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of America

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No. 8

## *House of Representatives*

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.  
January 16, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH 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 1:50 p.m.

### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FOR HOUSING

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, this is a picture of 3-year-old Jose Urribarri, who is a member of a migrant family in Chicago. Freezing weather is just one of the challenges facing families like Jose's as stable housing options disappear in the dead of winter.

Catholic Charities of Chicago is one of our local agencies leading the way

and moving families from police station floors into better accommodations, but Catholic Charities cannot do it alone. Scarce local resources mean that Congress needs to step up, as well.

Let's pass emergency supplemental funding for cities and bring some hope to those like Jose who need it badly right now.

### ISRAELI HOSTAGES' AWARENESS

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday marked 100 days since Hamas, an Iranian-backed terrorist organization, brutally slaughtered, tortured, and kidnapped innocent Israelis.

On the morning of October 7, 2023, these barbaric extremists murdered individuals and families in cold blood. They raped women; they beheaded infants; they mutilated bodies; they burned people in their homes; and they abducted men, women, children, and the elderly. These are things that are very hard to say on the floor of the House of Representatives.

This is an incredible statement: More Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any other single day since the Holocaust. Today, 136 innocent hostages still remain in Hamas' custody in Gaza.

Our hearts ache with the families of the hostages. We will not rest until every single one of their loved ones returns home. We are waiting for the hostages, and we are fighting for them.

That is why I am honored and privileged to lead a bipartisan initiative in the House of Representatives to highlight the stories of these innocent hostages. Together, it is my hope that we can bring awareness to those viciously kidnapped by Hamas, and we can clearly say with one voice: Bring them all home.

I will begin by sharing the story of Agam Berger. Agam, who is 19 years

old, was more than one of 240 innocent Israelis taken captive by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

According to family and friends, Agam loves to volunteer with people with special needs and with children who have learning disabilities.

Agam and 135 hostages are still being held captive in Gaza, enduring incredible torture and trauma.

Agam's father, Shlomi Berger, said that he dreads what his daughter is going through after viewing footage of her wounded and scared along with three other teenage hostages.

Hamas should release Agam immediately, along with all of the other remaining hostages. Our country's strong support for Israel must not waver. It is time to bring Agam home. It is time to bring all of the innocent hostages home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in this crucial effort to demonstrate our support for the hostages and for their families.

### PREVENTING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the second year of the 118th Congress, a Congress which unfortunately in its first year was one of the lowest and least productive Congresses in memory, only 31 bills, it is time for us to come together and identify measures which have strong bipartisan support and would make a meaningful difference to the people of this country.

One of those bills is H.R. 2663, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, a bill I introduced back in April with Congressman DON BACON of Nebraska. We have 151 cosponsors. Ten Republicans are part of this effort. It is

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

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



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supported by 76 healthcare organizations, particularly those centered around nursing, a caring profession that every family relies on.

This bill addresses the frightening and accelerating epidemic of workplace violence that people who go to work every day in our hospitals, nursing homes, EMS, and ambulances, as well as our home health nurses, are facing every single day.

That is not just rhetoric. We did a GAO study a number of years ago and found that people who work in the healthcare sector suffer injuries, sometimes serious, sometimes fatal, five times more than any other sector in the U.S. economy.

There are ways to address this, Mr. Speaker, in terms of putting it into practice. Some preventative measures which hospitals have endorsed and used around the country are: train up their staff, give them a way to identify high-risk patients, give them the equipment, whether it is panic buttons or alerts to get help when they need it, and in some instances to provide more security dealing with more high-risk patients.

The 76 organizations include the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians. The list goes on and on.

They are feeling this every single day. In my district, unfortunately, last October, we experienced the tragic loss of a nurse. Joyce Grayson of Willimantic, Connecticut, was making a home health visit to a halfway house for a high-risk individual. He was on the sex offender list and had been convicted of a violent crime. She went in at 8 o'clock in the morning to administer medication, and she never left. She was found stabbed to death.

