. Meanwhile, China continues to maintain an outsized hold on EV manufacturing and the critical materials required to construct them.

In other words, rather than invest in domestic energy resources and infrastructure, the Biden administration will prop up a failed industry whose entire existence is dependent upon government subsidies while increasing our reliance on China and other adversarial nations.

These actions will force millions of more Americans into a state of energy poverty and undermine American sovereignty all to kowtow before the climate gods.

Mr. Speaker, we must resist the Biden administration's forceful attempts to transition us to an electric future, whatever that means, while also advocating for solutions that empower America to restore its energy and manufacturing independence.

It is for these reasons that I sought to defund one of these useless EV programs through an amendment amid our appropriations process.

The fact is that this rule is wrong-headed at the wrong time and should not be implemented. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to this resolution. This resolution is nothing more than a stunt to obstruct the progress and the success of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Since the passage of this historic, once-in-a-generation investment in our Nation's infrastructure, we have seen strong economic growth and the creation of over 7 million good-paying American jobs.

The investments in this transformative legislation are reaching communities across our country, including communities in my district in Ventura County in California.

This week, the Biden administration announced the award of \$12 million for the construction of countywide electric vehicle charging centers, off-grid EV charging, and solar battery storage, as well as fast-charging ports.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I have seen firsthand the critical need to not only complete long overdue repairs to our Nation's infrastructure, but I have also seen the need to invest in clean energy and alternative fueling infrastructure in our country.

It takes bold action to tackle the climate crisis and reduce our carbon footprint, and the bipartisan infrastructure law does just that. The law is working to help communities plan their growth, connect our cities, and significantly improve safety along our roads, bridges, and rail systems. The law is working to grow our local, regional, and national economy. The law is working to accelerate the Biden administration's efforts to grow our Nation's middle class from the bottom up and the middle out.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is working for the American people, and this resolution is both bad for innovation, bad for job creation, and bad for America. That is why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "no."

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, he has not only waged a full-scale assault on American energy production but also on widely used gas-powered automobiles in order to cater to electric vehicles.

Despite EVs accounting for only 14 percent of all vehicles sold in 2022, this administration is proceeding forward with its goal to install 500,000 EV chargers by 2030.

While I oppose the continued push toward electrification, especially when America's baseload power is unable to keep pace with current demands, I was at least pleased that Congress put in place requirements for the IIJA that we "Buy American."

However, even this is now being ignored. The Federal Highway Administration is attempting to issue new waivers to bypass the mandate.

Instead of upholding the safeguards that are critical to protect taxpayer dollars, the administration decided to increase our country's reliance on bad actors like China, who already control the EV sector.

Communities are already struggling with electric transformer shortages. Our grid is in need of major upgrades, and the last thing we should do is empower our adversaries by issuing these waivers to build charging stations for

vehicles whose battery components primarily come from China.

I find it incredible that President Biden, who pushed so hard for this legislation, now wants to completely ignore a key provision that was added to safeguard our Nation from China and protect American jobs.

This is wrong.

I call upon the Federal Highway Administration to rescind this onerous rule, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution of disapproval.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, this pointless resolution would not only harm the advancement of EVs in the United States, but it would also allow more work to be offshored to other countries. I strongly oppose this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Among its many historic firsts, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invested \$7.5 billion in EV charging infrastructure through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program. I am proud of the work that we did on this landmark funding that stems from a bill that I introduced, the Clean Corridors Act, that was incorporated into the infrastructure bill. It is already helping create a network of EV chargers to help with the implementation of alternative fuels and the dynamic investment in electric vehicles and hydrogen-fueled cars.

On a side note, one of the grants was included in the district I represent between the local library district and the Federal Government to install chargers at public libraries.

Unfortunately, the resolution we are considering today would remove certainty from EV charger construction and put good-paying jobs here in the U.S. at risk in the long-term and in the short-term. The lack of certainty would also further delay construction deployment and hinder consumers' use of EVs.

With the transportation sector making up almost 30 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions, we must continue to do everything we can to transition to cleaner fuels and provide certainty for the industry to help combat climate change. We need available, reliable EV chargers to make that a reality considering the global implications.

I strongly oppose this bill and the partisan efforts to thwart EV deployment.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution.

Congress has the power to invalidate this bureaucratic rule that, simply put, would, once again, sell out the greatest strength of the American economy—our American workers.

The Build America, Buy America Act was bipartisan legislation that was included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

We must ensure that any infrastructure projects across America uses American-made and sourced products when they are available.

When the government spends American taxpayer money on an infrastructure project, it is common sense that the materials used in the project should be made in America.

We have the world's best workers making the best materials we need right here at home. This administration's radical push to end consumer choice and force electric vehicles upon us is completely wrong.

When Chinese- or Russian-made products and materials are used instead of those from America, it steals jobs from U.S. workers. This administration cannot be allowed to enable brutal dictators and thugs on the backs of American workers.

I urge all of my colleagues to support opposition of this radical rule from the Biden administration and support the American worker by voting for this resolution.

□ 1530

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S.J. Res. 38, which undermines the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to supercharge our transition to a clean-energy future and deploy more sustainable technologies.

With this resolution, extreme House Republicans are actively trying to hamper the progress made through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. They are threatening the burgeoning electric vehicle industry and harming our communities, our economy, and our planet.

It is clear we are in an infrastructure decade thanks to these transformative investments, yet House Republicans would rather try to undermine these efforts than acknowledge the clear benefits for communities across the Nation.

In fact, thanks to the IIJA, Henrico County, in my district, will receive over \$1.4 million to build 38 EV charging ports at 7 publicly accessible facilities throughout the community. Similar awards are going out to localities across the Nation.

House Republicans' solution would impede the growth of our EV industry across the country at a time when we must do more to address the climate crisis and as more Americans are switching to electric vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this im-

portant Congressional Review Act resolution, which prevents the Biden administration from lining the Chinese Communist Party's pockets in an effort to further its rush-to-green agenda.

Last Congress, my colleagues across the aisle and the Biden administration forced through massive spending packages with billions and billions of dollars for their Green New Deal agenda. In fact, the IIJA included \$7.5 billion for EV charging grant programs.

One of my colleagues' biggest arguments in support of their massive spending packages was that it was all in the name of bringing businesses and manufacturing back to America. How does waiving the Buy America requirement help American manufacturing? I will tell you that it doesn't. It benefits Chinese producers with lower wage and environmental standards and can undercut American industry.

China may be producing so-called clean energy technologies like EVs and solar panels, but it is being done with an engineering portfolio that increases emissions.

Forcing Americans into EVs as fast as possible is not going to reduce global emissions when the planet's largest emitters are enabled by our demand.

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington, the ranking member, for his leadership.

There is more work to be done, and I am glad our previous speaker, my colleague and friend from California, made it clear that this is for 5 months.

This is about getting more jobs and getting them done now. This is to emphasize that this new emphasis on EV infrastructure is going to help each and every one of my colleagues.

I am rising because I am so proud of the State of Texas. It is one of the few States that has announced American-made EV charger investments as of September 2023. We are already out front in the State of Texas, which is not often known for moving fast on these kinds of environmentally focused efforts. I thank Texas.

It is because of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department, United Steelworkers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Auto Workers, Siemens, and Alliance for American Manufacturing working together for these EV chargers to make sure that we will have the waiver for only 5 months. Then, all the chargers will be required to contain 55 percent domestic content on the cost of components.

The infrastructure in which EV chargers are housed is predominantly steel and iron, which are excluded from this waiver now.

The explanation is that this is to do better, to help America do better, and to get us ready for July 2024, to help

more States have EV investments that create jobs, move us into a new level of technology, and provide the opportunity for more science-based mobility, transportation that is safe, that is clean, and that is job-creating.

What more can we want?

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this legislation because I want more jobs and a safer environment.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD).

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, time and time again, we see President Biden picking winners and losers in the marketplace to force a radical climate agenda on the American people.

In his 2020 campaign, President Biden claimed a Buy America policy. The first year of his Presidency included lots of posturing on the virtues of American-made products, yet when push comes to shove, the President has made it clear that if given a choice between buying American and pushing an activist climate agenda fueled by EV batteries made in China, he sides with the woke environmentalists over American workers.

If the Biden administration is going to distort the energy market with its Green New Deal and all of its subsidies, one would hope that they would at least fund the products made here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this resolution to stop the Biden administration from crippling not only our domestic energy production but also our American manufacturing economy.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, let's make one thing perfectly clear: The Biden administration is building their so-called green energy on the backs of children, on poor individuals enslaved by Communist China.

I wonder what it must be like for the Biden administration to sit in ivory towers and drive their electric vehicles and pretend to be doing something positive for the environment.

As long as I am here in Congress, I will expose the truth. The Biden administration finds it to be perfectly acceptable to use child slave labor in foreign lands to meet their insincere and deceptive green agenda, forcing children, under horrific conditions, to dig up, often with their bare hands, the minerals that they need in their EV charging stations. It is immoral, it is unethical, and it is wrong.

The rule to waive the Buy America requirement for electric vehicle chargers is just the latest in this administration's efforts to eliminate good-paying union jobs for American workers and instead offshore cheap slave labor in foreign countries with zero environmental standards.

For the Biden administration, when overseas, it is out of sight, out of mind.

The Biden administration continues to have their agenda on mining and energy anywhere but America, any worker but American.

I ask my colleagues not to turn a blind eye. We need to mine here and buy American. The reason the Biden administration wants to waive the Buy America requirement is because they refuse to allow domestic mining to happen.

Mr. Speaker, I live in a district where the biggest copper-nickel mine in the world is, and this administration pulled the mining leases for purely political reasons. They won't let us mine in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, Nevada, Utah, Texas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and so many other States. They are okay with using child slave labor in Congo, where 15 of the 19 mines are owned by the Communist country of China.

The Biden administration continues to assault the American worker. We must not let that happen.

Mr. Speaker, when the infrastructure law passed, we supported Build America, Buy America. This is a slap in the face when Joe Biden wants us now to waive the requirement. It is unacceptable. Buy America, mine here in America, period.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

President Biden's attempt to block the sale of gas-powered vehicles and mandate electric vehicles in the next decade would have disastrous consequences for American families, American businesses, and the American economy.

In its quest to implement Green New Deal initiatives, President Biden and his administration are using American taxpayer dollars to buy electric vehicle charging stations from the Chinese Communist Party.

Let me say that again. Biden and his administration are using American taxpayer dollars to buy electric vehicle charging stations from the Chinese Communist Party. They are sending taxpayer dollars to China.

President Biden's attempt to dodge the bipartisan Buy America rule is a realization that his electric vehicle policies are impractical and irresponsible.

Come on. Americans aren't fooled. An electric vehicle with a Chinese battery is a Chinese car.

Last year, this House passed my legislation, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, with a bipartisan majority. This body has recognized that electric vehicles are unable to sustain our economy and unable to sustain the American Dream.

It is critical that we speak with one voice and pass this legislation to stop

the Biden administration from sending American taxpayer dollars to companies run by the Chinese Communist Party.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to close by first going back to a point someone made by starting their comment with saying, "since the Biden administration has come in." I want to quickly make some points on that.

Since the Biden administration has come in, unemployment has dropped precipitously. We have seen continued economic growth in the United States. Manufacturing jobs have increased.

We have passed legislation to bring \$35 copays for Medicare enrollees and have seen the private sector now adopt \$35 copays for their enrollees for diabetes medications.

Since the Biden administration has come in, we have passed the PACT Act to support veterans needing healthcare.

Since the Biden administration has come in, although there is still work to do, I recognize inflation has dropped 65 percent.

There are a lot of things that have happened during the Biden administration, including the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure law, which today is putting women and men to work around the country building next-generation infrastructure, next-generation bridges, roads, and highways and next-generation transit systems, spreading broadband around the country and closing the digital divide in so many communities, as well as supporting the adoption of electric vehicle use around the country.

It was noted that 14 percent of vehicles sold last year were electric vehicles. I didn't know it was that high. I thought it was a little lower than that. I am glad it is that high. It shows an increasing adoption of electric vehicles in the United States.

To support that, the administration, through the BIL, is now beginning to implement the distribution and deployment of federally funded electric vehicles to complement what is already being done in many States around the country supporting electric vehicle deployment, including in my district.

□ 1545

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. The city of Mount Vernon has received a grant to put in electric vehicle charging stations at their new Library Commons project, a project I supported and will continue to support, so we need to break the EV bond that the United States has with China and start by rejecting this resolution, because, when

we buy America, we are going to say good-bye to our bond with China.

I would ask my colleagues, all Members, to reject S.J. Res. 38, to support this waiver, to give our private sector the time to develop what it needs to do to support the broader economy in the United States and the broader future of American transportation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, passing S.J. Res. 38 is important. If the Biden administration continues to push its aggressive agenda on American families and consumers, at a minimum, they should have to comply with the Buy America requirements, at a minimum.

In 2021, despite Congress expanding Buy America requirements in IIJA to ensure our Nation's infrastructure comes from and is built by American companies, the administration is all too willing to issue a waiver of Buy America requirements for EV chargers in pursuit of its EV-for-all pipe dream. A Buy America waiver undermines domestic investments, and it risks empowering foreign adversaries like China.

We should not funnel taxpayer dollars to China in order to achieve this administration's unrealistic EV goals, which families and businesses have signaled that they are not ready for.

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

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

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### 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 H.R. 788; Passage of H.R. 788, if ordered; And passage of S.J. Res. 38.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant



Mills Rosendale Tiffany Pappas Scalise Underwood Lee (FL) Nehls Stauber  
 Molinaro Rouzer Timmons Phillips Scanlon Wexton Wilson (FL) Newhouse Steel  
 Moelenhaar Roy Turner Rogers (KY) Trone Letlow Loudermilk Lucas Norman Obernolte Obernolte  
 Mooney Rutherford Valadado ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
 Moore (AL) Salazar Van Drew The SPEAKER pro tempore (during  
 Moore (UT) Schweikert Van Duyne the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-  
 Moran Scott, Austin Van Orden ing.  
 Murphy Self Wagner  
 Nehls Sessions Walberg □ 1627  
 Newhouse Simpson Waltz So the bill was passed.  
 Norman Smith (MO) Weber (TX) The result of the vote was announced  
 Obernolte Smith (NE) Webster (FL) as above recorded.  
 Ogles Smith (NJ) Wenstrup Palmer  
 Owens Smucker Westerman  
 Palmer Spartz Williams (NY)  
 Pence Stauber Williams (TX)  
 Perry Steel Wilson (SC)  
 Pfluger Stefanik Wittman  
 Posey Steel Yakym  
 Reschenthaler Steube Zinke  
 Rodgers (WA) Strong Thompson (PA)  
 Rogers (AL) Tenney  
 Rose NAYS—197

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

## NOT VOTING—24

Beatty Carter (LA) Kelly (IL)  
 Blunt Rochester Cartwright Kim (NJ)  
 Boebert Gosar Kuster  
 Buck Hinson Langworthy  
 Cárdenas Jeffries Nunn (IA)

Tiffany Pappas Scalise Underwood Lee (FL) Nehls Stauber  
 Cloud Golden (ME) LaMalfa Gallego  
 Clyde Gonzales, Tony Lamborn Garamendi  
 Cole Good (VA) Latta Garcia (IL)  
 Collins Gooden (TX) LaTurner Garcia (TX)  
 Comer Granger Lawler Garcia, Robert Williams (GA)

Underwood Lee (FL) Nehls Stauber  
 Wexton Wilson (FL) Newhouse Steel  
 Letlow Loudermilk Lucas Norman Obernolte Obernolte  
 Lucas Luetkemeyer Luetkemeyer  
 Luna Luttrell Mace Palmer  
 Mace Malliotakis Maloy Palmer  
 Malliotakis Maloy Palmer  
 Massie Posey Palmer  
 Mast Rodgers (WA) Thompson (PA)  
 McCaul Rose Timmons  
 McClain Rosendale Turner  
 McCormick Rouzer Valadao  
 McHenry Roy Walberg  
 Meuser Rutherford Waltz  
 Miller (IL) Salazar Weber (TX)  
 Miller (OH) Schweikert Webster (FL)  
 Miller (WV) Scott, Austin Wenstrup  
 Miller-Meeks Self Westerman  
 Molinaro Sessions Williams (NY)  
 Moelenhaar Simpson Williams (TX)  
 Mooney Smith (MO) Wilson (SC)  
 Moore (AL) Smith (NE) Wittman  
 Moore (UT) Smith (NJ) Womack  
 Moran Smucker Yakym  
 Murphy Spartz Zinke

## PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO "WAIVER OF BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers", on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 198, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 8]