This is a woman who was 63 years old, 36 years as a nurse, 26 with the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, 10 years as a home health nurse, mother of 6, and she brought in foster care children. She was identified and awarded the Foster Care Parent of the Year in the State of Connecticut in 2017 by the Department of Children and Families. She was an angel. That was the way she was described at the time that we, as a State, came together to mourn her.

Her family has asked one thing. They want to see change. Their lawyer, Kelly Reardon of New London, Connecticut, gave an interview recently. That is what the family is begging for. They don't want this to happen again.

All of us rely on our healthcare workforce, Mr. Speaker. Republican or Democrat, all of us need them to take care of us. It is time for us to care for them. It is time for us to listen to them. It is time for us to put into practice commonsense measures which are happening intermittently around the country and make it universal and enforceable for all of the people in the caring profession and the healing profession.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass H.R. 2663 in this Congress and do something meaningful for the American people.

#### PROTECTING ALL CHILDREN, BORN AND UNBORN

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 51 years since the Roe v. Wade decision was issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since that time, Americans have worked tirelessly to see that decision overturned.

As a doctor, I swore an oath to first do no harm and to protect the sanctity of human life. Here in Congress, we also swore an oath to protect our country and our citizens. That means that we must stand for human life.

This week, we will vote on legislation to block a proposed Biden administration rule that would prohibit States from giving funding to pregnancy resource centers that support the lives of both mothers and their unborn children.

At 9 weeks of age, a baby has begun to form facial features, fingernails, and toes. At 20 weeks, a baby can hear their mother's voice. It is clear that these are children.

In Congress, it is our duty to protect the lives of the vulnerable. This week, let's join together and fight to protect all children, both born and unborn.

#### FENTANYL CONTINUES TO PERMEATE INTO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week the Pennsylvania State Police released a report outlining the amount of illegal drugs that have been seized in Pennsylvania during arrests in 2023. The facts of this report are shocking, showing that over 240 pounds of fentanyl were seized in the past year compared to 35 pounds of heroin.

These statistics represent a dangerous new reality for our communities, that fentanyl and its analogues, which can be fatal in incredibly small doses, are now readily accessible and widespread throughout the State of Pennsylvania.

Right now, lives are at stake as this poison continues to permeate into the United States. As I travel throughout central and southwestern Pennsylvania, I have heard from coroners who tell me that these drugs are very easy to get and very fast to kill.

It is time for the Senate to immediately take up the HALT Fentanyl Act and permanently classify these drugs as schedule I narcotics and create strict penalties for the cartels and for the dealers who traffic them.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to stand by as our constituents are killed by fentanyl poisonings.

#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF WARD SWEAT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Ward Sweat, who is retiring after 54 years of working at Sweat's Furniture.

Mr. Sweat was originally from north of Waycross where he spent his early years before moving to Brunswick with his family.

He graduated from Glynn Academy in 1964 and the University of Georgia in 1968. Shortly after graduation, he completed basic training in the National Guard and started working at the furniture store located in Fitzgerald in 1969, which his dad and the Singletons owned, along with a second location in Brunswick.

In 1984, his father bought out the Singletons, and Ward and his brother Dwight came to work there. The family business will continue to live on with Dwight's son Jonathan, who is taking over management there, which marks the third generation of Sweats in the store.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Sweat on his upcoming retirement. I thank him for his service to the community.

#### REMEMBERING BOB GRIFFITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bob Griffith, who passed away at the age of 79.

Bob Griffith, Sr., was a longtime Effingham County football coach and was best known as a family man with dedication to his sport, his fellow coaches, and his players.

Griffith was a former Virginia Tech team captain, having also coached at Effingham County High School, Appling County, and Colquitt County. He was also a member of the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and he was awarded both State and regional Coach of the Year back in 1987.

Griffith worked for some time at Georgia Tech where he was honored with a scholarship established in his name, endowed by many of his former players.

□ 1215

However, coaching was about much more than any wins or awards. Friends of Griffith have spoken to his character, explaining how he was always helping out the Effingham program by showing up to spring practices and helping to raise money. Bob Griffith's legacy will be remembered by his teams, family, friends, community, and so many more.

#### CONGRATULATING RICCIARDI'S PIZZA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Georgia restaurant that has been recognized for making the best Chicago-style pizza in Georgia according to a Washington

Post analysis. Ricciardi's Pizzeria and Bar in Richmond Hill, located about one-half hour from Savannah, was one of the six Georgia pizza spots highlighted by the national outlet for its Chicago-style pizza.

The Windy City specializes in making delicious Chicago-style pizzas. The Washington Post used millions of Yelp reviews and have developed a formula to identify the best pizza options in each State, which led to Ricciardi's being ranked No. 3.

Congratulations to Ricciardi's on this wonderful accomplishment. I wish them continued success in serving great pizza to the people of the First District.

#### CHATHAM EMERGENCY SERVICES FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of four Chatham Emergency Services firefighters who put their lives on the line to save others.

The Savannah Exchange Club recently named Robert Bateman as the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year, Donte Boykin as Rookie Firefighter of the Year, Dustin Turk as Professional Firefighter of the Year, and Lieutenant Ray Jennings as Paramedic of the Year.

Chatham Emergency Services CEO, Chuck Kearns, spoke of the crews and community board saying they "are some of the most dedicated and service-oriented professionals and volunteers" he has encountered.

As Chatham Emergency Services begins its 63rd year of service, I again thank Robert, Donte, Dustin, Ray, and all its members for their hard work to keep our community safe.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in Heaven, You have taught us how to pray. And with this familiar prayer or the prayers that reside deep in our souls, we offer these prayers to You. However we approach You, we pray that You will accept our manner of worship as holy and acceptable to You.

Even as You receive us, in the multitude of languages and the range of voices that ascend to Your hearing,

You teach us also how to love, commanding us to love one another even as You have loved us—with all our strengths and shortfalls, gifts and gaffes, differences and divisions.

On this day, which marks the 238th anniversary of the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, authored by Thomas Jefferson, may it not be law but love that compels us to safeguard the freedom of religion for our fellow citizens. May it not be statute but stewardship of Your grace that calls us to honor the principles of the First Amendment, respecting the faith of all peoples.

Remind us again, that we owe no one anything but to love one another. And as we love one another, may we have fulfilled Your great command.

In the light of Your love, we pray in the name by which we know You.

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

Ms. BALINT 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.

#### POSTAL SERVICE FOR RURAL AMERICA

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, let me just say may the record show the Vermonter is here. Snow across D.C.; the Vermonter is here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a voice for rural America. In Vermont's capital city, Montpelier, we do not have a functioning post office. This is completely unacceptable.

The post office is a vital, nonnegotiable part of our communities. It is part of the fabric of rural America. Seniors depend on it, small businesses depend on it, and our downtowns depend on it to keep our communities vibrant and connected.

Vermonters are frustrated, and rightly so, not only because they have been denied reliable, accessible service, but because the USPS has failed to give us any answers as we try to rectify this failure.

Vermonters are not asking much. A fully functional post office in a State's capital city is not a big ask. We must

get back to making government work for the people at its most basic functions.

When we ignore this need, we continue to erode faith in the government, and we leave communities behind. I won't stop raising my voice until reliable Postal Service is restored in Montpelier, Vermont, and in other parts of rural America.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1637

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JAMES) at 4 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### MOVING AMERICANS PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1568) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1568

*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 "Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act".*

#### SEC. 2. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Paragraph (2) of section 431(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1431(c)) is amended to read as follows:

*"(2)(A) The information listed in paragraph (1) shall not be available for public disclosure if—*

*"(i) the Secretary of the Treasury makes an affirmative finding on a shipment-by-shipment basis that disclosure is likely to pose a threat of personal injury or property damage; or*

*"(ii) the information is exempt under the provisions of section 552(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.*

*"(B) The Secretary shall ensure that any personally identifiable information, including Social Security numbers and passport numbers, is removed from any manifest signed, produced, delivered, or electronically transmitted under*

this section before access to the manifest is provided to the public.”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us today, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act, takes an important step to protect the privacy of all Americans, especially our veterans and servicemembers returning from overseas. It requires Customs and Border Protection to remove personally identifiable information from any shipping manifest before CBP makes the manifest information available to the public.