YEAS—209

|             |             |              |             |             |                |               |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Aderholt    | Crane       | Graves (LA)  | McCormick   | Adams       | Goldman (NY)   | Omar          |
| Alford      | Crenshaw    | Graves (MO)  | Chu         | Aguilar     | Gomez          | Pallone       |
| Allen       | Curtis      | Green (TN)   | Clark (MA)  | Allred      | Gonzalez       | Panetta       |
| Amodei      | D'Esposito  | Greene (GA)  | Clarke (NY) | Amo         | Vicente        | Pascrell      |
| Armstrong   | Davidson    | Griffith     | Connolly    | Auchincloss | Gottheimer     | Payne         |
| Arrington   | Davis (NC)  | Grothman     | Cleaver     | Balint      | Green, Al (TX) | Pelosi        |
| Babin       | De La Cruz  | Guest        | Larsen (WA) | Barragán    | Grijalva       | Peltola       |
| Bacon       | DesJarlais  | Guthrie      | Larson (CT) | Bera        | Harder (CA)    | Perez         |
| Baird       | Diaz-Balart | Hageman      | Boyle (PA)  | Beyer       | Hayes          | Peters        |
| Balderson   | Donalds     | Harris       | Brown       | Bishop (GA) | Higgins (NY)   | Pettersen     |
| Banks       | Duarte      | Harshbarger  | Brownley    | Blumenauer  | Himes          | Pingree       |
| Barr        | Duncan      | Hern         | Budzinski   | Bonamici    | Horsford       | Pocan         |
| Bean (FL)   | Dunn (FL)   | Hill         | Bush        | Bowman      | Houlahan       | Porter        |
| Bentz       | Edwards     | Houchin      | Caraveo     | Boyle (PA)  | Hoyer          | Pressley      |
| Bergman     | Ellzey      | Hudson       | Carbajal    | Brown       | Hoyle (OR)     | Quigley       |
| Bice        | Emmer       | Huizenga     | Carson      | Brownley    | Huffman        | Ramirez       |
| Biggs       | Estes       | Hunt         | Casar       | Budzinski   | Ivey           | Raskin        |
| Bilirakis   | Ezell       | Issa         | Case        | Bush        | Jackson (IL)   | Ross          |
| Bishop (NC) | Fallon      | Jackson (TX) | Casten      | Caraveo     | Jackson (NC)   | Ruiz          |
| Bost        | Feenstra    | James        | Castor (FL) | Carbajal    | Jackson Lee    | Ruppersberger |
| Bacon       | Ferguson    | Johnson (LA) | Castro (TX) | Carson      | Jacobs         | Ryan          |
| Balderson   | Finstad     | Johnson (OH) | Cherifius-  | Casar       | Jayapal        | Salinas       |
| Banks       | Fischbach   | Johnson (SD) | McCormick   | Case        | Johnson (GA)   | Sánchez       |
| Barr        | Fitzgerald  | Jordan       | Kilmer      | Casten      | Kamlager-Dove  | Sarbanes      |
| Bean (FL)   | Fallon      | Guest        | Connolly    | Castor (FL) | Kaptur         | Schakowsky    |
| Bentz       | De La Cruz  | Hill         | Cleaver     | Castro (TX) | Keating        | Schiff        |
| Bergman     | Diaz-Balart | Houchin      | Larsen (WA) | Cherifius-  | Khanna         | Schneider     |
| Balderson   | Donalds     | Hudson       | Larson (CT) | McCormick   | Kilmer         | Scholten      |
| Banks       | Duarte      | Huizenga     | Boyle (PA)  | Kilmer      | Connolly       | Schrier       |
| Barr        | Duncan      | Hunt         | Brown       | Connolly    | Cleaver        | Scott (VA)    |
| Bean (FL)   | Dunn (FL)   | Issa         | Brownley    | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Scott, David  |
| Bentz       | Edwards     | Jackson (TX) | Budzinski   | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Sewell        |
| Bergman     | Ellzey      | James        | Bush        | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Sherman       |
| Balderson   | Emmer       | Johnson (LA) | Caraveo     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Sherrill      |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Johnson (OH) | Carbajal    | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Slotkin       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Johnson (SD) | Carson      | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Stanton       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fischbach   | Jordan       | Casar       | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Stevens       |
| Bentz       | Fitzgerald  | Guest        | Case        | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Strickland    |
| Bergman     | Fallon      | Hill         | Casten      | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Thompson (CA) |
| Balderson   | Ferguson    | Houchin      | Castor (FL) | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Thompson (MS) |
| Banks       | Finstad     | Hudson       | Castro (TX) | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Titus         |
| Barr        | Fitzgerald  | Huizenga     | Cherifius-  | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Tlaiib        |
| Bean (FL)   | Fallon      | Hunt         | McCormick   | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Tokuda        |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Issa         | Kilmer      | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Jackson (TX) | Connolly    | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Guest        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Hill         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | Houchin      | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Hudson       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Huizenga     | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Hunt         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Issa         | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Jackson (TX) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bean (FL)   | Fitzgerald  | James        | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bentz       | Ferguson    | Johnson (LA) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Bergman     | Finstad     | Johnson (OH) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Balderson   | Fitzgerald  | Johnson (SD) | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Banks       | Ferguson    | Jordan       | Cleaver     | Cleaver     | Larsen (WA)    | Unnamed       |
| Barr        | Finstad     | Guest        | Cleaver     |             |                |               |

## NOT VOTING—26

|                 |              |             |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Beatty          | Higgins (LA) | Pappas      |
| Blunt Rochester | Hinson       | Phillips    |
| Boebert         | Jeffries     | Rogers (KY) |
| Buck            | Kelly (IL)   | Scalise     |
| Cárdenas        | Kim (NJ)     | Scanlon     |
| Carter (LA)     | Kuster       | Underwood   |
| Cartwright      | Langworthy   | Wexton      |
| Crawford        | Mills        | Wilson (FL) |
| Gosar           | Nunn (IA)    |             |

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1635

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 8.

Stated against:

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes today. However, if I was present, I would have voted “nay” on the passage of S.J. Res. 38, rollcall No. 8.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall no. 4, “nay” on rollcall no. 5, “yea” on rollcall no. 6, “nay” on rollcall no. 7, and “nay” on rollcall no. 8.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 4. Motion to Reconsider H. Res. 947, “aye” on rollcall No. 5, H. Res. 947, “yea” on rollcall No. 6, Motion to Recommit, “yea” on rollcall No. 7, H.R. 788 and “yea” on rollcall No. 8, S.J. Res. 35.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, due to a sick family member, I was unable to be present for votes in the 2nd vote series today. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 6, “yea” on rollcall No. 7, and “yea” on rollcall No. 8.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, in order to attend a funeral of a student who was a victim in the Perry school shooting in my District, I was unable to be present for the floor votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 4, Motion to Reconsider H. Res. 947; “yea” on rollcall No. 5, Adoption of the Rule; “nay” on rollcall No. 6, Motion to Recommit; “yea” on rollcall No. 7, H.R. 788; and “yea” on rollcall No. 8, S.J. Res. 38.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, on the last day of 2023, Texas’ 30th Congressional District laid to rest a legend who served in this Chamber and was a champion of the Lone Star State: Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson passed away.

As her successor representing Texas’ 30th Congressional District, I see the impact of her 30-year tenure in Congress and her half century legacy of public service everywhere I look. Whether it was securing millions of dollars in public investment to north Texas, to the thousands of jobs she helped to create under the Chips and Science Act, she led with conviction and passion.

As Chairwoman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, she was unapologetic in advocating for Texas as the future of space exploration. Thanks to her leadership, Texas is helping us go back to the Moon and beyond and has transformed into a technological powerhouse.

I have described Chairwoman Johnson as a quiet storm. She didn’t need to make a lot of noise to create change, and through her tireless work for equality and equity, she made space for louder storms, like me, to continue her work.

Every member of the Texas delegation can remember a time when the chairwoman put politics aside and crossed the aisle in order to advance and better the lives of the people of the Lone Star State and American families across the country.

The country and delegation have lost a giant, but her work and legacy will continue to live on.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask that all those who are present in the Chamber as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol please rise for a moment of silence to remember the late Honorable Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

□ 1645

## RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MILK DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a special day for our dairy farmers, National Milk Day.

National Milk Day originates back to January 11, 1878, when milk was first delivered in glass bottles in the United States.

Milk is consumed by millions of Americans every year because not only is it delicious but also provides key nutrients like calcium, potassium, and other vitamins.

This is one of the reasons why I am so thankful for the passing of my bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023, which will provide these key nutrients to children and schools nationwide.

Milk is also very important to my home State of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania dairy industry alone generates 52,000 jobs and \$14.7 billion in revenue in the State.

Furthermore, Pennsylvania is ranked second nationally in the number of

dairy farms. I am so proud of all that they have accomplished.

As a descendant of a long line of dairy farmers, let’s raise a glass of milk in honor of these dairy farmers who work around the clock to bring fresh, nutritious, and delicious milk to our tables every day.

## SEEKING THE TRUTH

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss blatant Republican hypocrisy. Yesterday, the House Oversight Committee discussed whether to hold Hunter Biden in contempt of Congress because he rejected a congressional subpoena.

It is insulting and ironic, given that elected Republicans JIM JORDAN, MO BROOKS, SCOTT PERRY, ANDY BIGGS, and former Speaker KEVIN McCARTHY did the same thing.

They took an oath of allegiance to America, but the issue is not congressional subpoenas. The issue is the truth.

Hunter Biden wants to tell the truth in a public hearing, but Republicans do not want the truth. They want a story based on lies and deceit.

They want Americans to think Hunter Biden is the problem with our country, but it is failed and incompetent Republican leadership that is the problem.

It is the unpopular and dangerous Republican agenda. That is the problem. Their blatant hypocrisy to cover up the truth is a national tragedy.

## ACCOUNTING FOR TAXPAYER FUNDS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week the EPA inspector general reported that the EPA has failed to accurately report the use of \$7 billion in 2022.

This jarring report is the clearest sign yet that the EPA is unable and unwilling to adequately serve the American people.

Under President Biden’s leadership, this failure in accountability is what we have come to expect. No one is surprised.

Whether it is creating burdensome regulations on our Nation’s coal-powered generation plants or constructing extreme methane rules for natural gas producers or attempting to ban the sale of gas-powered vehicles, the EPA has repeatedly shown that it is unable to govern effectively.

The inspector general’s report outlines how 99 percent of the EPA’s total award-level outlays were not reported in fiscal year 2022.

If the EPA cannot adequately account for the taxpayer funds that it

distributes, how can it possibly be relied upon to effectively regulate our energy industry?

It is time to rein in the out-of-control EPA and hold the EPA accountable to the American people.

#### RECOGNIZING OFFICER KYLE CUNNINGHAM

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Kyle Cunningham from the Akron Police Department as the champion of the week for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Officer Cunningham heroically saved a man's life who was attempting to jump over the side of the bridge. However, Officer Cunningham held on until he and another officer were able to pull the man over the railing.

Officer Cunningham represents the very best of our dedicated law enforcement officers who answer the call to serve and dedicate themselves to protect members in our community.

Through swift action and incredible bravery, Officer Cunningham was able to save a life and give this person a chance to receive the care and resources they need.

We are grateful for Officer Cunningham's act of heroism and his continued service with the Akron Police Department and look to him as a leader in the birthplace of champions.

Once again, on behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I offer congratulations and thanks to our champion of the week, Officer Kyle Cunningham.

#### HONORING REAR ADMIRAL BRIAN DAVIES

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and service of Rear Admiral Brian Davies, a distinguished nuclear submarine warfare officer who succumbed to illness on December 30.

The floor of Congress is a fitting place to remember his dedication to our country and our security, where he served beneath the seas, out of sight, ever vigilant, ensuring America's dominance of the seas.

I honor Admiral Davies' full life and his dutiful service. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Brian commanded our most secret and most decorated submarine, the USS *Jimmy Carter*. Later, he commanded a submarine squadron.

His service took him under the Arctic, the western Pacific, the northern Atlantic, and the Indian Oceans. All other details are hidden, even from his own family.

I ask that our Nation also remember Brian's shipmates who continue to sacrifice so much for our Nation in service.

I ask that we honor and remember Brian's wife, Kacey, and their daughter, Caitlin, who endured with courage the many hardships of his time in the Navy and who now mourn the loss of his honorable life.

#### OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce with Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON of Iowa, my appropriations colleague, H.R. 6956, the bipartisan Opioid Settlement Accountability Act.

This legislation will ensure that money from opioid settlements related to the ongoing crisis are used for opioid treatment, prevention, and enforcement rather than slush funds for road maintenance or local debts.

The opioid crisis is far from over. In 2022, more than two-thirds of the reported 107,081 drug overdoses in the United States involved opioids.

While opioid settlements have totaled \$55.79 billion, many of these funds are not being used to address the ongoing damage done by the ongoing opioid epidemic.

We must learn our lesson from the tobacco settlements of the 1990s. States used money they received for transportation projects and balancing budgets instead of prevention efforts.

Today's opioid settlement funds must be used to help fight the ongoing opioid epidemic and not as piggy banks for politicians to break open and play around with.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sign on with us.

#### CUTS TO THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am deeply concerned by the impact that recent cuts to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule will have on patient access to healthcare across our great country.

On January 1, 2024, a 3.4 percent Medicare cut took effect, impacting providers all across the United States. This is in addition to previous cuts.

Providers have continued to bear the cost of many challenges that arose during the pandemic and after the pandemic, including staffing shortages, supply chain shortages, and continuing rising inflation—all of these.

As the cost of providing care continues to rise, the reimbursement to physicians who provide the care continues to be cut.

If we do not swiftly act to address these cuts now and in the long term,

patients will suffer the most. The physician shortage will continue to worsen.

Hospitals and independent community-based providers will continue to shutter their doors, and, sadly, America's seniors will be left with no option for high-quality, affordable healthcare.

I urge congressional leadership to put the health of Americans first by stopping the Medicare cuts and ensuring that patients and Medicare beneficiaries have access to the providers who care for them by not cutting them out.

#### KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of bipartisanship. There are more than 300 of us in this Chamber that will support a bipartisan budget agreement. Yet, there are a few who want to see the government shut down.

A shutdown will lead to any number of awful things with our economy. It will hurt millions of workers and every single American.

There are more of us who are determined to keep this government open, but we need a bill, and that is what we are asking for, a bipartisan budget bill that we can pass.

Mr. Speaker, this is as serious a moment as it gets.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSING

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stress the importance that Congress address section 174 of the Tax Cuts and Job Act and continue to allow immediate and full research and development expensing by American small businesses.

Not allowing for full expensing would devastate small businesses across the country, resulting in layoffs, increased debt, and likely forcing thousands of businesses to close their doors for good.

The looming January 15 deadline highlights the growing need for Congressional action to provide continued tax relief to millions of small businesses and hardworking Americans.

As chairman of House Committee on Small Business and owner and operator of a small business in Texas for over 52 years, I am uniquely aware of the relief full expensing has provided to small businesses.

In 2017, Republicans led the way on once-in-a-generation tax reform in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and provided much-needed relief to the American people.

Amid historic inflation and increasing rates, we must continue to build on it. We can start by making the tax cuts

permanent and ensure that pro-growth policies such as full R&D expensing are included.

In God we trust.

#### STOPPING THE FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. Across America, countless families have lost loved ones to the fentanyl crisis. In my home State of Oregon, it is now estimated that five people die every week from this dangerous drug.

We are expecting an epidemic of massive proportions, and in order to stop it, we need an all-hands-on-deck approach.

Just last week, I held a roundtable with law enforcement officers, community organizations, and local elected officials to understand how we can confront this crisis head on.

I participated in many other discussions like this one, and I always hear a common theme—more resources and more flexibility.

Congress needs to deliver more funding to help our communities fight back against fentanyl, and I will keep working to ensure our police and local leaders have the tools they need to get these drugs off the streets and more people into treatment.

No more families torn apart by addiction. No more suffering and loss. It is time we put an end to this epidemic once and for all.

□ 1700

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, there are few people in the world who can say they impacted their community as much as Eddie Bernice Johnson.

She dedicated 50 years of her life to public service. She took care of her patients, veterans, and the people of Texas' 30th Congressional District.

EBJ embodied a no-nonsense approach that you would expect from a woman born in Waco, Texas. She didn't care who you were, where you were from, or what party you represented. Her open arms extended a welcoming embrace to everyone, a trait that I experienced firsthand when I showed up as the junior Member of the United States House in the summer of 2021. As the dean of the Texas delegation, she made it clear that regardless of which side of the aisle I was on, she saw me as a Texan, first and foremost.

Chairwoman Johnson welcomed me to the Texas delegation and her Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. She ran a very tight ship, and

she also guided me through the intricacies of becoming an effective member of her committee.

I will forever be grateful to Congresswoman Johnson for her support for her country, her State, and the Texas congressional delegation. She will be missed.

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, we have a housing crisis in this country. People are struggling to afford rent, and many can't even think of buying a house.

Basic housing is an economic and human right.

Here are five things we must do:

First, we need 7 million new housing units to fill the gap and a \$445 billion investment in the housing trust fund.

Second, we need to pass my Stop Wall Street Landlords Act to help prevent Wall Street from buying up single-family homes.

Third, we need to provide down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

Fourth, we need to—as Representative CORI BUSH called for—provide protection for tenants and provide financial assistance before tenants get evicted.

Finally, we need to provide grants for neighborhood stabilization, like the culinary union did, so rent doesn't increase beyond inflation.

We need to address the Housing crisis.

#### RECOGNIZING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Human Trafficking Awareness Day, which is today, January 11.

Last year alone, nearly 28 million individuals were victims of human trafficking worldwide. These inhumane crimes don't just happen in the far nether regions of the world, they are happening right here in communities across this country.

In fact, Horry County, where I grew up, reside in, and represent, is one of the top five counties in South Carolina in reported human trafficking.

Today, and throughout the month of January, which is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, I aim to raise awareness and support victims of these horrible crimes and their families.

I am firmly committed to working to find solutions to prevent this modern-day form of slavery and to support those who have suffered.

#### CELEBRATING BERNIE SINGER'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. Bernie Singer, who just celebrated his 101st birthday.

Bernie is a living testament to courage and resilience. He fought for democracy in World War II, embodying the values of the Greatest Generation.

During the Battle of the Bulge, he was captured on his birthday and was later held in Stalag 9B in Germany. While in captivity, Bernie displayed unparalleled bravery and sacrifice in serving our Nation.

After serving in the military, Bernie ran his own family business for over 70 years, driven by an entrepreneurial spirit and the promise of the American Dream. He married his beloved wife, Marilyn, whom he has called his spouse for over 70 wonderful years.

In addition to being a devoted husband, Bernie is known as a loving father, grandfather, father-in-law, and uncle. In all these roles, he has enriched the lives of those around him with kindness and wisdom.

On behalf of Florida's 20th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Bernie for his exceptional life marked by valor and an enduring love for others.

#### QUESTIONING DIVERSITY IN THE MILITARY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we had a subcommittee hearing in the Oversight Committee regarding foreign affairs, the border, and the military. We had an interesting topic that the press ought to follow up on, and that is the progressive march through our military.

It can be kind of summarized as an obsession with race in our military, an obsession with dividing people, and it was also summed up by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Charles Q. Brown, Jr., who believes we ought to cut the number of White officers in the military to 42 percent from where it is now at over 60 percent.

The supposed reason for this is diversity, which I think has an entirely racist connotation itself. We ought to be spending more time wondering what exactly do these people mean by people from different ethnic backgrounds going back generations will add something to a unit if we pick them by where they are from. If I have one of my four grandparents from Mexico, how do I carry a different viewpoint toward being in the military or being at an engineering firm or being at a law firm.

The press has to ask these diversity experts to give us examples of how you

improve the makeup of a decision by having people who are one-quarter from different parts of the world.

---

#### RECOGNIZING GENERAL LLOYD AUSTIN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay acknowledgment and have my colleagues recognize a medaled combat veteran in the name of our Secretary of Defense, and that is General Lloyd Austin.

Over the last couple of weeks, there have been enormous criticism of the nature of his health condition and the alleged communication or noncommunication in the chain of command.

I rise today only to be able to acknowledge the work of a soldier and one who has, through his years of service, continued to act excellently and with excellence.