Under current law, Customs and Border Protection is required to make certain shipping manifest information available for public disclosure. Unfortunately, there is no requirement to ensure these manifests do not contain Americans' personal information. Instead, U.S. citizens returning home from military postings or job opportunities abroad are expected to navigate a complicated and bureaucratic system—that often experiences significant delays, I might add—to request that any personal information be removed from manifests to protect their identity from fraudsters and scammers.

Our brave men and women in uniform, as well as Americans whose employers or family commitments have required them to relocate overseas, already face numerous hurdles when they return home. Ensuring U.S. Customs and Border Protection proactively removes this data from manifests is a simple, straightforward, and actually long overdue step to protect their identities.

I applaud Representatives MICHAEL WALTZ and BILL PASCRELL for their leadership on this legislation and Senators DAINES, STABENOW, and PETERS for leading this effort in the Senate. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to follow the Ways and Means Committee's lead and unanimously pass this bipartisan legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1568, the bipartisan Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act.

I believe that privacy is something we are going to be discussing on this floor for the next 10 years. We are trying to catch up to the electronics that exist in our lives, and we want to make sure that people are all respected.

We know protecting privacy is a difficult and constantly evolving challenge. This is especially true in our modern world. Privacy is deeply important for all Americans, particularly our servicemembers abroad. Unfortunately, our troops are often victims of identity theft.

For security purposes, U.S. Customs and Border Protection requires manifest sheets to document the cargo of incoming vessels. The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act will ensure that personal data on cargo manifests cannot be abused.

I am proud to co-lead this crucial and commonsense measure with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

In recent years, manifest data has been mistakenly exposed, enabling identity theft, credit card fraud, and unwanted solicitations. Our plan will protect Americans from having their personal information compromised.

We must make sure information like names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and passport numbers can be removed from cargo manifests before they are disclosed. This is a no-brainer. We are talking about protecting people's privacy, including servicemembers and their families serving abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters of support for the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act: the first is from the New Jersey Warehouse and Movers Association; the second is from the American Trucking Associations and a coalition of supportive organizations.

NEW JERSEY WAREHOUSE &  
MOVERS ASSOCIATION  
September 11, 2023.

Hon. BILL PASCRELL,  
Washington, DC.

REPRESENTATIVE PASCRELL: As the leader of the New Jersey Warehouse & Movers Association, I have the privilege of representing moving and storage companies located across the Garden State. Thank you for your continued leadership, especially as a member of the US House Ways & Means Committee.

Our members especially thank you for introducing, along with Representative Mike Waltz, the bipartisan Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (“MAPPA” / HR 1568). As you know, this legislation would help protect the privacy and personally identifiable information (PII) of American servicemembers, federal employees, private sector workers, and their families who are returning to the United States after living abroad.

With multiple defense and government installations, more than a dozen Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, globally recognized colleges and universities, and its status as a center for international trade, New Jersey residents frequently move overseas and then return to the US. This exchange plays an important role in our state's continued economic growth, and the moving industry is proud to support these individuals and their

families. Unfortunately, current government policy regarding the security of their PII unwittingly places them at risk of identity theft, financial fraud, and other crimes. The MAPPA would change this policy and require US Customs to remove the PII contained in vessel manifests from trade data that is provided to sale.

Passage of legislation accomplishing the goal of the MAPPA has been a long-standing priority of the moving industry. We are thankful for introducing identical legislation in the House (HR 1568) and the Senate (S 758). The Senate passed S 758 in March 2023, making House approval the only step necessary before the legislation goes to the White House for the President's signature.