With that in mind, I hope that all Members of this body will allow the process to proceed, will allow a person to achieve the health services that they need, and will allow respect to be given to a medaled combat officer who now serves this Nation as the Secretary of Defense. Let us do that for his family, for the Secretary, for the men and women of the military, and for this Nation.

---

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST DECLASSIFICATION BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRECHEEN). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 703(c) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Public Interest Declassification Board for a term of 3 years:

Mr. Ezra Cohen, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

---

#### HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, for the past 12 days, the people of Texas and those serving in this Chamber have been mourning the loss of a leader, a colleague, and an advocate for change—the late Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

She was a leader who never let political differences come at the expense of public service and regularly reached across the aisle to promote policies that advanced access to healthcare and helped our Nation dominate in technological and scientific innovation.

Chairwoman Johnson was a champion of bipartisanship, and from the Texas delegation to her colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, there are many people in this building that have benefited from her wisdom, experience, generosity, and mentorship.

I can personally say that the Texas delegation has a well-earned reputation for bipartisanship, and we continue to honor the chairwoman's legacy by finding areas where we can meet each other halfway to get things done for the 30 million Texans we are blessed to represent.

While I never served with her, I was humbled to be tapped by her as her hand-picked successor. This honor is and will continually be a reminder that I have big shoes—or in the case of the great EBJ, a fancy pair of St. John's—to fill. She believed I could; therefore, I will. Her legacy will continually be held up by me all the days that I serve in this Chamber.

There is no better way to give tribute to the chairwoman than by giving space to some of her colleagues to speak about her life and legacy in the many ways she impacted the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker Emerita.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for calling this Special Order in honor of the very special person that many of us have had the privilege to serve with—in my case for over three decades. She was so proud that Congresswoman CROCKETT would be following in her footsteps, so it is so appropriate that she is bringing us together now for this formidable force in public service.

Eddie Bernice Johnson sat in that chair reigning for the whole time. She reigned. We always went to her for guidance and advice. Not only did Eddie Bernice make history, Mr. Speaker, she did make a difference as the first African American and the first woman to wield the gavel of the powerful Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Not only did she make history and make a difference, she enabled our country to make progress. We marveled at the respect that she commanded in the scientific community, the academic community, in industry, from her constituents, and from her colleagues on Capitol Hill. The capstone of her career, our Chips and Science Act in her last term in Congress, will drive decades of scientific discovery while recruiting a diverse, inclusive workforce for the industries of tomorrow.

Indeed, she insisted on it. She insisted on investing in STEM education so American minds of all kinds could solve our greatest challenges, the challenges of our time.

Eddie Bernice was always talking about taking our Nation into the future. We chatted quite a bit—she was

soft-spoken toward the end but with great force. And we chatted and laughed about and admired what is written on the walls of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, a quote from the poet Tennyson, and it is so much about Eddie Bernice:

For I dipt into the future,  
far as human eye could see,  
Saw a vision of the world,  
and all the wonder that would be

She understood that wonder. May it be a comfort to her beloved son, Kirk; dear grandchildren Kirk, II, David, and James and her entire family that we mourn their loss. We pray for them during this sad time. We thank them for sharing Eddie Bernice Johnson with us in this Congress, but, more importantly, with our country. May our darling Eddie Bernice Johnson, whom we all loved so dearly, rest in peace.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our late former colleague, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. I am honored to have served with and to have been able to learn from such a legend in our Congress.

She was a true trailblazer, becoming the first registered nurse to serve in this body. She was the first Black woman ever elected to public office from the city of Dallas when she was elected to the Texas State House and the first woman to ever lead a committee in the Texas chamber. She was also a Presidential appointee appointed by then-President Jimmy Carter as a regional director of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

□ 1715

She then returned to the Texas Legislature as a State senator, becoming the first Black senator from the Dallas area since Reconstruction.

Mr. Speaker, she acknowledged the challenges of being both Black and a woman, once telling a reporter: "Being a woman and being Black is perhaps a double handicap. When you see who is in the important huddles, who is making the important decisions, it is men." That drove her to fight for equity and to give women and people of color more opportunity and access.

She came to Congress in 1993 and would later serve as the 17th chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. During her tenure, one of the things that she helped establish is the Tri-Caucus, represented through the coalitions of the Congressional Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific American Caucuses that exist to this day.

She became the first African American and the first woman to be the ranking member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and subsequently became the chairwoman of that committee.

Mr. Speaker, Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson helped many of us. As a young freshman, it was Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson who encouraged and pushed for people like me and Leader JEFFRIES to pursue leadership roles.

Today, I am honored to serve as chair of the CBC, and Leader JEFFRIES is our Democratic leader. It is that type of mentorship, that type of encouragement, that I will always hold dear. Like Representative CROCKETT, we will do our part to live out her legacy.

We truly miss Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, but she will be proud of the legacy she blazed, and we will honor her memory for generations to come.

Rest in power, Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman not only for taking the time to initiate this important discussion about our former colleague, the gentlewoman, Eddie Bernice Johnson, but also thank her for gathering together what I think is evidence of a solid performance that Eddie Bernice Johnson gave not just to the people of Texas, not just to the people of the United States Congress, but really to the people who all across the country benefited from Eddie Bernice Johnson's character, her desire to be friendly, her desire to work across the aisle, and her desire to make sure that she led a life that she would be proud of. I can attest to each of those in a strong way.

I had an opportunity to work with Eddie Bernice Johnson, the Congresswoman from the 30th District of Texas, for some 22 years. During those 22 years, we had an opportunity to fly back and forth. We would meet at DFW Airport and get on the airplane and come up. She did not offer small talk. She offered talk of things that she saw. She would offer talk and discussions about things that she would hope that we would become, and not just Texas, but people.

It was really an amazing opportunity for us, whether we were sitting, waiting for a plane, or on a plane and attempting to move back and forth, to hear not just the benefit of what I believe was an outward view of very positive things but really how she wanted to work together and do her part in that process.

She knew and I knew that I was born in Waco, Texas, and she was born in Waco, Texas. Another Member of Congress, Joe Barton, was also born and raised in Waco, Texas. I think she held that certainly in not just her mind but in her heart because she knew where she had come from and where I had come from, and we both knew where we were trying to head.

I thank the gentlewoman, Congresswoman CROCKETT, for bringing together Eddie Bernice Johnson's friends, who will all speak not just about her

authorship of good things but how we will miss her very much. I thank the gentlewoman for allowing me time to be on the floor tonight to say: Job well done, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. You not only are but you will be missed.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the gentleman from Waco emphasized Waco, Texas, and I thank Congresswoman CROCKETT for bringing us together.

Our friend, our colleague, was mighty proud of being born in Waco, Texas. For that reason, I want to take note of her loving parents, Edward Johnson, a tailor, and Lillie Mae White Johnson, a stay-at-home mother. They, of course, instilled in our friend, our sister, the love of this country and that you could do anything you wanted to do. She was surrounded by their love and the love of her siblings. She had in her the gifts of faith and charity and the importance of education.

As a child, she knew she wanted to be a doctor, but how many have heard the word "no" from those who were part of her educational journey? Some said it was because she was a woman. Others knew it was because of her race.

Eddie Bernice Johnson was not to be denied. She left the State of Texas ultimately and went to St. Mary's College in Notre Dame. We have heard some stories about how even the veterans hospital thought they were hiring a man when she finally came back and became chief of psychiatric medicine as it relates to the Veterans Administration.

As I speak about her today, I simply want to say that she elevated the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. I remember staying on that committee for a while before going to the Homeland Security Committee, and she would always say that she will continue to invest in that committee so that she could lead, for she was science and technology.

She loved diversity. That is why the Taiwanese community loved her. The LGBTQ+ community loved her because, before anyone else would recognize their diversity and their humanity, she did. They loved her in Dallas.

No matter what walk of life you may have had, what faith you may have had, what walk of life you may have had, or the neighborhoods you came from, Eddie Bernice Johnson was there to be a fighter for your rights, to be a spokesperson, and to be one of strength when you needed it.

She knew the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Yes, she was a friend of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, President Jimmy Carter, and all those who came after.

I am glad to stand here today to be able to honor her parents, her siblings, and her wonderful son, Kirk, and the beautiful grandchildren and great-grandchildren that she loved.

Her homegoing service was simply that, a homegoing celebration. I remember saying that night that she was truly a yellow rose. To fellow Texans, she loved Texas. A yellow rose she was, and she was a strong Texas woman.

She will be strongly missed. The Congressional Black Caucus will miss her. Our colleagues will miss her. I will tell you, Texas and the Nation will miss our iconic friend, the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson. EBJ is what we called her. The 30th District of Texas will never be the same, but she has given her successor the tools to carry on.

God bless you. May you rest in peace and rest in power.

Mr. Speaker, we have come together on this day to celebrate, cherish, and honor the extraordinary life of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, for a life well lived.

Eddie Bernice Johnson was born in Waco, Texas to her proud and loving parents Edward Johnson, a tailor, and Lillie Mae White Johnson, a stay-at-home mother.

She was surrounded by the love of three siblings who grew up attending Toliver Chapel Baptist Church, where her mother instilled in her children the gifts of faith, charity, and the importance of education.

Eddie Bernice Johnson as a child knew she wanted to become a doctor but was told by a High School guidance counselor that it would be impossible for her to be a doctor because of her gender.

This attempt to crush her spirit was not successful—she graduated high school at 16, with a determination to pursue a career in medicine.

Eddie Bernice Johnson moved to Indiana to attend Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, where she earned her nursing certificate. She then transferred to Texas Christian University, to successfully pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing.

She later attended Southern Methodist University and earned a Master of Public Administration in 1976.

Eddie Bernice Johnson with passion and determination used her nursing education to enter a career in medicine; and broke barriers to become the first African American to serve as Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital, where she worked for 16 years.

Eddie Bernice Johnson has amassed a legacy of being—the first—to accomplish many goals during and following her medical career.

She entered public service following the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, because these laws enabled African Americans in the South to register and vote for the first time since Reconstruction.

Eddie Bernice Johnson in 1972, during her first race for public office won a landslide victory to serve in the Texas State House, where she became the first black woman to be appointed to Chair the Labor Committee.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed her regional head of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, making her the first African American woman in that position.

In 1986, she returned to elected office as a member of the Texas State Senate.

And, in 1993 was sworn into the House of Representatives as the Member serving the 30th District of Texas.

During her time in Washington, DC she served as ranking member and chair of the House Committee on Science and Technology; and sat on the influential Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

She also served on many Caucuses including the influential Congressional Black Caucus and served as its 17th chair from 2001 to 2003.

Rep. Johnson was a dear friend and will be truly missed by all who knew her.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the incredible life and career of our friend and colleague, Eddie Bernice Johnson.

When I walked into Congress as a freshman, Eddie was already here. When I walked into the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology as a freshman, Eddie was already there.

Those of us who worked with her know what an unstoppable force she was. She worked hard for her constituents, and she worked hard to advance American science.

One of her focuses was on building a better future for everyone, where everyone could pursue STEM, no matter their race, gender, background, or ZIP Code. That was not just because of fairness for those individuals but because our country, unless we are able to get all the smart young people into STEM, is going to lose out. She made a difference there.

There are countless rising generations who will see doors opened because of Eddie Bernice Johnson, even though they may not know that she did that for them.

She always referred to the Science Committee as the committee of the future. It was also the committee of an island of bipartisanship. I am now the ranking member of the Science Committee, and I can see the tremendous work she did with our current chairman to make sure that the committee was focused on our mission, just to get the work done.

I know the job she did was excellent because of the excellent staff that she built to carry forward her legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I miss EBJ. We can all think of her as someone who helped America have a brighter future. She was one of a kind. I miss her greatly, and I honor her.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise to celebrate the extraordinary life of our friend, our Texan, our true public servant, and as has been pointed out here, a trailblazer, the much respected and much loved Eddie Bernice Johnson, or EBJ, as my friend from Texas pointed out.

I had the honor of serving with her in the Texas delegation and on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, where she served as the chair-

woman. Before then, we went over to Europe on a T&I code with her and her son, Kirk. I got to know her quite well.

Let me tell you, when you spend time, you eat and drink, you laugh and cry, and you see other places, you get to know people really quickly. It was an absolute pleasure to know her and her son, Kirk, an absolute pleasure, with the southern charm and the intellect that she had.

There was nothing that she loved more than her family, and she let that show.

Mr. Speaker, we lost one heck of a lady, a wonderful lady. My prayers are with her and her family, especially her son, Kirk. We are forever grateful to the trailblazer that she was—quite frankly, the trailblazer that she is and will be for a long time, never forgotten. We are grateful for her service to the United States and grateful for her service to the 30th District in Texas.

Eddie Bernice, you will be missed but not forgotten.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CROCKETT for organizing this Special Order.

I am grateful to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remember our esteemed former colleague, the late Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. I expect to see her sitting over there, where she always sat.

Affectionately known as EBJ, Congresswoman Johnson showed tremendous leadership, and that is especially true on the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

I have been on the Science Committee since I first joined Congress about a dozen years ago. I learned a lot from her example of hard work, civility, and perseverance.

EBJ was a civil rights trailblazer, as we heard from Mr. HORSFORD.

She led with the philosophy that building compassionate relationships, fostering curiosity, and working in good faith can yield successful, long-term policies.

Her leadership left a lasting, positive influence on the Science Committee, which continues to shine as a refreshingly bipartisan body in this Congress today and should continue to serve as an example of collaborative work for years to come.

In the last Congress, as the committee chair, she oversaw the passage of the bipartisan Chips and Science Act, some of the most significant scientific research and manufacturing legislation the committee has ever passed.

I will be forever grateful for her support of several issues I brought to the committee, issues important to the district I represent, including ocean health, conservation of marine life, and investing in clean energy technologies that will protect our planet and address the climate crisis.

I share in mourning Congresswoman Johnson passing. I send condolences to

her family and friends. I know her legacy will live on through the many people she inspired and mentored throughout her storied career and through the legislation and policies she helped craft to help improve our country.

Colleagues, please remember, with open hearts and fond memories, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

□ 1730

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, during my first term in Congress as a freshman member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, we had a hearing at which we heard from a young woman researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who had taken the very first image ever of a black hole.

Congresswoman JOHNSON, my chair, Chairwoman Johnson, took us to places that no one has been. She was constantly reaching and asking for more.

In this term of Congress, I can't think of a time in which we have had a special order that has been bipartisan, but, for EBJ, we do, because that is who she was. When people were glad-handing and taking photos, she was cutting deals.

The Chips and Science bill that got done under her leadership—and I spent a lot of hours on the phone with EBJ on that one—I watched her mastery on how that was going to get cooked up, because we are the House, and we think it starts with us, but the Senate had their vision.

She changed my life. Her story is an American story, and it is an America-at-its-best story. Her legacy is profound, her friendships were enormous, and I will always remember what she taught me.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, a true American trailblazer, patriot, and real friend.

I am wearing the red, white, and blue heart pin she kindly presented me over 15 years ago. Her kindness was legendary. Her keen political judgment allowed her to cut to the quick.

She scaled above the walls of discrimination in her region, State, and Nation, devoting her lifetime to racial justice, advanced education, high science, and healing. An adopted daughter of our region, when southern schools refused her admission to study due to discrimination, she was accepted to seek a nursing degree at Saint Mary's in South Bend, Indiana.

She would become the first registered nurse in congressional history and the first Black woman to represent Dallas, Texas, serving ably for three decades and retiring as dean of the Texas delegation. She rose to chair the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, where she championed NASA,

as others have referenced, and issues of import for the health, safety, and well-being for all Americans.

May the angels carry her softly to her homegoing. May her loved ones and associates know they have been blessed by her life, as have we been, a life of fierce devotion to a more beloved nation and people.

Ms. CROCKETT. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma, Congressman LUCAS.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the opportunity to speak this evening on my dear friend.

Chairwoman Johnson came to Congress in the regular election cycle of 1992, and I joined her 15 months later in a special election, so for 28.5 years we worked together, most of that on the Science Committee.

After I finished my time as chairman of the Ag Committee, I went over to be vice chairman of the Science Committee, and then ultimately ranking member for the 4 years that EBJ, as I lovingly called her, was the chairwoman of the committee.

Eddie Bernice Johnson was an exceptional human being. She was, yes, a good Liberal. Yes, she was a good steward of her constituents. Yes, she was a great member of the CBC. Yes, she was an outstanding legislator and a member of Presidential administrations. But the thing that I admired the most was the fact that she was willing to give anyone the benefit of the doubt.

It took me a little while to convince her of our commonality, our common spirit, and our common goals, but then she worked with me hand in glove. She treated me and my side of the Science Committee as decently as any chairperson could.

Was she goal-oriented? Absolutely. Was she a great human being? Without a doubt. However, the one thing that would stress, in my opinion, the key to the intensity of that personality, after she had gone to Indiana for her advanced training, wherein after she developed that skill set, she could have stayed anywhere in any part of the country that at that time would have treated her dramatically better.

In spite of that, she went home to make a difference, to make changes, to do and enable the next generation. That is so admirable, and, yes, EBJ, my dear, wherever you are, you are looking down on us, and we miss you.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you so much, Congressman LUCAS.

I can recall when she first introduced me to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), and she had a genuine affection for their relationship, so I thank the gentleman for his kind words.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. GREEN of Texas).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman.

And still I rise, Mr. Speaker. And still I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, the first lady of Texas politics.

Yes, she has given new meaning to the name first lady, as the gentlewoman from Texas was the first Black woman ever elected to public office from Dallas.

She was the first woman in Texas history to chair a major Texas House committee, the Labor Committee.

Yes, she was the first African-American woman to hold the position of regional director for the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

She was the first registered nurse elected to the United States Congress.

She was the first Black person from Dallas to serve in Congress.

Yes, she was a first. She was the first woman to chair the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Mr. Speaker.

She was a history-making, glass-ceiling-breaking first lady who blazed huge trails in the sands of time, such that those who may traverse later will know that, where she was the first, she will not be the last.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman for her hospitality while we were in Texas for this funeral.

Today, I rise to honor the extraordinary legacy of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, a trailblazer, a public servant, and a tireless advocate for her constituents. Congresswoman JOHNSON leaves behind a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

However, for those of you who may not know, EBJ did not die of natural causes. She died of poisoning after neglect by workers at a Texas rehab facility, resulted in her lying in her own feces and urine, which resulted in infection setting up in the back-surgery incision she was recovering from.

This was malpractice, but HB4, passed by the Texas legislature, limits damages in medical negligence cases to \$250,000. HB4, pushed by the giant U.S. Chamber of Commerce lobby, was passed to protect corporations from so-called junk lawsuits.

EBJ's life is worth more than \$250,000. Her pain and suffering alone was worth more than that. Her grieving family has more than a junk lawsuit. That is why the so-called tort reform that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce lobbies for is bad for consumers and good for corporate wrongdoers who put their patients at risk by cutting costs and failing to properly staff their facilities.

I thank EBJ for telling her lawyer to use her misfortune to help make things better for medical negligence victims by advocating for repeal on damage caps for wrongful death and pain and suffering.

Rest in peace, EBJ.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for giving

me the opportunity to speak on my mentor, my hero, EBJ, who, you see, when I arrived in Congress 11 years ago after the death of my father, the late Donald Payne, Sr., EBJ put her arm around me and said, everything is going to be all right, and whatever you need, I will be there for you.

So I rise today to honor a mentor, a trailblazer, and an esteemed former Member of Congress, Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Representative Johnson served the 30th Congressional District in Texas with distinction for 30 years, and she was the first registered nurse ever elected to Congress.

We hear of all the firsts, that our honored colleague was able to break through those ceilings. In the 1960s, Representative Johnson fought for minority women's rights, and her work inspired her to start a long and distinguished career in politics.

As we have heard, she was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1972. I have a picture that hangs in my office of my father on the rostrum, as freshman Members are allowed to take their picture there when they arrive here in Congress. My father is standing there at the podium, and right next to him is EBJ. So I am fortunate that I will have a memory of her every time I enter my office in New Jersey.

She really, on the personal side, looked out for us, gave us guidance, very quiet, but when she told you something, you understood that she was not playing around—that is for sure—and it was always to your benefit. You may not have appreciated it at the time or felt it was a little terse, but, in the long run, it was always right.

So I am here just to pay honor and homage to a great woman—a great woman, a woman that defied odds that were surmountable and was able to accomplish so much with everything stacked against her. She still was able to accomplish incredible things, and so I am grateful for my colleague—and I am not surprised—the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON, for keeping it real.

We need to understand what did happen to her, because it is a crime and a tragedy. After serving this country all these years and, in her retirement, having to suffer like that is wrong.

We will remember the good things. We will remember the parts about her that we loved.

□ 1745

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), who is from the other part of Dallas.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to sort of paint a picture for everybody about what Dallas, Texas, was like. Like most other cities in Texas, when Eddie Bernice Johnson came from Waco and decided to settle in Dallas, it was not a great place for Black people

to grow and prosper. It was very segregated, so much to the point to where if you were Black and you went into clothing stores in downtown Dallas, Mr. Speaker, you couldn't even try the clothes on.

Nonetheless, that didn't stop Eddie Bernice Johnson. When she had the opportunity from Stanley Marcus to go and work at Neiman Marcus, instead of being happy and content to have an opportunity to work at what at the time was one of the premiere retail centers in the entire world, Eddie Bernice Johnson decided that she was going to shake some trees to make sure that no one else had to live through that indignity.

She made changes when it came to retail in Dallas that led to the integration of stores and retail establishments in the city of Dallas.

She did the same thing in nursing where there were not any nurses of color who worked at the VA. So every step of the way when Eddie Bernice Johnson went into a room, she always made sure that not only did she break glass ceilings, but she blazed trails for others who were going to follow behind her.

She did the same thing in the Texas Senate. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, because so much has been said about the feats that she accomplished when it came to transportation, a lot of people don't realize this, but Dallas, Texas, has probably the premiere light rail commuter rail system in the entire South. Had it not been for Eddie Bernice Johnson who had the vision that, hey, this DART system can actually work and be something, it is hard to imagine that DART would be what it is today. I can remember when I was a small child, a lot of people thought that there was no way that you could connect Dallas County and the surrounding counties by light rail. They said that it was too spread out.

Nonetheless, Eddie Bernice Johnson knew better, and she became a champion for DART. That is why the downtown station is named after her.

We had regional disputes between our two airports, and Eddie Bernice Johnson played a very key role and ultimately helped work out a decision that has helped both DFW and Love Field grow and prosper and become two of the busiest airports in the entire country. That was Eddie Bernice Johnson who played a role in that.

When you think about where transportation is going tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, and where it currently is today, so much of the technology that is going to be needed to power the next generation of technology and the next generation of transportation, it was the Chips and Science Act and it was Eddie Bernice Johnson on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee who really put all that together.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to think about her career when she first got into politics working on the more traditional means of transportation and

the more traditional modes that we are all familiar with; and think about this new technology and how the new chips are going to tie in the old ways of how we move around and bring the new ways and empower America to a cleaner and better future of being able to move people. That was Eddie Bernice Johnson who played a huge role in that.

We can't say enough about this woman and what she did to overcome, stay focused, and blaze trails for so many other people. Her legacy will live on forever, and the people of Dallas will always hold on to her legacy and her memories because what she did was just absolutely amazing and worthy of all of the great things that you will hear about her this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Dallas for putting this hour together.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend and former colleague, the extraordinary and the honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson.

First, let me just send my deepest condolences to her loved ones. This Nation has lost a powerful force for good.

When I was first elected, I served on the Science and Technology Committee with Eddie Bernice Johnson, and one of my very first congressional delegations, of course, led by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was to visit technology companies in her district.

She was adamant about making sure that I, as a new member, focused on the inclusion of women and people of color in all aspects of science and technology which led to my forming the Congressional Black Caucus' Tech 2020 and now Tech 2025 initiative.

Nevertheless, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice insisted. She told me, as you probably have heard tonight and as she had always said: You have got to do the work. You have got to do the work.

Now, the global HIV/AIDS initiative, PEPFAR, which has saved over 25 million lives, was actually talked about and begun when Congresswoman and then-Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She organized the first meeting with President George Bush. I will never forget. She asked me what I wanted to talk about at the meeting. I said that I want to talk about all these people in Africa and throughout the world dying of AIDS.

She looked at me, she smiled, and she said: That is what you want to talk to President Bush about?

I said, Yes, ma'am.

She said: Okay, talk to him and tell him what you think we should do.

The rest is history. That was the beginning of our discussions about the global AIDS initiative, but had she not

allowed me to raise that with President Bush, then who knows where we would be?

Again, the rest is history.

Her mark is on so much of what has been good, and that has been moved forward through this House of Representatives. She cared about all people. She cared about people of color, which was so important to her because she talked about our common humanity. That led her to forming the Tri-Caucus which consists of today the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. The Tri-Caucus has been a powerful force for good not only for communities of color but for our entire country.

Congresswoman and Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's life was remarkable. I have had the privilege to travel with her all over the world, and she was greeted as royalty in many countries. I will never forget her forming her organization, A World of Women for World Peace. She would invite all of us to meet with these phenomenal women from all around the world. She wanted to connect women because she knew that we would fight for peace and security together throughout the world. That was her idea. That was her idea.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, we are going to miss her. Her legacy will endure in the lives of those she touched, but also her legacy will endure right here in Washington, D.C., throughout our country, and throughout the entire world.

As the Scriptures remind us, she fought the good fight, she finished the race, and, yes, she kept the faith. May her soul rest in peace and in power.

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, she is a living legend. We lost her, but she will always live on in the Halls of Congress.

Leader JEFFRIES is unable to be here, but he tells a story that always makes me laugh. He talks about the fact that he and Chairman HORSFORD as freshmen were called in by Eddie Bernice. She told them: One of you all is going to lead the Special Order hour.

So they said: Okay. Yes, ma'am.

Of course, they did that. They did whatever she asked of them because she saw leadership in them probably before they saw leadership in themselves.

He tells the story about how they led a Special Order hour at the behest of Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Leader JEFFRIES always says that he could count on three people who would be watching: Steven's mom, his mom, and Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude this Special Order hour, I know that if there is one person who is watching as a freshman who had to do this job and lead her first Special Order hour, I know it is Eddie Bernice Johnson.

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

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, in Washington, every time that you think you have seen it all and heard it all, you couldn't be surprised, amazed, disappointed, what have you, more than you already are, but it never fails to deliver.

I am going to talk about a few things this evening. I am going to start with this. I am a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I just attended a hearing on the Afghan reconstruction after withdrawal, so to speak.

So we left, as you know, Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan. Our Nation left there in a bit of a hurry. We won't get into that much, but what I do want to talk about is where we stand at this point because whether or not the American people know it, we are still spending billions of dollars in Afghanistan. So we had a hearing today to talk about that.

We have spent a couple of billion dollars. Now, at the same time we are spending billions of dollars in aid in Afghanistan where the Taliban rules, we have got a guy named Ryan Corbett who has been detained and held in Afghanistan wrongly by the Taliban. They are holding him hostage apparently among other Americans and Westerners who are being held hostage in Afghanistan. In spite of this, we are giving them billions of dollars in aid.

Now, the gentleman who came to talk to us is the Special Representative for Afghanistan and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the U.S. State Department. His name is Thomas West. He came to speak to us and answer questions about that.

I asked him: Well, how are we leveraging these billions of dollars to get Ryan Corbett out? Why would we give billions of dollars to this country?

We just had a 20-year war with them, and, unfortunately, the United States left without winning the war because the Taliban is now in charge.

I said: We give them a couple billion dollars a year here.

He said: Well, it doesn't go through the Taliban, it goes through non-governmental organizations.

That is a whole other story that we will get into, but the point is that we have American hostages in Iran—correction—Afghanistan. That is a Freudian slip because Iran is on my mind, too. That is another problem. However, we will stick to Afghanistan for a minute.

It seems to me that if they want a couple of billion dollars—let's be clear. We are \$34 trillion in debt right now. We just went to 34, and by May of this

year, we will be at 35. We are going to pay \$1 trillion in interest this year. That is no new tanks, that is no new social programs, and that is no new missiles. That is just interest. That is paying for money that has already been spent, and now that you have borrowed it, you get nothing for the \$1 trillion.

So it is a long way from \$1 trillion to a couple of billion dollars in Afghanistan, but those couple of billion over time add up, and the people whom I am representing are paying for that.

First of all, they paid a couple of trillion dollars for the war in Afghanistan for 20 years, and now we are paying billions more for what?

I said: When are you going to use your leverage to get this guy, Ryan Corbett, out?

In the course of the hearing, we learned about Afghan women and children, little girls, who can't go to school. They are oppressed, and the women can't leave their house, they can't get an education, and they can't work. They are being oppressed as we knew the Taliban was going to do. We told everybody that that is what is going to happen if you leave the Taliban in charge.

□ 1800

One of the folks on the dais asked one of these poor panelists: What are you doing about the mental health state of these Afghan women? They are depressed because of the circumstances they are in.

There was a lot of conversations about, well, we talk to them, and we are trying to work with them, and so on and so forth. I am listening to this like my head is going to explode.

When it was my turn to ask questions, I said: This poor woman here can't help these people, these women and children in Afghanistan, the lady that was sitting there testifying.

Afghanistan is a terrorist superstate, Mr. Speaker. It is a terrorist superstate with multiple terrorist organizations operating in the country with impunity.

We are spending a couple billion dollars there, and we are asking people who we are paying what they are doing about the mental health and depression standards of Afghanistan women and children. How absurd can this be?

I asked Mr. West if he could talk to me about the open-source reporting. Open source is not classified. That is what you can read in the newspaper, see on the TV, hear on the radio about this guy, Abdul Rasheed Munib, who reportedly traveled to North Korea to obtain nuclear weapons technology and collaborate with North Korea. What can he tell me about that?

He couldn't tell me anything about that because he didn't know anything about that. He had never heard of that, yet I see it on open-source reporting.

Shouldn't he know about that? He is the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Deputy Assistant Secretary. He should know.

I asked him about open-source reporting about the Taliban trying to take Pakistan's nuclear weapons. I would think that nuclear weapons in the Middle East with a rogue regime like the Taliban would be a security concern for the United States of America. I asked: What is the endgame to this billions of dollars going to Afghanistan? What is the mission? When does it end? Does it ever end?

Of course, I got some kind of long-winded answer that is circular and never gets anywhere. I asked: What is our national security interest in Afghanistan at this point?

He said: We have spent \$2 trillion there over the last 20 years.

I said: Stop. Please don't tell me we are spending billions of dollars to secure the \$2 trillion that we spent during our 20 years in Afghanistan because—I have bad news for everybody—it is gone. The money is gone.

Mr. Speaker, this is just another example of the fantasy land that is Washington, D.C., because the Taliban is in charge in Afghanistan after kicking the United States of America out after America spent \$2 trillion there—forget the \$2 trillion, a couple thousand lives in Afghanistan. Here today, in 2024, you are going to be expected to spend a couple billion dollars more in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, this can't continue. I will bet one thing, though. I will bet the Taliban controls Afghanistan's border. I bet they do. I will bet if somebody tries to get into Afghanistan that doesn't belong there, I bet the Taliban doesn't allow that.

I will move on to the next subject, which I think we are going to spend the bulk of the time on, which is the southern border of the United States of America.

Now, I am not advocating to hire the Taliban to come patrol the southwestern border of the United States of America, but it seems to me that we could certainly do a better job.

We just recently took a trip—and I say "we," Members of Congress, only on this side of the aisle. The other side of the aisle doesn't care to see what is happening on the border. I know some of them go as a token trip so they can act like they care about it.

While I am on that subject about caring about it, we are hearing today, in the last couple of days, about people here illegally in the United States of America residing in the State of New York. They moved them into a school and kicked the kids out of the school. The people in New York and the leadership of New York are saying this has to end. This is a crisis.

One of the States, I think, just declared an emergency. This is a crisis. We need resources. We need to deal with all these people who are here illegally. They are here, and we don't have what we need to deal with them.

Do you know what I am waiting to hear? It is quiet here on the floor, but I am waiting to hear, "We in the State

of New York hereby revoke our status as a sanctuary State," or New York City, "We revoke our status as a sanctuary city." I haven't heard that. I don't know if you have heard that, Mr. Speaker, but I haven't heard that.

What that means is that we have a problem here, but the way to fix it, Mr. Speaker, is to kick your kids out of your school, take your tax money, and let people who are here illegally stay in the school that your kids are supposed to be learning in. That is apparently the answer.

The difference is that instead of the taxpayers of New York paying for it, they want the taxpayers of the entire United States to pay for those in New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Texas, and all the 50 States. That is what they want. They don't want to fix the problem. They want you to pay for more of the problem.

I suspect it is the whole cause and effect thing, supply and demand, et cetera, age-old precepts that seem to make sense. It seems to me that if we are going to pay for more of that, we are probably going to get more of that. That is what it seems to me. I might be wrong.

Anyhow, back to where I was. We took this trip down to the border. We went down to Eagle Pass, Texas. Thousands of people were coming across the border at Eagle Pass, Texas, for days and days on end.

I am going to recognize my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona, here in a moment, but we have seen it on TV. We have seen it. We have heard it. We have read it in the papers. Thousands of people are coming illegally.

Merry Christmas. You are in America now. You crossed the river, and here you are.

When we went there, we went to a processing facility where they processed the people in. Understand, it is not like our Border Patrol has orders to say: Dear kind sir, or ma'am, I know you have come from one of the 170 countries that is currently infiltrating the United States, but we are going to have to turn you around and send you back.

No, it is: Here, get in the truck. We will take you to the processing facility. Make sure you are all cleaned up and get what you need. We will send you wherever you want to go in the United States of America.

By December 20, there were about 10,000 people at this processing facility at Eagle Pass, Texas, about 9,800, 260 percent of its capacity. They knew we were coming, so when we got there, somehow it went from 10,000 to 600.

Interestingly enough, when we got there, even though there were only 600, we think we are representative of the people. I am seeing this. My good friend from Virginia, Mr. Good, who is here with us this evening, has eyes in his head. He was seeing it. My good friend from Arizona, Mr. BIGGS, was there. He has eyes in his head, so he saw it, too.

We thought: Well, wouldn't it be nice if we showed our bosses, the people who pay our salary, our constituents? Why don't we take a picture of this?

Hold on a second. You get your camera out, and the Border Patrol says: No photographs allowed.

Some Members of Congress are a little recalcitrant. Maybe they didn't hear, I don't know, but they took pictures anyhow, or they got their phones out, and then Border Patrol said: You have to delete that photo.

Mr. Speaker, at the very same time, this whole codel of 60 Members of Congress had cameras pointed at us from the Border Patrol.

I said: Hold on a second, here. You are taking pictures of us, but we can't take pictures of this for our constituents? What is the policy? Who came up with this policy? What is the purpose for this policy?

Mr. Speaker, I have this letter here, to the Honorable Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, asking about that policy. We don't have the answer yet, but what is interesting is that right after we left, the media went into that very same facility, the television media. What do you think they did, Mr. Speaker? They filmed in that facility.

Let me get this straight: If you are a member of the leftist media, God bless you. Take all the pictures you want of a facility that is at a fraction of what it was in capacity just days before, 260 percent.

When Congress gets there, it is down to, I guess, manageable levels, if there is such a thing. We can't take pictures and show our constituents, our bosses, but the media sure can. The media sure can go in there and take pictures to show their viewers. Nothing to see here. Isn't it amazing?

Mr. Speaker, unaccompanied minors increased 62 percent from 2011. The number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking increased 84 percent.

We are being told that this policy of letting anybody from 170 countries come to the United States of America illegally across our borders is humane because whatever they are dealing with in their country must be worse, even though they have to pay the cartels, even though there are rape trees, even though there is indentured servitude and modern-day slavery associated with every single one of these individuals who come through the cartels, and the cartels have operational control over the border.

Do you know how I know? Not because Secretary Mayorkas said so. He lied when he came to Congress and said he had operational control because the chief of the Border Patrol told us that they don't have operational control. After the chief of the Border Patrol told us that, the Secretary changed his position on it. He lied for a while, and now, I guess, he feels he is absolved from lying the first time he was here and lied to the American people.

The other thing that you might not realize is that anybody under 14 who

comes across the border illegally, no background check. Guess what, Mr. Speaker? Probably no documentation either. If you say that you are 14, no background check—whether you are 19, 21, or 18. No background check, so there is no way to prove it.

The other thing is that people are coming from 170 countries, and one of them might be Afghanistan. One of them might be Iran. One of them might be North Korea, for all I know. I saw some crazy things—Germany, the Netherlands, Spain. I saw them on the list.

Are these oppressed countries coming to America illegally? I don't think so, but they are coming illegally.

What about the ones that don't have any relationship with the United States, other than a bellicose relationship?