As such, the New Jersey moving industry asks you to contact House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard Neal and urge him to support the Committee, including S 758 as passed by the Senate in the next available markup, to approve the legislation without amendment, and for the House to consider the legislation under suspension of the rules. We also understand that Rep. Waltz is testifying in support of MAPPA during the Ways and Means Committee's “Member Day” hearing on September 14, 2023—joint testimony in support of the legislation or a letter of support for the legislation submitted for the hearing's record would be appreciated as we all work to enact this necessary and commonsense legislation.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

MAY 24, 2023.

Hon. JASON SMITH,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.  
Hon. ADRIAN SMITH,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade, Committee  
on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.  
Hon. RICHARD NEAL,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and  
Means, Washington, DC.  
Hon. EARL BLUMENAUER,  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade, Committee  
on Ways and Means, Washington,  
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN J. SMITH, RANKING MEMBER NEAL, CHAIRMAN A. SMITH, AND RANKING MEMBER BLUMENAUER: Our organizations respectfully request Committee sign off for House consideration—under suspension of the rules as a stand-alone bill—the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (S. 758), as passed by the Senate on March 9, 2023.

The legislation addresses a specific and unique issue and helps protect the sensitive personal data of servicemembers, federal employees, private sector workers, and families who are returning to the United States after living abroad. S. 758 was introduced on a bipartisan basis by Senators Daines, Peters, Stabenow, and Marshall and passed the Senate by voice vote. It has a bipartisan House companion (H.R. 1568) introduced by Representatives Waltz and Pascrell. The legislation is identical to the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (115th—H.R. 4403), which in 2018 the Ways & Means Committee reported out by voice vote, followed by House passage under the suspension calendar. The Congressional Budget Office and Joint Tax Committee have determined a “zero” score for the legislation.

Each year, the U.S. military, federal departments, and private sector organizations relocate tens of thousands of Americans back home to the U.S. after posting overseas. Other Americans return home after time abroad for personal reasons. When shipping their personal household goods to the U.S., these individuals must include elements of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) on shipping forms which are made part

of vessel manifests. The PII often contains Social Security numbers, Passport numbers, home addresses, and other sensitive data.

Currently U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is required to make all commercial information from vessel manifests—often capturing the sensitive PII of returning American citizens—available to data brokers who package and resell this data throughout their subscriber network. Without concrete action to protect the PII, normally held under strict security by the U.S. Government, these elements can be exposed, placing Americans at risk of identity theft, financial fraud, and other abuses of their data.

The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act helps protect Americans from this risk by ensuring PII is removed from manifests prior to CBP providing and selling the commercial manifest information to data brokers. While it does not amend other provisions of the Tariff Act or in any other way modify Customs, authorities or trade policy, it does remove the U.S. Government from making sensitive PII of servicemembers and other Americans available to potential criminals as citizens move back home to the United States.

Given the focused nature of this legislation and increase in identity theft crimes in recent years, we urge the Committee to agree to direct House consideration of the Senate-passed version of the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act (S. 758) as a stand-alone bill under suspension of the rules.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN TRUCKING  
ASSOCIATIONS,  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF MOVERS,  
MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,  
SENIOR EXECUTIVES  
ASSOCIATION,  
WORLDWIDE ERC®.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense measure today.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ), an expert on this topic.

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1568, the Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill will require U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, to remove personally identifiable information, including Social Security and passport numbers, from cargo manifests before they are disclosed to the public.

Currently, CBP requires manifest sheets, which include PII, in order to disclose and document the cargo of incoming vessels for customs and security purposes. Now, originally, the intent of this requirement was to increase competition. It was to facilitate better public analysis of import trends. It was to allow port authorities and transportation companies to more easily identify potential customers and changes in their industry.

□ 1645

Like many things we do here, it had a viable and good intent. However, in

recent years, the PII of relocating individuals has, again, been publicly released. That has enabled identity theft. It has enabled credit card fraud and unwanted solicitations.

Importantly, from a national security standpoint, the disclosure allows our adversaries, from terrorist organizations to foreign intelligence organizations of our adversaries like China, Russia, and Iran, to easily access the PII of our servicemembers and their families as they move around the globe to keep this great Nation free.

The personal identification, Mr. Speaker, of every American should be safe and secure, but due to the current public disclosure of cargo manifests, our servicemembers and their families are experiencing a higher risk of identity theft, fraud, and targeting as they move abroad in service of our Nation.

It is critical that we take the necessary steps to protect them from this dangerous and fraudulent activity. The Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act is essential to protect the private information not only of our servicemembers but of all Americans.

I thank Ways and Means Chairman JASON SMITH, Democrat co-lead, Representative PASCRELL, and particularly the Ways and Means staff for their hard work and working with my team to move this bill through committee and to the full House for consideration.

I look forward to passage by the full House. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, and I look forward to working with Senator DAINES, in particular, in the Senate to get this important bill signed into law.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, protecting the privacy of the American people must be our priority. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this commonsense measure.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have sufficiently described the details of this bill, why we need to do it, and that we should do it immediately.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support it so that we can get this done, especially to assist our men and women in uniform.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1568, 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. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### SOCIAL SECURITY CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3667) to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised, as amended.

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

H.R. 3667

*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 “Social Security Child Protection Act of 2023”.*

#### SEC. 2. REISSUANCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS TO YOUNG CHILDREN IN CASES WHERE CONFIDENTIALITY HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 205(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) *In any case in which a social security account number has been issued to a child who has not attained the age of 14 pursuant to sub-clause (IV) or (V) of clause (i) and it is demonstrated by evidence, as determined by the Commissioner of Social Security, and submitted under penalty of perjury to the Commissioner by a parent or guardian of the child that in the course of transmission of the social security card to the child, the confidentiality of such number has been compromised by reason of loss or theft of such social security card, the Commissioner shall issue a new social security account number to such child and make note in the records maintained with respect to such child of the pertinent information received by the Commissioner regarding the loss or theft of the social security card.”.*

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. 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 under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to identity theft, it is not just ourselves, our friends, and our coworkers, but it is also children who are at risk.

In 2021, roughly 1.25 million children were the victims of identity fraud. In many cases, it can take years before families discover that their children had their Social Security numbers stolen and misused by criminals.

Unfortunately, when parents try to obtain a new Social Security number for their child, they hit a government roadblock. Under existing policy, the Social Security Administration will only issue a new number if a child can show this theft caused harm within the past 2 years.

Because children do not have a work or credit history, many families never realize their child's identity has been compromised until it is too late.

Last year, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem testified that her family was victimized by an improper disclosure of their Social Security numbers.

Congress must take steps to protect the American people from identity theft and those who have had their Social Security numbers compromised.

H.R. 3667, the Social Security Child Protection Act of 2023 introduced by Representatives Wenstrup and Blumenauer, will require the Social Security Administration to immediately issue a new number to a child under the age of 14 when that child's Social Security card has been compromised.

This is a commonsense fix to a serious problem that millions of families face every year, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join in commanding our colleagues, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. WENSTRUP, for their outstanding work on H.R. 3667, the Social Security Child Protection Act.

I especially acknowledge Mr. BLUMENAUER, who is going to be leaving the Congress, for his longstanding work in this area.

Currently, Social Security Administration policy says that in order to get a new Social Security number, the person has to show both that their number has been misused by a third party and that this misuse has resulted in harm to the number holder.

Unfortunately, we have heard from parents about their child's Social Security cards being stolen in the mail when they are first issued. From there, criminals are able to hold on to that number and use it for nefarious purposes.

Unfortunately, children who never receive their Social Security card in the mail may not realize for many years that their identity has been stolen. That is why this legislation is so critical and important.