What about the Taliban? What about Syria? I don't know. What about Iran? Are any of those folks coming? Any folks coming from Hamas or Hezbollah? I don't know. Apparently, they don't know either because, do you know what, Mr. Speaker? When they do a background check, they check all the United States' references. That is awesome unless you are not a United States citizen or in the United States crime registry. Then we don't know what you have done.

If you are Iranian coming across the Mexican border, and we ask Mexico to help us: Do you have anything on this Iranian person? He is of military age. He is not from America. He seems to be from Iran. He speaks Iranian. He speaks Persian. What do you have on him?

I don't know. We are Mexico. We don't have anything on him.

So, he is clear. That is what happens, Mr. Speaker.

Sometimes they bring a minor with them, and this is where it really gets ugly. To have a minor with you, the background check, first of all, is often waived anyhow, or we can't get any information, even if they are not a citizen.

We have this minor who comes into the country illegally. We are sending him somewhere. They have a phone number, send him there. We don't ask if that person is a citizen because we can't.

If the person isn't a citizen and has a deportation order, and the minor is going to go to that person, the deportation order is not valid grounds to not send that minor to that person.

That means we are sending a minor to a person that the United States is going to deport. Where is the minor going to be then? Look, I think we all know that is not really a problem because we are not going to deport anybody in the United States of America.

□ 1815

How about this? If you have a criminal history or you refuse to submit to a background check, but you are claiming an unaccompanied minor, that is

not grounds for you to not have that unaccompanied minor.

Mr. Speaker, I hate to say it this way, but it seems to me that in the United States of America it is probably easier to adopt a stray cat or a stray dog than to receive an unaccompanied minor coming across the Texas border through the cartels. That is one hell of a damn statement to make on this House floor, but I think it is reality.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for the purpose of a colloquy. Maybe he has got some thoughts on it. Am I wrong?

Mr. BIGGS. No. Let's pick up with Mayor Adams of New York. Here is a guy who presides over a sanctuary city—that is awesome, that is awesome—but he doesn't want to experience what is a daily occurrence along the border, for those who live in a border community.

They got some rain and wind in New York. It was blowing down the tents that the illegal aliens were dwelling in in New York at a park, so he decides this is what we are going to do: We are going to clear out a school. We are going to tell those 4,000 kids with no notice to the parents really, no notice to the teachers, no notice to the district. Boom, all these families, all these individuals—they are not all just families; you have got men of military age—2,000 of them plus—they are going to dwell in the school that your kid was getting ready to go to.

He is like: What could go wrong? Why is everybody so upset?

He says about that, the illegal aliens: I didn't see illegal migrants. I saw children. I saw children, and this community will always stand with children.

What about the 4,000 kids at the school? What about those families?

I didn't see children. I mean, he didn't say that, but that is really what he is implying: You are only a child of value if you are in the country illegally. You are not a child of value if you are going to a New York public school. That is the very attitude of this administration.

Mr. PERRY was down in Eagle Pass, and I was down in Eagle Pass with Representative GOOD. When I talked to the Speaker, he was a little miffed with me.

He said: Why aren't you coming with us on our tour? Why are you going on your own tour?

I said: Because I have got to go back to Arizona a little early, I am going to need to leave the bus.

His staff tells my staff: Oh, BIGGS can't come then because he has got to be on the bus the whole time.

I said: I am going down a day early. I am going to rent a car and invite a few friends. SCOTT is a friend, but I am sorry, the car filled up too fast.

We went down early. You know what CBP did? Because I go down often, I know a lot of people in CBP. They routinely take us on tours, but in this instance they said they had a new guy coming in, he hasn't been sworn in yet.

He says, look—he tells my staff—you can come, but then he says, no, no, you can't come.

We reached out to the chief judge of the Western District of Texas. We said: Look, we are going to be down there, we would like to visit with you. We want you to tell us what is going on.

She says: Are you going to take them to the border?

I said: No, they withdrew the border.

She makes the call and says: I will be with BIGGS and his group; we want a tour of the border.

That night you did not see anything; you didn't see a lot of people crossing, did you?

Mr. PERRY. No. We saw a few.

Mr. BIGGS. Right. Right. I will tell you why in a second. That night it was cold, really cold, unseasonably cold in south Texas. It was raining cats and dogs. We are in the van, and they are taking us down there.

I have been down there many times. We see it. It is cleaned up. They have moved 12,000 people in 24 hours because you guys, you yahoos are coming down there the next day and Secretary Mayorkas was down there yesterday. They cleaned it up. We can't have this. The media is coming down, a big gaggle of media, they can't see this. We can't have this, so they cleaned it up. They actually mowed the grass.

I asked the guy, I said: Where's the garbage, man? I know there is garbage. I know there is clothing. As we are driving along, there is this massive pile of clothing.

Did you see it, BOB? I said: Hey, is this one of the piles of clothing?

Yeah, that is one of the piles right there.

As we are going down, there are people all along the way there, right? That is what you see.

Now, why did you not see anybody?

We met the next day with a lot of folks you didn't get to meet with—sorry—one of which informed us very clearly that the flow of people at the ports of entry are controlled by the CBP One app, so they will give you a green light.

Mr. PERRY. I think my good friend from Arizona has to explain what the CBP One app is? What is that?

Mr. BIGGS. If you want to come into the country illegally, they want to slow—they want to get some of you to come into the port of entry, so they have created an app. You preregister as an illegal alien say: I am going to be coming, and I want to be able to declare asylum, which is also illegal, by the way. That is not what the law is. So you have got an app.

Mr. PERRY. You are telling me I have got an app on my phone where I can make a reservation to come illegally into the country, and I am making the reservation with the law enforcement agency charged with keeping me out of the country illegally?

Mr. BIGGS. The gentleman is correct. The reason is because they want to facilitate you getting through faster

and we want to distribute you throughout the country, at least this administration does. You register with the CBP One app. Well, they are going to tell you where the green lights are, and they are going to gray out where you can't come.

So they started graying out Eagle Pass. This bridge we are talking about, there is a port of entry on the bridge. They said: No, we are not going to take any more people that way. You are going to need to go to some other port of entry, and so they do. That is how they slow that down.

However, in the meantime, between the ports of entry, they are coming in droves.

Mr. PERRY. What was the number, if you don't mind, the record number in December?

Mr. BIGGS. The record number for apprehensions was 302,000 plus—302,000 people. That would have put it clearly within the top 20 largest cities in this country, when you think about that.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a colloquy with the gentleman from Arizona regarding an illustration relative to the CBP One app.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Think about this, Mr. Speaker. If this Biden Federal Government was the local police and home burglaries were up, you have got rising crime, home burglaries, which are up under the Biden administration. In this case, if there were too many break-ins into homes across the country, their solution would be for the police to schedule the break-in with the criminals, meet them at the house, and let them in?

That is essentially what they are doing. These illegals are coordinating with the government to schedule their illegal entry into our country, and they count that differently within their numbers than if they just go to the border on their own with the criminal cartels instead of scheduling it with our own Department of so-called Homeland Security.

Mr. PERRY. It certainly is an astounding eventuality that we are realizing, and we also know that the Border Patrol wants to do its job. I firmly believe that 99.9 percent of the good members of Customs and Border Protection want to do their job. They want to protect the homeland, but they have been given orders.

They have been given orders to process these people, not bar entry to this country, but process them to the point where we don't even have anybody out on the line. I am sure the gentleman from Arizona can talk about that.

Mr. BIGGS. Yes, I will speak to that for just a second. A couple weeks ago now, I took a group of people to Lukeville, Arizona. Now, Lukeville is an incredibly remote port of entry, 35 people or so live by there. You come through Ajo, if you are coming from

Phoenix or Tucson, and you are going to go to Rocky Point down in Mexico, it is very heavy traffic.

Well, they actually had to close that port of entry. Why? Because the number of people pouring through, cutting holes in the fences, and we had to bring these people—we are talking multiple thousands a day, multiple thousands a day, 30,000 people in the last couple weeks, right? Think about that.

What do they do? All they could do is take the personnel that they have, and they start working the line, right? No, they don't. They actually start transporting them to an off-the-border facility, a soft-sided facility kind of like the one you saw except smaller for the first wait, because it is so remote, it literally takes hours to get to a soft-sided facility in Tucson, Arizona. They will go there, and they will spend a few hours, maybe a day or two before they are distributed.

What happens? When I was there, I thought, oh, man, we missed the flood because we got there a little late in the morning. I went and talked to these people.

I said: Where are you from?

Guinea, Burkina Faso, Senegal, India, Pakistan, a few from Guatemala.

Where are you going? You know what they do? They look around, they find a paper, it is a laminated card. It has the names of the people they are going to be in contact with, with phone numbers and an address where they are going to be taken. Everywhere from the Bronx to Missouri, to L.A., to Houston. They are going all over.

Anyway, I said: This is interesting. Let's go on down, and we will drive the border road for a while. We drive the border road. There is a family of 10 people or so.

I said: How did you get here?

We came about 2 hours ago. No, they were 4 hours.

We came 4 hours ago. We came through a hole in the fence down here that the coyote showed us, and we walked on up and we are just waiting. We haven't seen a CBP agent.

In 4 hours?

No, we haven't. We are just waiting. We are assured that someone will be along.

They were from Mexico, within Mexico, so we were able to speak Spanish and talk to them.

Then we go on down, and as we are going along, there isn't anybody. There is no CBP agent. We go a few miles, and we stop.

We are like, you know, we have kind of missed the rush. One of the people I am with said: That looks like a group right there, over here, down to the right, on the road.

Sure enough, there's 30 or 40 people walking, right? We wait, and they get by, and there is another group right behind them and another group and another group. We asked them where they were from. They are from all over.

Where are you going? All over.

How did you get in? There is a hole in the fence right down here a couple miles.

We drove down there. Again, no CBP agents. Why? They are working their tail off having to transport and process. They can't do what they were hired to do, what we need them to do.

We happened to run into a contractor: Hey, what are you doing?

He has got a truck, and we had just seen the welding guy, who I knew was fixing the fence, and he had just driven by. We talked to this guy and said: What is up? Well, you know, he gets this notebook out and starts showing us all the holes in the fence they have had to repair.

He said on this day—I can't remember the actual day; I think it was December 14—there were something like 28 holes in the fence that they had to repair. We were there at 10:30, 11:00 in the morning, they had already repaired six holes in the fence.

I asked: What is happening? How does this happen? He says: Well, you will see along the Mexico side there is a highway. The coyote will come in, controlled by the cartel. He has got his own torch to cut the holes in the fence. They will wrap chains around it, they will pull out the slats, and people will just flood through, and that is what you saw.

That day they had already repaired six holes, and we said: Well, where's the agents? We were looking for agents, as well. I love the agents; I talk to them all the time.

They said: Oh, they are back at the facility processing.

Mr. PERRY. Back at the facility processing?

Mr. BIGGS. Because they can't get there. You know what? My colleagues on the Democrat side, they will tell you that there is no problem down on the border because they really don't think there is. I think this is an existential crisis.

Mr. PERRY. I disagree. They do know there is, but they want to deny that there is to the American people. They want these people to keep coming illegally in the numbers that they have been and will continue to come, and every policy that they support promotes that. Every policy that we support to stem that tide they object to.

□ 1830

Mr. PERRY. My good friend from Virginia, I know you were there and talked to some of the folks, regular residents, not Border Patrol, not law enforcement, just people trying to get through their day as American citizens.

I talked to a husband and wife who have a ranch there. The lady told me horrific stories. They have an 18-year-old daughter. The lady came home, and there were people who came across the border illegally, men, in her home.

She was worried her daughter was upstairs, and she kicked those people out of her home and went to check on her daughter. Her daughter was upstairs listening to music and didn't even know anybody was in the house.

I said: Well, what were they doing in your house?

She said: Well, I keep a refrigerator out on the front porch because we get a bunch of migrants that come through, and we put water and stuff in it. We put beer in it, too. They wanted beer, but they didn't like the beer that I had out in that refrigerator, so they came into the house.

How would you like that?

If that is not enough, she told me she went to get in her truck, and some lady was in her truck bleeding to death because she had gotten her foot cut off trying to jump off the train that goes through their property.

She said in the period of time between the end of the year, so the end of December, and when we were there, which is the beginning of January, I think essentially 3 or 4 days, there were 77 cuts in their fence.

Mr. BIGGS. Three days.

Mr. PERRY. The U.S. Government—your tax dollars—is paying for the cuts in the fence that Mr. BIGGS from Arizona is talking about.

These people, citizens of the United States who are taxpayers depending upon their government to protect them from invasion, guess who pays to fix their fence?

They can't even have animals on their land anymore because they can't keep them in the fenced area because the fences get cut by people coming across illegally.

Is that any way to live, my good friend from Virginia?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. It is not any way to live. I have heard our Speaker say and members of our Conference echo him when he says that the border is the hill to die on, that the border is the fight to have.

My question to them is: What does that mean? When members of leadership or members of our Conference say the border is the hill to die on, what do they mean by that? What are they prepared to do?

This was my sixth trip in my 3 years in Congress. The first one was led by our friend from Arizona, and this most recent one was also led by Mr. BIGGS from Arizona.

What struck me about this time was even though they knew we were coming—they knew at least a larger contingent was coming the next day. We got there a little earlier the day before, as you know, Tuesday night last week before the main deal on Wednesday.

I have never seen the brazen, bold amount of flow that we observed, dozens at a time while we were there.

In my previous experience, we were talking to ranchers, local law enforcement, National Guard, Border Patrol, and residents who live on the border, but we looked a little bit official. We have these Border Patrol guides, some friends guiding us and so forth, so it is pretty sparse. Not this time. They were coming across right in front of us by the dozens, most of them military-age males, single males, coming across themselves, not concerned.

They are looking for Border Patrol personnel to surrender to, to get the free travel, the free housing, the free healthcare, the free social services, the free education if there are children involved, and to be taken up and taken care of at taxpayer expense.

However, as we talked to the chief of that sector that we were at, the Del Rio sector, this past week, he told us that of the 240 miles there that they were responsible for, only about 4 miles had been patrolled during this recent period of time when there were thousands coming across because they were all so busy processing.

Mr. PERRY. Wait. Four miles?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Out of 240. The sector chief that we met with told us 4 out of 240 miles had been secured or patrolled, I should say, during this period of time before we had gotten there because the Border Patrol agents were busy processing illegals into the country.

We talked to a judge, as Mr. BIGGS mentioned, who said when she orders individuals detained, they are still released.

We talked to a senior DHS official who told us that they don't know where 75 percent of the people who they have released into the interior of the country have gone over these last 3 years.

They acknowledge that they have apprehended 8 million and released essentially 8 million. Last year, it was 3.2 million, and they only released, or returned, rather, 140,000.

Mr. Speaker, 3 million last year released in the country, and they don't know where 75 percent of them are because, as Mr. BIGGS says, they get a piece of paper saying they have a notice to appear at a court date in the future.

We will get in touch with you if we can find you and tell you when that court date is a few years down the road.

They catch 100 on the terrorist watch list from the dumb ones who surrender to the Border Patrol and who don't think they are going to get caught because we are so generous and do so little vetting at the border. They still caught 100 among the 8 million who come and surrender to Border Patrol.

How troubling is it that there are an estimated 2 million, at least, gotaways, the ones who don't surrender because they are trafficking the women and children. They are trafficking fentanyl and other harmful drugs. They recognize the terrorist ties and the criminal backgrounds. They don't surrender.

There are an estimated 2 million. How many dangerous individuals might be among that 2 million? What percentage do you think it might be? Ten percent? So 90 percent are confused and don't know about all the free stuff? They don't know to use the CBP app? They don't know to surrender to Border Patrol to get all the free stuff? If only 10 percent of them are bad guys,

that would be 200,000. About 2,000 people perpetrated the Hamas attack in Israel.

When we have let individuals in this country from 170 different countries. They are coming from China, Russia, the Middle East, hostile nations. We don't even know where they are coming from.

That is on top of the same administration, by the way, that brought 200,000 people here from Afghanistan in 2 weeks and didn't vet them either. Most of them were military-age males. They claim they were doing it to bring our interpreters and our translators.

I know General Perry served in the military and wore the uniform, and our friend who has joined us here, Mr. CRANE, served in the military and wore the uniform as a Navy SEAL.

I went to Fort Pickett to visit those Afghans in my district after they had brought several thousand there to house them. I took a Marine veteran who works in my district office. We went together to visit that fort. We did the official tour first.

They told us we couldn't come. By the way, they allowed a colleague of mine from the Virginia delegation—they allowed her to come from the neighboring district, but they didn't want me to come. She gave a very different report than I did, by the way.

We said we are coming anyway. We had DHS and military personnel show us around. After we were done, we did our own wandering around. We went and talked to the Afghans who were there. I remind you that these are the translators and interpreters. Guess how many of them spoke English? About 1 out of 10.

They finally acknowledged they didn't vet those people, and they don't know where they are. You wonder to what end and to what limit.

Why would our own President perpetrate this border invasion on purpose? Why would he do this? When in the history of our country has our own President done more to intentionally harm the United States than what this President has done? If he sealed the border today, irreparable harm has been done.

Mr. PERRY. I want to tell a story about getting on the plane in San Antone to come home. Before I do that, we are joined by the great Eli Crane from the State of Arizona, out of that uniform and into this uniform, fighting for the great people of Arizona.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for allowing me to join tonight to talk about this crisis at our southern border.

Mr. GOOD, when you talk about how many got-aways we have right now in this country, how many individuals on the terror watch list, it is about 300 since Biden took office.

To give the American people some context, I know that number under the last administration was under 20. I believe it was about 14 people who were encountered on the southern border that were on the terrorist watch list.

That is something that really piques my interest because like a lot of Americans who are still alive today and have jobs, families, who love this country, 9/11 changed my life.

I dropped out of school my senior year and joined the Navy the week after 9/11. I remind Americans it only took 19 people to perpetrate those acts on 9/11.

When you are talking about this amount of numbers, this invasion—I hate to say it. I hate to sound like an alarmist, but as somebody who considers myself a sheepdog, somebody who considers myself the type of individual who wants to protect other people—and we have other sheepdogs around this Capitol right now. There are some in the balcony. There are some out there.

We know what this is going to lead to. I hate to say it, but I am going to say it because Americans need to know. It is not a question of if. It is a question of when.

It breaks my heart, but it enrages me at the same time because Americans deserve better. They deserve leadership. They deserve a government that puts their safety and security as a top priority. We are not—I repeat, we are not—doing that.

It is one of the reasons right now in the Homeland Security Committee that we are working on impeaching Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

I hope it is something that we are actually able to conclude this time, even though a couple of weeks ago we tried that in this very Chamber, and eight Republicans voted against it.

It is imperative that we do that, not because we are going to get a better replacement. It is imperative that we do that because the American people are watching.

They are sick and tired of this place. They are sick and tired of the politicians here. One of the biggest reasons they are sick and tired of it is because nobody ever gets held accountable.

It has been a long time since a Cabinet Secretary was impeached. I am not sure it has ever even happened.

Mr. BIGGS, has that ever even happened?

Mr. BIGGS. One hundred fifty years ago.

Mr. CRANE. There have been a lot of historic things that have happened in this Congress, Mr. BIGGS, and I am hoping that the impeachment of a Cabinet Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, is one of the next things that happens because I want the American people to know that there is not one set of rules for them and one set of rules for the people up there. They know for a fact they could not come up here and do the exact opposite of what their job description was.

Look at his job title: Secretary of Homeland Security. I don't know about you. I am not an English major, but that would make me believe, Mr. PERRY, that his job might be to protect the homeland.

What do you think about that?

Mr. PERRY. Well, I was around when that agency was enacted, and there was a reason we called it that. It was supposed to help all the disparate agencies collaborate toward one singular focus, which was protecting America.

Mr. BIGGS. Can I interject something? We have been talking about Eagle Pass, and I have a bit of breaking news for you.

Those who were with me, we actually drove through the golf course to get to a couple of our points.

Mr. PERRY. People don't know that, Mr. BIGGS from Arizona, but there is a golf course right on the river at Eagle Pass, Texas.

While people are coming illegally across the border, you could be teeing off or on the green trying to get one in the cup. They are walking right across in front of you, yelling. They were yelling "Venezuela" when I was there.

I don't know why you come from Venezuela to America illegally yelling "Venezuela." You would think you would at least have the sense to say "USA," but that is another story.

What is your story on the golf course?

Mr. BIGGS. The breaking news is this: That park area has now been—today, Governor Abbott of Texas, because he feels so overrun, has declared a state of emergency, and that property has been taken over by the State of Texas.

They will arrest anybody who enters that property for criminal trespass and prosecute them. I guess it underlines kind of a finer point that we have been talking about. Is this a crisis? Are we chasing phantoms, or is this a real crisis? Well, it is a real crisis, and as we sit here, this administration is a lawless administration. They are not going to do anything to actually enforce the border.

I say this often. We can pass every kind of policy we want, but believe me, title 8 forbids Mayorkas from doing what he is doing.

□ 1845

He can't catch and release. Courts have told him to reinstate MPP, the migrant protocol protections. He won't do that. This administration is lawless, and I can only think of one thing, and the Founders gave it to us. They were crystal clear. They said: Your check, legislative branch, is the purse strings. It is the funding. I do not know how we can continue to fund an administration that chooses willfully to facilitate an invasion of the United States of America. How can we?

Mr. PERRY. Well, Mr. BIGGS of Texas, I am glad you brought that up. Now, on my trip home, I went to the airport in San Antonio. It was early in the morning. People are around, but, you know, we know what to look for because we have heard the stories. There is a brown envelope, and people are carrying it.

Now, you know, you either have your app on your phone—not the CBP One

app, but the app for the airline you are flying—so you get your boarding pass or you are carrying a physical boarding pass, and it says, you know, zone one, whatever, right, to tell you when you are boarding. People not from this country that have never been on an airplane before don't know what any of that is. They want to get to the next—and I happened to be going to Charlotte, South Carolina, for my connection to get back home to the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am sitting listening to the announcements, and I am going to show up in line at the appropriate time. But the folks that don't understand English and don't know what a boarding pass is, they just all go to the front of the line.

These people that work for the airlines, they are trying to hold back this horde of people that just want to get in the airplane. Now, it is one thing—Mr. BIGGS, you speak Spanish. My mother is Colombian, so I know a little bit; you know, I can make my way through it. But if you have got people coming from 170 different countries, the gate agent likely doesn't know what you speak in Burkina Faso or maybe you don't know Farsi or something like that. They are trying to explain to these people, no, you have to wait your turn.

Now, while all that is happening, it is going through my mind that these people that came from some other country other than Mexico, which is important because they flew into Mexico and then walked across the border, so they had some means to get there. It wasn't like they were just out in a boat floating around in the ocean and all of a sudden, oh, we are on the Rio Grande and we are coming into America now. I mean, this is all planned, right?

Now the American taxpayer is paying for these folks to get on this plane. They just came across illegally, and they are going to Charlotte. I don't know where they are going after that, but I know a bunch of them were going to Charlotte because I was on the plane with them. We are going to pay for that.

We are talking about funding, last year's funding. We are not into this year's funding. We are still trying to figure out last year's funding. And I think, Mr. BIGGS, right now we are being asked to just continue to fund what we have been talking about for the last hour; is that not right?

Mr. BIGGS. You are being asked to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security today with no policy changes even. That is what you are being asked. But more than that, you are being asked to continue all the other programs, the crazy subsidies for Green New Deal stuff, which was forecast at \$350 billion, which is now forecast at \$2.5 trillion. But they are asking you to basically get on board that. So you are getting a weak sauce plan from the Senate that even Senators are rebelling against, saying this will do nothing, which it won't do anything.

Mr. CRANE. But, Congressman BIGGS, it is an election year. We couldn't possibly disrupt things because it is an election year, right? That was one of the arguments I heard today why we can't do anything about the border—it is an election year, and there are politics on the line.

Mr. BIGGS. Well, so the question is really then are you content with approximately 5 million more people illegally entering the country over the next 12 months or are you going to try to do something about it? Because 302,000 plus at least—they acknowledge 50,000 on the got-aways. They don't know what the unknown got-aways are, but—a lot of people don't this, but I am going to explain it.

When you have a group that you can't catch up to—and we get that a lot in Arizona. Arizona is the number one known got-away place. Why? Because it is rugged. It is really desolate. If you see a group, and you can't tell how many it is, do you know what you get to mark down? Twenty plus. They count it as 20. It may be 75. It may be 50. It may be 22. But it is inaccurate. And the people I talk to tell me it is at least one for one. If it is 50,000, it is 100,000 because they don't know what the real number is. That is 402,000 last month alone. And do you want to continue that? How can we as a country continue that? And they are coming from 170 different nations.

Mr. PERRY. So in the 5 minutes we have remaining, now, Mr. CRANE is new here, so maybe he is excited to vote to continue that. I don't think he is, but that is between him and his constituents.

Mr. GOOD was here not this last Christmas last month but the Christmas before, and we got a present from the United States Senate called an omnibus. Everything was in it: all kinds of spending, trillions of dollars, bad policy that is leading to the destruction of this country, including a wide-open border.

If I am not mistaken, Mr. GOOD, you voted "no" on that.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. It was \$1.6 trillion, later increased and scored up to \$4.6 trillion. And the deal that we heard about announced over the weekend, the deal between Senate and House leadership is \$1.66 trillion, \$20 billion higher than what the current score is for the omnibus that we appropriately attacked, criticized, and fought against a year ago.

We are now being asked to vote for an increase in spending for the very policies that we campaign against, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BIGGS, that we run against, that we rail against, that are destroying the country, and the spending levels that are bankrupting our kids and our grandkids while this border invasion continues.

Mr. PERRY. In the 4 minutes we have left, I am standing with great American patriots here that have decided to serve in Congress, do the right thing no matter what Washington,

D.C., tells them. It seems to me—I don't know, maybe I am cynical, maybe I am jaded—we are getting no help from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on this border issue or on this spending issue. Likewise, we are getting little to no help from the other side of the building.

Are we the only four Americans that care about this? There are other good colleagues here that care about it. Well, they are on this side of the aisle, and they are on this side of the building. Mr. BIGGS, is there anybody—you come from a State where there are Democrats elected. I come from Pennsylvania. We have 12.5, 13 million Pennsylvanians. During the course of the 4-year Biden administration there is going to be a whole new Pennsylvania in this country, right? That is how many people are coming. Do our friends on the other side of the aisle have no constituency that says, hold on a second, I am tired of paying for this? Mr. Speaker, is there anybody in your State on the other side of the aisle that will say I have had enough? Mr. BIGGS?

Mr. BIGGS. I will tell you this: There may be three people over here I can name. I won't name them to protect them because they always talk like they are going to help us out, but they don't ever help us out. I love them to death, but they never quite can deliver it. But I will tell you, when you go along the border from RGV to San Ysidro, which is San Diego, and you go talk to the local folks, many of whom are Democrat leaders of those cities and those counties, they want something done. They will stand with you.

And do you know what you guys heard in your group, and we happened to be there? They said shut the government down until you shut the border down. And do you know what? That is a common sentiment all along the border. It is common in my district in Arizona. And I have got a great plan for that, but I can't introduce it in 2 minutes, but, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you, that is the facts. Even the Democrats who are facing the brunt of this—and I don't care what New York is doing. You go tell the people down in Ajo, Arizona, why they are getting overrun right now. They would like to hear it from you.

Mr. PERRY. That is right. In the remaining 1½ minutes, I will kind of end this where I started it out for all of us. We have got friends on the other side of the aisle here in this building, friends in the other party around the country in charge of cities, in charge of States. All of them are complaining. They are all complaining. This is a crisis. It is an emergency in our State. It is an emergency in our city and our community. We have to have something done about it.

I am still waiting. I am still waiting for the first one to say we are going to revoke the sanctuary city, the sanctuary State status. But until that happens, Mr. Speaker, they are not serious

about any of this. They don't care about any of this. They don't care about any of the citizens that elected them, that pay taxes in those political subdivisions. They don't care about them. They want to appear to care, but they don't care because they are allowing this. They are not only allowing it like Secretary Mayorkas, like my friends on the other side of the aisle and the other side of the building, they are not just allowing it; they are promoting it. They want it to happen.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to direct all remarks to the Chair, to formally yield, and to reclaim time when under recognition.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSING

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, it is a new year, and the House is already busy tackling issues important to Americans. Something that should be high on our list is advancing legislation that will benefit our economy, U.S. innovators, and American workers—and that is immediate R&D expensing.

Tonight my colleagues and I want to talk about how this critical provision encourages research and development in the United States, and, in turn, helps fuel job growth and keeps manufacturing inside our borders.

Recognizing this, for nearly 70 years the tax code allowed businesses to fully deduct their R&D expenses in the same year in which they were incurred. However, since the beginning of 2022, businesses have been required to spread out, or amortize, R&D expenses over 5 years for domestic R&D or 15 years for foreign R&D.

As you can see on this graph, since amortization took place, the growth rate of R&D spending has slowed dramatically from 6.6 percent on average over the previous 6 years to less than one half of 1 percent over the last 12 months.

This slump in U.S. R&D investment is hurting the American economy at a time when rising inflation is hurting workers and holding back job creators.

As companies spend far less on R&D, the sector is down by more than 14,000 jobs. Three-quarters of research and development spending is on salaries and

wages, making R&D amortization primarily a jobs issue.

On the other hand, our main competitor, China, has seen its R&D investment increase by 400 percent in just two decades. While the United States' share of global R&D investment in 2019 had dropped to 30 percent, China's share had moved up to 24 percent—in fact, up from 15 percent in 2009, a jump of nearly 10 percentage points in 10 years.

They achieved this impressive growth by implementing the deduction of 200 percent on eligible R&D investments. Without action, the United States will fall even further behind.

But we have the solution, and it is backed by Members in 43 States and from both sides of the aisle.

On tax day of this year, I reintroduced H.R. 2673, the American Innovation and R&D Competitiveness Act. This bipartisan bill corrects the R&D amortization issue and will spur home-grown research and development. And we know that where R&D occurs, jobs and economic opportunities follow.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, the American Innovation and R&D Competitive Business Act has 212 cosponsors in addition to myself and a lead Democrat. Those are nearly evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. It is the 17th most co-sponsored piece of legislation in this Congress. Tonight, my colleagues are going to help me share the decisive difference it would make for workers and innovators in each of their districts.

As I wrote in an op-ed in December, the best time to address R&D amortization was at the end of 2021. The best next time is now. We need to pass R&D immediate expensing for the American people and our U.S. economy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chair of the Budget Committee and my good friend.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas who represents a district that may be the second largest production ag district only to west Texas, the food, fuel, and fiber capital of the world.

In all seriousness, spending is out of control like never before in this country. Our debt is unsustainable, which is an understatement, maybe the biggest one of the night, and America's fiscal health is in rapid decline.

What is the formula? Reverse Biden's spending spree, right-size this bloated and weaponized bureaucracy, rein in mandatory spending, reform entitlements, root out all of this trillions in waste and fraud, and then return to progrowth, prowork, proenergy policies.

That last piece is critical. In order for us to bring this indebtedness in this great country of ours—it has surpassed World War II as the highest levels of indebtedness in the history of our country. We have to have growth. Growth is essential not only to reining

in deficits. It generates more revenue for the country and reduces spending by giving Americans better-paying jobs and allowing people to save and invest more of their hard-earned money.

CBO projects over the next 10 years we will have a paltry 2 percent economic growth. If we grow 1 more percent, we can help bring the deficit down by \$3 trillion. We need \$16 trillion, Mr. Speaker, in order to balance the budget, so growth will play a critical role.

In 2017, Republicans and President Trump passed tax reform. After that, we saw unprecedented, record investment in R&D, capital investment, growth, job creation, lowest unemployment, lowest poverty rates, lifting 6 million people out of poverty in this country. It had tremendous value to the country as a whole. All boats rose on the tide of prosperity.

In fact, the CBO projected that we would only grow the revenue from the tax cuts by \$327 billion in 2021, the year after, and the revenues actually grew by tens of billions more. The following year, 2022, the CBO projected \$353 billion. They were off by \$100 billion. We got record revenue.

One of the biggest progrowth provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was 100 percent business expensing. We need to give businesses the certainty to make the investment, supercharge America's competitiveness, and create more things in this country instead of depending on other countries for important products, making sure that we stave off what is projected to be a sustained recession if not stagnation.

We can do this, address inflation, save this country from a debt crisis, and reverse the curse of these failed economic policies and this unbridled spending. We can do it in part with progrowth, prowork, and proenergy policies.

I am proud to work alongside my friend from Kansas, a true leader on the Budget Committee, on the Ways and Means Committee, and on all things progrowth and making America the most powerful, most prosperous Nation in the world. I thank Mr. ESTES for his leadership.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, Mr. ARRINGTON has obviously delved into this issue and particularly focused on economic growth and what the impact is in terms of the value for not just the economy and workers across the country but also the tax revenue to help make sure we can fund the operations here in government.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN), the chair of the Republican Study Committee, a fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, and my friend and neighbor to the south.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, it is great to see my colleague from Oklahoma from the Second District, our newest member of our Oklahoma delegation. I certainly know where his heart is on these issues that American taxpayers rely on

us to be responsible for and for the money to be put to good use.

We have a critical tax cliff fast approaching at the end of 2025, with the majority of the TCJA's progrowth tax policies expiring. We are already seeing the devastating economic effects of TCJA's expired provisions, including the EBITDA interest deduction limitation, immediate deduction of R&D, and 100 percent bonus depreciation.

Ernst & Young projects that over 10 years, if the increased limitation on the interest deductibility is not repealed, 900,000 jobs will be lost; employee compensation will be reduced by \$58 billion; and GDP will fall by more than \$108 billion.

Twenty-six OECD countries use earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization, otherwise known as EBITDA, as an earnings-stripping limit, and zero countries in the OECD use the new U.S. EBIT-based limitation.

This stricter limitation on businesses will fall on the American worker in the form of lower wages and employment and make the U.S. less competitive in the global marketplace. We need to restore the EBITDA interest deduction limitation immediately.

Since the harmful R&D amortization requirement took effect in 2022, R&D spending's rate of growth has slowed dramatically, from 6.6 percent on average over the previous 5 years to less than 1 percent over the past 12 months.

China continues to offer a 200 percent super-deduction for R&D, and the United States remains uncompetitive at 20 percent. We need to restore immediate deduction for R&D costs, something that has been around since the middle 1950s.

Bonus depreciation will continue to ramp down for ensuing years: 80 percent in 2023, 60 percent for this year, 40 percent for 2025, 20 percent for 2026, and zero percent beginning in 2027.

Last year, the U.K. announced its commitment to make permanent its progrowth policy for full expensing. The U.S. should be looking to do the same to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, this is more than just an economic issue. This is a national security issue. How can we expect to compete with China when it is more expensive to invest, innovate, and grow here in the United States of America?

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, Mr. HERN highlighted that it is so important for us to have a strong America. It means we need to have a strong economy and good-paying jobs for workers, which means we need to have these provisions that make things work and make the economy grow.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and a good friend of mine.

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for American innovation and to highlight the importance of a progrowth tax code.

The United States was built on resourcefulness and good ideas. The desire to be successful in whatever we do has made America the top place to live, work, and raise a family.

Part of what makes the United States the best place in the world to do business is that we respect our workforce and encourage them to think outside of the box.

Because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our tax code was strengthened, jobs were created, and the economy flourished. Some of the provisions have now expired. It is a problem. It is imperative that we make the TCJA permanent.

For example, if we cement the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we can reverse the current limitation on the deductibility of interest payments on business loans. That will save over 850,000 American jobs.

Another example is in research and development. While it was once a paid expense, R&D is now a cost that many small businesses cannot afford. China is subsidizing their R&D costs, giving them a huge advantage over the United States. Modernization and national security shouldn't suffer because of any lapsed tax change.

Our tax code should work for American workers and businesses and not against them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ESTES for this Special Order tonight.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I am glad Mrs. MILLER highlighted the impact on small businesses because that is one of the things that sometimes we think about, business provisions that affect large businesses, but small businesses are greatly affected as well by some of these provisions just because of being able to manage their cash flow.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), another good friend of mine who is also on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleague from Kansas for getting this together this evening to discuss our important issues so the American public can hear from us.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about three progrowth tax policies that are critical for businesses and workers across west Tennessee and across the Nation: bonus depreciation, business interest deductibility, and immediate expensing for research and development costs. These policies help businesses grow, create jobs, and invest in our communities.

It is crucial that Congress extend these policies to ensure our tax code remains competitive and encourages economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and it led to one of the strongest economies in our Nation's history.

One important piece of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, known as bonus depreciation, allows businesses to fully and immediately deduct the cost of certain capital investments. If we want businesses to continue investing in their

workers and in their future, bonus depreciation must be extended.

Domestic investment will also be strengthened by restoring business interest deductibility. Interest deductibility has served as a vital tool for manufacturing and other capital-intensive businesses. Restoring this provision will protect American jobs and keep manufacturing right here at home in the U.S.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, America has been the global leader in innovation and the go-to destination for startups and entrepreneurs. It is important that we keep it that way.

Allowing U.S. businesses to immediately deduct research and development costs will lead to more innovation, more domestic investment, and more jobs.

I have heard from west Tennessee businesses, large, medium, and small, and they are asking Congress to pass these three provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to stand with American businesses and workers and extend these critical provisions.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KUSTOFF. It is so important, as he highlighted, to have innovation and to support that so that we can have good economic growth. That is a key thing that has always helped America over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), the vice chairman of the House Republican Conference and a fellow member serving on the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening, along with my colleagues, in support of critical pro-growth tax policies House Republicans are supporting to bolster good-paying jobs and strong wage growth for earners. These are solutions that will ultimately help Utah families flourish and help the entire Nation.

We have seen that tax policy can make a difference for the American people. In 2018 and 2019, following the passage of TCJA, real median household income rose by \$5,000 and real wage growth increased 4.9 percent, the fastest 2-year growth in real wages in over 20 years.

Since then, we have seen the expiration of three important tax provisions that support these job creators and workers. It is not an exaggeration to say that my team and I have had thousands of conversations over the last few years about how these provisions contribute to the ability of businesses to expand, innovate, and invest in workers, communities, and the economy. These include the ability to immediately deduct R&D expenses, the more generous limitation on business interest expenses, and the 100 percent bonus depreciation for equipment and vehicles. These provisions of the tax code were crucial for job creators, workers, and their families in Utah.

Lastly, according to SBA, over 600,000 Utahns are employed by small busi-

nesses. My Small Business Growth Act, which would lift the deduction cap for qualifying equipment for small businesses, would help these small businesses grow their workforce in northern Utah.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by noting that these policies are fundamentally about the American workers in every congressional district across the country and the investments that we can make in them as well as their families and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to work together to get these policies over the finish line.

□ 1915

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE). It is important to talk about these very important issues.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kansas has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM), who has shown great interest in being engaged in this issue of how do we actually reinstate the R&D immediate expensing.

Mr. YAKYM. I thank the gentleman from Kansas, my good friend, for the time and for organizing this important event and for this Special Order.

I also thank the gentleman for his leadership on promoting pro-growth research and development policies.

Mr. Speaker, we are living through a time of great economic uncertainty created by the Biden administration.

This Republican House has an opportunity to provide some certainty to all American families and businesses by bringing back full and immediate deductions for research and development, capital expenditures, as well as by undoing lower interest deductibility limitations. Doing so would help create high-quality, good-paying jobs across our economy for businesses of all shapes and sizes.

My district in northern Indiana is no different. Many Hoosier companies have reached out to tell me what fixing those provisions would mean to them.

A major medical device company in my district had a \$60 million impact in 2022, because they couldn't fully deduct their research and development expenses, and they expect a similar hit for 2023. That is a huge sum of money to be sucked out of our local economy unnecessarily.

However, the impacts aren't just felt in large gashes. There are thousands of less-visible cuts across Main Streets in my district, in our State, and across our country.

Family owned restaurants have told me they are putting off buying new kitchen equipment. Engineering firms that build our roads and bridges are holding off on new cutting-edge software. Also, suppliers to the R.V. and auto industry are spending less money on new machinery.

Mr. Speaker, the small businesses that are the engines of our economy have sand in their gears, and we have an opportunity to fix it.

About a month and a half ago, I was proud to lead a letter to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON signed by 145 of my non-Ways and Means colleagues calling for the return of full expensing for R&D and capital expenditures, as well as pro-growth interest deductibility. The high turnout shows just how important these provisions are to small businesses and workers across our great Nation.

I know my friend, Ways and Means Chairman JASON SMITH, is hard at work on negotiations to fix these provisions. I hope both sides can come together on an agreement that provides wins for hardworking Hoosiers of Indiana's Second District.

I want to close by thanking Mr. ESTES once more for his leadership in organizing this Special Order.

Mr. ESTES. I thank the gentleman. It is so important that the gentleman has taken such an active interest.

I now recognize for 2 minutes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG), a friend of mine, and a good guy.

Mr. STRONG. I thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding.

I rise to support the extension of critical provisions from President Trump's signature tax law, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This tax policy unleashes America's ingenuity and the full potential of the American economy. It helps individuals and families take home more pay each month. It supports American investments in research and development. It signals to our business community that America values and supports domestic innovation.

This tax policy is also necessary to stay ahead of global competitors. Small businesses in north Alabama directly benefit from research and development expensing. It allows them to reinvest in their products and people. It stimulates the economy, encourages investment, and creates jobs.

President Trump's legislation started an era of increased investment in the U.S. and produced an economy with record gains. If we fail to extend this critical tax provision, we fail American businesses.

I urge Congress to act and extend these provisions.

Mr. ESTES. I thank the gentleman for speaking about some of the important impacts on businesses within his district.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

Ms. De La CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this Special Order.

I stand before you today as a mom and a lifelong small business owner to champion the cause of small businesses by encouraging my colleagues to work swiftly to extend three vital tax provisions from the TCJA.

These provisions include the full expensing of critical research and development, the full expensing of investments in new equipment, machinery, and technology, and also business interest deductibility.

These provisions are tools that empower small businesses to drive innovation, create jobs, and make “el Sueno Americano,” “the American Dream,” a reality for families all across America.

I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, it is great that we have so many people from so many different districts talking about issues that are important to them and seeing the wide impact across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize for 2 minutes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN), another member of the Texas delegation, and a good friend of mine.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, more jobs, better pay, and a stronger economy—that is the result when taxes are low.

I rise today in support of extending the pro-growth tax provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that are critical to families and businesses, items like immediate R&D expensing and allowing for full bonus depreciation in the year in which those expenses were incurred.

Through provisions like these, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 ushered in a competitive Tax Code that encouraged companies to invest in American jobs, and it served as a catalyst for innovation nationwide. These provisions lifted more than 6 million people out of poverty, grew wages by 4.9 percent, and spurred American innovation to new heights.

Also, these pro-business and pro-family tax provisions will play a vital role in advancing the American economy, boosting wages, and maintaining U.S. competitiveness worldwide into the future, but only if we make them permanent.

Unfortunately, allowing these pro-growth tax provisions expire or remain expired would be devastating to our economy. They would slow the economy, decrease wages, halt job growth, and stifle investment and innovation. This is not the direction that hard-working Americans want us to go. This is not the direction of America.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with American businesses and hardworking Americans everywhere, including in east Texas that I represent, and I encourage my colleagues to make these expiring tax provisions permanent. We must act now to make these provisions permanent and reduce the tax burdens on our businesses, to see our economy thrive and grow and to see our families benefit as a result.

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman participating and highlighting how important it is in the Congressman’s district and the impact on that part of the country in Texas.

Wichita, where I am from, is known as the Air Capital of the World for its pioneering role in the early days in

American aviation. Today, in south central Kansas, it is brimming with companies continuing to push the limits of the aerospace industry, including in general and commercial aviation, but also space, defense, and unmanned aircraft systems.

All of these new advances in Kansas that developers, engineers, and manufacturers want require technology, and they require research and development, but these innovators tell me that the incentive just isn’t there. Knowing that they have to amortize their R&D costs prohibits them from pursuing these technological advances. Let’s change that by restoring immediate R&D expensing.

As I mentioned earlier, R&D expensing is primarily a jobs issue, and, without an incentive for home-grown R&D, the U.S. loses out on creating new jobs. As the R&D Coalition says, for every \$1 billion of U.S. R&D spending, 17,000 jobs earning \$1.4 billion are supported in the United States.

They also note that, if the R&D amortization policy is not reversed, the United States stands to lose 410,000 jobs, \$57.5 billion in labor income, and \$71 billion in R&D spending over the next year, and it is going to make America less competitive on the world stage.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Members who shared their experiences and what we have heard from districts all across the country on this very important issue. As we have discussed here tonight, R&D expensing legislation is critical for our job creators, innovators, and everyday Americans. The health of our economy depends on us passing this bipartisan, common-sense legislation.

The legislation has broad support from Members in 43 States and both parties. As I said in my opening remarks and in the op-ed last month, the time to address R&D amortization may have been at the end of 2021, but with the start of the new tax-filing season a few weeks away, the next best time is now.

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT R. HREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9th, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California, Mr. KILEY, for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I take a moment tonight to share with people across America a little bit about the life of an extraordinary person from my district, Bob Hren.

There are so many things I could say about Bob. He was a great friend of mine. He had the best sense of humor. He was an extraordinary leader, and he was just a great man.

In the world of politics, you will not find a better man. He was just so clearly in it for the right reasons. He be-

lieved in this country. He wanted to do everything that he could to make his community in Nevada County a better place.

There are so many things I could tell you about Bob that whatever I might say would actually pale in comparison to a beautiful tribute that was prepared by his wife, Cindy, as well as his friend and associate and successor, Mac Young.

Cindy is a wonderful, wonderful woman who was always by Bob’s side at events. They were truly a team.

In addition, Mac worked very closely with him on everything he did in Nevada County and is now doing a tremendous job of filling his very, very big shoes as the head of the Nevada County Republican Party.

This is the tribute that was prepared by Cindy and Mac:

Robert Ralph Hren was an outstanding citizen who dedicated his life to making a positive difference in the world. A loving husband of 50 years and father of two sons, he was a beacon of light for his family and community.

Born in Chisholm, northern Minnesota, on September 19, 1948, and passed away peacefully from multiple strokes on September 26, 2023.

Bob had a way of seeing the goodness and the potential in people. Even when facing adversity, Bob gained respect from others for his fair and calm manner. He was a mentor and guidance counselor to many. He approached life with his dry sense of humor, kindness, determination, and forward thinking.

Bob gained more than 40 years of experience in the electric power generation field. He combined his technical expertise as a mechanical engineer and legal knowledge with his law degree to work as a project development manager for Bechtel Enterprises, Incorporated. He focused on the development, construction, ownership, and operation of electric-generation facilities. He traveled worldwide to develop projects in Japan, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, and across the United States.

Bob joined International Generating Company, Intergen, as vice president in 1999 and opened an office in Sacramento in 2001 to respond to the California energy crisis and develop new power projects. His two notable natural gas projects that he legislated and oversaw the development of are now bringing power to citizens through Roseville Electric and the Ocotillo plant in Palm Springs.

In 2002, Bob became an independent consultant through his company, Vista Enterprises, and brought his expertise to advise solar energy companies, such as NextLight and Eight Minute Energy—that is the amount of time it takes to receive energy from the Sun.

He retired from the energy consulting business in 2016 to dedicate his time to his family, hobbies, and traveling to favorite destinations in the U.S. and abroad.

Bob loved gardening and was known for growing an abundance of large, luscious tomatoes. He would plant up to

98 plants in raised beds, creating a tomato forest. When his wife objected after processing them, he said: Okay, I only planted 49 this year.

□ 1930

Bob was passionate about making his award-winning wines that he distributed and enjoyed with family and friends. Having sampled some myself, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you they are truly outstanding.

In 2017, Bob was elected chair of the Nevada County Republican Party. He dedicated over 6 years to growing the party into what it is today. He recruited candidates for local county offices and supported their efforts to win. He led fundraising events by organizing and presenting dinners and other events to establish the largest reserve fund in our local party's history. He recruited volunteers to help at events, established a Republican headquarters, and managed the daily activities, meetings, and issues of the party.

Bob was good at managing people, keeping calm and order, even when debates became heated. He could subdue controversy in disputes and recognized the innate good in people. Bob used his practical experience in negotiations with both friends and adversaries to advance the prospects for Republican candidates and issues.

His colleagues at the Nevada County Republican Party knew Bob as a thoughtful and reasoned leader who carefully weighed the ramifications of each decision. He applied his engineering mindset in planning large and impactful projects. His technological mind understood the value of digital campaigning for the 21st century. He was a key figure in several Statewide initiatives that fundamentally changed the political dynamic in California.

Bob left a legacy that made a positive difference in many, many lives and in our entire community. His presence is greatly missed, and his legacy will be felt for a long, long time to come.

#### INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RULE

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor has just announced its so-called independent contractor rule which severely restricts or even eliminates gig work, freelancing, self-employment, and alternate work arrangements that 70 million Americans have chosen.

With this unilateral action, the Biden administration has taken a sledgehammer to the American workforce putting millions of livelihoods at risk. This is not a matter of speculation. We have already seen the damage this policy has caused in California.

Biden's rule is modeled on California's infamous AB 5 law which was signed by Gavin Newsom in 2019 and which Newsom's own deputy chief of staff called "one of the most destructive pieces of legislation in the past 20 years."

Countless livelihoods have been destroyed with the law's victims coming from over 600 professions. That is the

stark reality, and that is what is now in store for workers across the entire country.

As a warning to those who could see their life's work taken from them by this new policy, I wanted to take a few minutes to highlight each and every one of those 600 professions, 600 professions that have been devastated by AB 5 in California and that the Biden administration is now targeting Nationwide:

3D animators; 3D designers; accompanists; actors; acupuncturists; adjunct faculty; adult performers; aerobic instructors; after-school program vendors; animal shelter consultants; animal trainers; animators; announcers; antique property appraisers; appointment setters; architectural designers; architectural rendering illustrators; art appraisers; art consultants; art curators; art teachers; art therapists; artists; ASL/CDI interpreters; athletic coaches; auctioneers; audio engineers; audio mixers; audio techs; audiovisual techs; authors; babysitters; ballet companies; ballet dancers; ballet musicians; balloon artists; bandleaders; barbershop quartets; bartenders; beekeepers; bloggers; boat captains; boat hull divers; body painting artists; body piercers; bookkeepers; brand ambassadors; brand advertising and design professionals; bubble fairies; bubbleologists; bug bounty programs; building inspectors; burlesque dancers; CAD designers; cake decorators; cam girls; camera directors; camera operators; camera techs; cancer registrars; captioners; caricature artists; caregivers; cartographers; cartoonists; casino night dealers; casting assistants; casting directors; catastrophe adjusters; caterers; celebrity impersonators; certified athletic trainers; childbirth educators; children's theater companies; chiropractors; choir directors; choreographers; Christmas carolers; churches; cinematographers; circus performers; clergy; closed captioners; clowns; club industry; college admissions consultants; color guard instructors; columnists; comedians; commercial drone pilots; commercial producers; community playhouses; composers; computer consultants; computer programmers; computer technicians; computer validation; computer independent testers; concealed carry weapons instructors; construction workers; consultants; content artists; content developers; contract reviewers; contract tech writers; contributing editors; convention booth installers; convention decorators; copyeditors; copywriters; costume designers; costumed characters; counselors; court reporters; digital court reporters; notaries; CPR/first aid instructors; creative directors; crop dusters; crowd funding specialists; cultural music and dance groups; dance studio owners; dance teachers; dance troupes; dancers; dental billers; dental consultants; dental technicians; deposition reporters; designers; dieticians; digital animators; digital imaging technicians; digital marketing consult-

ants; digital marketing specialists; directors of operations; disaster cleanup services; DJs; dog groomers; dog trainers; doulas; drafters; drag queen performers; dress designers; drivers; editors; education counselors; education specialists; embroiders; emcees; emergency/disaster response services; engineers; entertainers; environmental engineers; environmental inspectors; environmental planning consultants; environmental technicians; equestrian professionals; ESL teachers; estheticians; ethical hackers; event carpenters; event coordinators; event crew; event EMT/paramedics; event florists; event planners; event producers; event production assistants; event production managers; event riggers; event staff members; event technologists; executive coaches; executive recruiters; exhibit installation technicians; fabricators; face painting artists; family caregivers; farm consultants; farriers; festival producers; festivals.

In film, TV, and presentations you have animators; art directors; assistant cameramen; assistant directors; assistant video editors; boom operators; cameramen; casting personnel; colorists; composers; costumers; COVID compliance officers; crafts services; deck managers; dialect coaches; drone operators; editors; electricians; executive producers; foley artists; foley engineers; gaffers; grips; hairstylists; jib and crane operators; line producers; locations scouts; makeup artists; narrators; producers; production assistants; production coordinators; production managers; prop personnel; script supervisors; script writers; set construction personnel; set designers; set medics; sound design artists; sound recordists; special effects artists; special effects personnel; stage managers; stunt coordinators; stuntmen/women; talent agents; teleprompter operators; transportation personnel; visual effects artists; voice teachers; wardrobe artists; storyboard artists; digital info technicians; and finally within film and TV presentations, directors.

Also included in the list are finance experts; fire performers; fitness instructors; fly fishing guides; food deliverers; forensic cleaners; forensic nurses; foresters; franchisee business owners; funeral officiants; game developers; genealogists; golf caddies; grant researchers; graphic designers; handymen; health coaches; healthcare IT professionals; hearing reporters; high school and college sports reporters; holistic healers; home health care providers; home health rehabilitation therapists; home health social workers; home organizers; home school program vendors; home services providers; horse ranches; horse trainers; horseback riding instructors; hypnotherapists; illustrators; independent filmmaking crews; independent owner-operator truckers; indie film documentarians; indie film producers; insurance adjusters; insurance brokers; insurance inspectors; interpreters; interventionists; IT consultants; IT techs; journalists;

audio journalists; radio journalists; TV; film and theater productions; jugglers; keynote speakers; lactation consultants; landscape designers; legal support; legal transcriptionists; life coaches; lifeguards; lighting designers; lighting directors; lighting technicians; live caricaturists; livestreamers; loan agents; loan officers; location managers; logging-based owner operators; luthiers (guitar makers); magicians; makeup artists; manicurists; mariachi bands; market analysts; marketing and ad agencies; marriage and family therapists; massage therapists; medical billing specialists; medical models; medical transcriptionists; medical translators; meeting and conventions planners; mental health professionals; metal fabricators; midwives; model builders; models; mold makers; mortgage bankers; mortgage brokers; mortgage field inspectors; movement instructors; Mrs. Clauses; multimedia artists; museum consultants; museum mountmakers; music arrangers; music composers; music contractors; music copyists; music directors; music producers; music tour managers; music transcribers; musical instrument makers; musical instrument teachers; musical theater; musician production crews; casual musicians; church musicians; musician headliners at venue with 1,500 attendees; musical theater, musicians - not more than once a week at same venue; musicians orchestral; musicians symphony; musicians theme parks; musicians touring; newspaper delivery carriers; non-profit assistants; notaries; nude models; nurse anesthetists; nurse educators; nurse midwives; nurse practitioners; nurses; nutritionists; occupational therapists; off-duty security; online event producers; online teachers; opera; opera companies; opera singers; optometrists; orchestra conductors; orchestra managers; orchestrators; PA announcers; paralegals; party planners; pattern makers/accessory designers; pediatric therapists; performing arts instructors; personal assistants; personal chefs; personal property appraisers; personal trainers; pet sitters; pharmacists; phlebotomists; photo booth operators; photo digital techs; photo editor; photojournalists; photo shoot animal trainers; photo shoot assistants (first, second, third); photo shoot digital techs; photo shoot hair stylists/groomers; photo shoot location managers; photo shoot makeup artists; photo shoot nail techs; photo shoot on-set teachers; photo shoot PAs; photo shoot photographer; photo shoot post-production; photo shoot producers; photo shoot production design; photo shoot set construction; photo shoot set dressers; photo shoot wardrobe; photo digital techs; photo stylist assistants; photographers; photographers' assistants; physical therapists; physiology specialists; pianists; piano teachers; picture editors; pilates instructors; pilates studios; placenta encapsulators; podcast producers/managers; political petitioners; pool cleaners; post-produc-

tion captioners; premium auditors; presentation designers; presentation specialists; press photographers; princess parties for children; process servers; production assistants; production managers; production runners; programmers; projectionists; proofreaders; property inspectors; property managers; psychic readers; psychotherapists; public relations practitioners; public relations spokespeople; publicists; publishers; puppeteers; pyrotechnicians; rabbis; radio engineers; real estate appraisers; real estate photographers; real estate stagers; realtime captioners; recipe developers; recording studios; recruiters; referees; rehab specialists; reiki therapists; reiki/meditation/mindfulness teachers; remediaters; researchers; resin casters; respiratory therapists; rig welders; rural residents; S Corps; safety and loss control inspectors; Santa Clauses; Santa's helpers; school picture photographers; scopists; screenwriters; seamstresses; seasonal festival crafters/performers; security officers; seniors/retirees; set designers; sheep shearers; sheetmetal workers; ship dismantlers; shorthand reporters—certified; show caller; sign makers; signature gatherers; singers; single mothers; small business owners; social media managers; social workers (licensed clinical); software developers; software product management; sommeliers; songwriters; sound designers; sound engineers; sound mixers; sound practitioners; special education services; special effects artists; special inspector—construction; speech language pathologists; speech therapists; speechwriters; spoken language interpreters; spokesmodels; sports psychologists; sports registrars; stage directors; stage manager; stagehands; State contractors; statisticians; stay-at-home moms; stenographers; stilt walkers; story tellers; storyboard artists; strike crews; strike crews (theatrical); strippers/exotic dancers; students (college/university); studio owners; stunt specialists (auto, combat, water, aerial, etcetera); stylists; substitute teachers for private schools; subtitlers; summer day camps; survival skills experts; tailors; talent agents; talent managers; Tarot card readers; tattoo artists; tax preparers; teaching artists; tech support technicians; tech startup founders; technical directors; technical writers; tele-marketers; telephonic interpreters; teleprompter operators; tennis coaches; tennis pros; terminal managers; test proctors; testers (independent); theater actors; theater companies; theater designers; theater directors; theater electricians; theater stage managers; theatrical technical designers; timber cruisers; timber fallers; tour guides; tour managers; transcribers; translators; travel directors; traveling butchers; truckers—Independent owner-operators; tutors; TV post producers; umpires; vacation rental cleaners; vacation rental site managers; variety artists; ventriloquists; venue owners; video crews; video editors;

video engineers; video game developers; video production companies; video switchers; videographers; virtual assistants; virtual call center agents; virtual office managers; vocal coaches; voiceover artists; wardrobe stylists; web designers; web developers; wedding caterers; wedding florists; wedding makeup artists; wedding officiants; wedding photographers; wedding planners; wedding stylists; wedding videographers; window/door installers; women's self-defense instructors; workshop leaders; writers; yacht captains; yoga instructors; yoga studios; youth athletic coaches; youth orchestras; youth theaters; and YouTube creators.

Mr. Speaker, those are the 600 professions where people in California have had their livelihoods taken from them by AB 5 and where people across the United States will have their livelihoods taken from them under this new regulation that has just been issued by Joe Biden's Department of Labor. In fact, the long and short of it is an economic analysis by the Chamber of Progress shows that the full-time or part-time jobs that between 3.2 and 3.8 million independent contractors could be lost because of this new rule.

That is equivalent to roughly one-half of the jobs lost in the Great Recession, and up to 70 million Americans who engage in independent work could be negatively affected and lose the workplace flexibility that they have chosen.

Now, because AB 5 is so toxic, there has been an effort to try to disassociate this new rule from AB 5 by saying: No, this is not the same thing.

In fact, Julie Su, when she testified before our Education and Workforce Committee, when I asked her if AB 5 was a good law, she couldn't even say one way or the other even though she herself was the architect and chief enforcer of that law.

Nonetheless, the reality is this: We know that the independent contractor rule just announced by the Biden Labor Department is designed to do the exact same thing as AB 5.

How do we know that?

First, President Biden has cited AB 5 expressly as his "model" for labor policy nationwide. Second, Biden tried to get the exact language of AB 5 through Congress with the PRO Act and only resorted to agency rulemaking when that failed.

□ 1945

Third, the factors set forth in the independent contractor rule are plainly designed to mimic AB 5 as closely as possible while giving the enforcer of the rule maximum discretion to enforce it as they see fit.

Fourth, and perhaps most tellingly, Biden has nominated the architect and chief enforcer of AB 5 itself, Julie Su, elevating her from her State role in California to be his Secretary of Labor and enforce the new independent contractor rule.

Biden, in fact, is so desperate to nationalize AB 5 that he has even lawlessly installed Julie Su as permanent

Acting Secretary despite the Senate rejecting her nomination.

Once more, the damage from this rule would be even more far-reaching than AB 5, not just in terms of the scale and scope of a nationwide policy but also because AB 5 contained many exceptions. Well over a hundred professions were exempted from being subject to the law. There are no such exceptions in the new DOL rule, meaning many more professions will be ensnared.

We are going to fight this new rule in every way that we can. First, as soon as the rule gets transmitted to Congress, which will be any day now, I am introducing legislation under the Congressional Review Act to nullify it. This is a fast-track procedure by which Congress can override a rule imposed by an executive agency.

Second, I have secured language in the base text of the Education and Labor appropriations bill providing that no funds may be spent by the Department of Labor to enforce the rule. That would effectively render it a dead letter.

Third, I have joined with Representative ELISE STEFANIK to author the Modern Worker Empowerment Act, which creates a clear definition and standard across Federal laws to protect independent workers.

Fourth, I have introduced the Department of Labor Succession Act, which has already passed the Education and the Workforce Committee, to stop Julie Su, the architect of AB 5, from continuing to act as Secretary of Labor despite the Senate rejecting her nomination.

Fifth, I expect there will be legal challenges to the new rule, based both on the dubious legality of Su remaining in power and the overly broad nature of the rule itself.

Finally, as the chair of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I will continue to conduct rigorous oversight of the Department of Labor, and we will do everything possible to protect workers against overreaching policies, which is going to become especially necessary now because we know the way that Julie Su handled AB 5.

She even previewed it. This is what she said after the law had been signed, but before it went into effect. Su said: "We will be doing investigations and audits." She threatened fines and penalties so that, and this is a quote, "those who want to comply with the need to reclassify can do so and those who don't will understand that is not the kind of economy we want in California."

"Not the kind of economy we want in California." Julie Su didn't want an economy in California where you can pursue your calling, support your family on your own terms, and thrive. She doesn't want that for America either. That is why Joe Biden has selected her for Secretary of Labor, to wage his war on independent contractors.

Our committee has a very different vision for the American workforce. We believe in promoting work and supporting workers. We believe independent contractors are critical to the 21st century economy. We will protect the freedom of Americans to earn a living as they choose. We will fight every effort to take that right away.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 12, 2024, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2914. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Safeguarding the Rights of Conscience as Protected by Federal Statutes (RIN: 0945-AA18) received January 10, 2024, 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-2915. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, and Information Sharing (RIN: 0955-AA03) received January 10, 2024, 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-2916. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled "Politically Motivated Boycotts of, Divestment from, and Sanctions Against Israel" Department Report Number: 005571, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 4452(d)(1); Public Law 114-125, Sec. 909(d)(1); (130 Stat. 238); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2917. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements of the House of Representatives covering the period October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 (H. Doc. No. 118-98); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC-2918. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation for Fiscal Year 2024 [NRC-2020-0045] (RIN: 3150-AK73) received January 5, 2024, 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.

#### 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:

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 3400. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to adjust the dollar thresholds for National Labor Relations Board jurisdiction over certain labor disputes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-343). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. McCRAIN, Mrs. STEEL, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H.R. 6951. A bill to lower the cost of postsecondary education for students and families; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 6952. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for a joint meeting of the Congress to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the executive branch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, 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. MOORE of Utah (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 6953. A bill to establish comprehensive, annual congressional budgeting; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6954. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2018 and the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 6955. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the positions of the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Uniformed Division of the United States Secret Service are within the Senior Executive Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 6956. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from treating any Medicaid-related funds recovered from one or more pharmaceutical companies or drug distributors with respect to opioid litigation as an overpayment under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.R. 6957. A bill to require that the President's annual budget submission to Congress and any concurrent resolution on the budget include the ratio of the public debt to the estimated gross domestic product of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. BEAN of Florida (for himself, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. OGLES, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 6958. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require cabinet officials to notify Congress in the event such an official is temporarily unable to perform the functions and duties of their position, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6959. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that dependent children under the age of 26 are eligible for coverage under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6960. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6961. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. HILL, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BARR, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 6962. A bill to place the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research under the regular appropriations process, to provide for certain quarterly reporting and public notice and comment requirements for the Office of Financial Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6963. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to enter into agreements with drug manufacturers to establish reserve supplies of covered pediatric cancer drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 6964. A bill to establish limitations on advanced payments for bus rolling stock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FROST (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 6965. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish requirements with respect to cost sharing for epinephrine injectors under group health plans and group and individual health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6966. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to provide greater access to in-State television broadcast programming for cable and satellite subscribers in certain counties; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. MACE, Mr. OGLES, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 6967. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish procedures and reporting requirements for incidents relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 6968. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give marriage and family therapists participating in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program the option of completing a postgraduate degree clinical training program that is accredited by the State in which the program is located in lieu of such a program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILD, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. MACE, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. BICE):

H.R. 6969. A bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 6970. A bill to provide rental vouchers for the homeless, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 6971. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately initiate

removal proceedings for aliens whose visas are revoked on security or related grounds; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. MACE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 6972. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require an Executive agency whose head is a member of the National Security Council to notify the Executive Office of the President, the Comptroller General of the United States, and congressional leadership of such head becoming medically incapacitated within 24 hours, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. KIM of California, and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 6973. A bill to permit COPS grants to be used for the purpose of increasing the compensation and hiring of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 6974. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to reduce rates for firm electric service customers due to shortfalls in generation from certain Bureau of Reclamation hydroelectric facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 6975. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 West Pike Street in Clarksburg, West Virginia, as the "Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 6976. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 6977. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a demonstration project for the development and publication of independent value assessments for drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Ms. LEE of Florida):

H.R. 6978. A bill to establish incentive pay for positions requiring specialized skills to combat fentanyl trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. BACON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 6979. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small businesses for research activities related to the mitigation of certain drug threats; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas):

H.R. 6980. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the reallocation of unused waivers of the foreign residency requirement for certain J-visa holders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. GOLDMAN of

New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 6981. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit unauthorized private paramilitary activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 6982. A bill to authorize the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use to award formula grants to the States to address gambling addiction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 6983. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the “Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office”; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. FLOOD):

H.R. 6984. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the “Virginia Smith Federal Building”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MFUME, Mr. BACON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 6985. A bill to require the Bureau of Prisons to issue identification documents to prisoners being released from Federal custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN:

H. Res. 957. A resolution denouncing the Biden administration’s open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration’s open-borders policies; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. 958. A resolution recognizing the 202d anniversary of the adoption of the Great Seal of the State of Missouri; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H. Res. 959. A resolution recognizing the Kansas City Chiefs on the 54th anniversary of their first Super Bowl victory; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. McGOVERN):

H. Res. 960. A resolution urging action to increase equity within cannabis policy and the legal cannabis marketplace; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently de-

termined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H. Res. 961. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters; to the Committee on Rules.

#### 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. FOXX:

H.R. 6951.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To lower the cost of postsecondary education for students and families.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 6952.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Budget

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 6953.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Budget

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 6954.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

International Financial Services

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 6955.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Adding the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Uniformed Division of the United States Secret Service to the Senior Executive Service.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 6956.

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

Article I, Section VIII, to regulate commerce

The single subject of this legislation is:

Commerce

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 6957.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Debt-to-GDP Stabilization Act requires that the President’s annual budget submission to Congress and any concurrent resolution on the budget include the current ratio of the public debt to the estimated gross domestic product (GDP).

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 6958.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require cabinet officials to notify Congress in the event such an official is temporarily unable to perform the functions and duties of their position.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 6959.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 6960.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children program

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 6961.

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

Article I, Section 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 6962.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill seeks to bring the Financial Stability Oversight Council and the Office of Financial Research under congressional appropriations.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 6963.

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

Article 1 Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 6964.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the payment structure used by the Federal Transit Authority.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 6965.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish requirements with respect to cost sharing for epinephrine injectors under group health plans and group and individual health insurance coverage.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6966.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To increase access to local media markets for Wisconsinites.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California:

H.R. 6967.

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

## Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:  
UAP transparency

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 6968.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give marriage and family therapists participating in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program the option of completing a post-graduate degree clinical training program that is accredited by the State in which the program is located in lieu of such a program that is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 6969.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish incentive pay for positions requiring specialized skills to combat fentanyl trafficking, and for other purposes.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 6970.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation provides assistance to low- and middle-income Americans for safe and affordable housing.

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 6971.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clauses 11–16

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia:

H.R. 6972.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation only pertains to: oversight of the National Security Council

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 6973.

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

Article I Section 9 of Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Law Enforcement

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 6974.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to reduce rates for firm electric service customers due to shortfalls in generation from certain Bureau of Reclamation hydroelectric facilities, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MOONEY:

H.R. 6975.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Courthouse renaming

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:

H.R. 6976.

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

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Deporting illegal aliens who are convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 6977.

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:

Health

By Mr. NEGUSE::

H.R. 6978.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish incentive pay for positions requiring specialized skills to combat fentanyl trafficking, and for other purposes.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 6979.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small businesses for research activities related to the mitigation of certain drug threats.

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 6980.

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

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

It would require state agencies to report to the Secretary of State how many unused Conrad 30 waivers they retained at the end of each fiscal year for the Secretary to then calculate the total unused waivers and disburse those equally back to the states that used their maximum 30 slots in the previous fiscal year, divisible by three.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 6981.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is to prohibit unauthorized private paramilitary activity.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 6982.

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

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Gambling Addiction

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 6983.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the “Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office”.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 6984.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Building naming

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 6985.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide a valid photo-identification card to qualified individuals upon release from BOP custody.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 524: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 537: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. BROWN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 619: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 625: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 807: Mr. GUEST and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 977: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 1077: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1179: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 1209: Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. SELF.

H.R. 1359: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1390: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1403: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1437: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 1465: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1582: Ms. VAN DUYNE.

H.R. 1610: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1755: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 1770: Mr. FLOOD and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 1806: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 1812: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 1831: Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2367: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2440: Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 2532: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2534: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 2663: Mr. TONKO, Ms. BUSH, and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 2666: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2826: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 2827: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2874: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 2909: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2952: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 2953: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 3074: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 3125: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 3269: Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 3394: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. SCHOLZEN.

H.R. 3405: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 3433: Ms. JACOBS and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 3541: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3639: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3654: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3702: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 3713: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 3805: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 3850: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3875: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. LUETKE-MEYER.

H.R. 3913: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 3916: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3940: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3962: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 3970: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 4047: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 4172: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 4335: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 4438: Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 4581: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 4663: Ms. CROCKETT and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
H.R. 4708: Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 4721: Mr. FRY.  
H.R. 4736: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. HARDER of California.  
H.R. 4769: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER and Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 4848: Mrs. LUNA.  
H.R. 4860: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 4898: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 4942: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 5005: Mr. MORAN.  
H.R. 5048: Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. STANTON.  
H.R. 5097: Mr. SWALWELL.  
H.R. 5202: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 5275: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. ESTES.  
H.R. 5333: Mr. GARBARINO.  
H.R. 5351: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 5555: Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 5566: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.  
H.R. 5644: Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BALINT, and Ms. PETTERSEN.  
H.R. 5669: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
H.R. 5767: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 5840: Mrs. HINSON and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 5856: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.  
H.R. 5909: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 5917: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.  
H.R. 5931: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 5960: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
H.R. 5979: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H.R. 5995: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 6013: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
H.R. 6046: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H.R. 6159: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. BAIRD.  
H.R. 6163: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 6205: Mr. LATURNER.  
H.R. 6227: Mrs. BICE and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
H.R. 6283: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 6284: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 6341: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 6349: Mr. MILLS.  
H.R. 6377: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
H.R. 6381: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 6394: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 6460: Mr. PFLUGER.  
H.R. 6506: Mr. TRONE.  
H.R. 6516: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
H.R. 6542: Ms. SALAZAR and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 6592: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H.R. 6593: Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 6600: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
H.R. 6620: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and Mr. BURCHETT.  
H.R. 6625: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
H.R. 6673: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 6681: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
H.R. 6730: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 6734: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 6744: Mr. MOONEY and Mr. CLOUD.  
H.R. 6760: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.  
H.R. 6762: Ms. VAN DUYNE.  
H.R. 6765: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 6818: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 6914: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
H.R. 6918: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESTES, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 6920: Ms. SALINAS.  
H.R. 6944: Mr. FROST.  
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. MCGARVEY.  
H.J. Res. 37: Mr. ROY.  
H. Con. Res. 76: Ms. WATERS.  
H. Res. 145: Mr. ROSE.  
H. Res. 310: Mr. BERA.  
H. Res. 318: Mr. STANTON.  
H. Res. 380: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H. Res. 527: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
H. Res. 561: Mrs. BEATTY.  
H. Res. 612: Mr. BURLISON and Mr. OGLES.  
H. Res. 882: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. CHU, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
H. Res. 929: Ms. NORTON.  
H. Res. 955: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. AMO.