I commend the members of the majority for bringing this forward. It is rare that we bring forward Social Security legislation, noting that Social Security is the number one antipoverty program in the country, the number

one antipoverty program for the elderly, and the number one antipoverty program for children.

It also might surprise listeners who are tuning in to know that it has been 52 years since the Congress has taken any action to enhance Social Security benefits.

This is deemed a huge step forward to focus on a policy that is much needed, but more than 5 million of our fellow Americans get below poverty level checks from Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and Congress hasn't even taken a vote.

It is not a lot to ask of Congress, and I hope that our distinguished colleagues—and I know many of them care deeply about this issue—somehow find the resolve to vote on enhancing Social Security benefits. It will go well with this legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), the author of the bill and an expert on this topic.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Social Security Child Protection Act, H.R. 3667.

Child identity theft is a serious problem in our country, and families across America should have the ability to protect their children when a child's Social Security number is compromised early in life.

When a child's identity falls into the hands of the wrong person, it sets the stage for a future of financial problems and headaches that can hinder their ability to do things like open a bank account, purchase a car, or establish a line of credit.

I know firsthand that when adoption takes place, often there is a recommendation that that child, who may already have a Social Security number, get a new Social Security number for their protection.

Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration's current policies make it challenging for families to obtain a new Social Security number after a child's Social Security number has been compromised.

This commonsense legislation that we propose would direct the Social Security Administration to issue a new Social Security number to a child under the age of 14 if that child's Social Security card was lost or stolen. Parents should not be forced to navigate bureaucratic red tape to protect their child's financial future.

I am proud to be leading this bipartisan solution with my friend and colleague, Representative BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure, and I thank my Ways and Means colleagues and staff for their support of this sensible legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. BLUMENAUER for their incredible work in this area. This bill deserves to be on the Consent Calendar. That is how important and straightforward it is.

Let us hope that our colleagues in the Senate see it in the same light and that we get something important accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I cannot leave this floor as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Social Security and not mention the fact that it has been 53 years since Congress has voted on anything to enhance Social Security.

That is a disgrace for both sides, Democrats and Republicans. It is a disgrace. Let's call it what it is.

Mr. Speaker, 5 million of our fellow Americans get below poverty level checks in the wealthiest Nation in the world, where billionaires stopped paying into Social Security on January 2.

Come on. In the wealthiest Nation in the world, how about we make sure that for 23 million Americans, they get a tax break?

We are willing to give corporations tax breaks left and right. How about the average working person who has paid into a system all of their lives, yet they get taxed on that? Where is the interest from my colleagues on the other side with respect to that?

Mr. Speaker, 23 million Americans who deserve a tax break can't get it, though we have a bill that is in front of them that would also recognize the teachers, firefighters, and police officers, who everyone professes to be in favor of until it comes time for them to get paid.

□ 1700

As our colleagues on the other side know, WEP and GPO prevent that from happening. We repealed that and made sure that these individuals get those needed benefits.

In this time of great disparity, global inflation, coming through a pandemic, and when economists have recognized the inequitable imbalance of wealth, what better way to bring balance than providing the decency of Congress just merely taking a vote?

If you disagree with it, if you have a better idea, for God's sake, put it forward, but please don't tell us about this commission behind closed doors where a select group of people without public hearings are going to determine what Social Security will be.

Social Security doesn't need a commission. It doesn't need to go behind closed doors. It needs a vote. Just like the vote we are giving to this commonsense proposal today, a vote on Social Security represents pure common sense because it assists over 70 million of your fellow Americans.

This is not Democratic or Republican. This is about your brothers, your sisters, your family, your aunts, your uncles, the people you worship and go to church with, and the people in your communities.

Speaking of communities, every community benefits. This is an enormous economic development plan because the money goes directly to the individual.

Where do those individuals spend that Social Security money? Right back in your districts. Right back in the district that these individuals live in.

It helps out the local pharmacists. It helps out the local grocery store. It helps out individuals.

This is something that should be embraced by both sides. Ironically, in the past when Social Security has been enhanced—it happened under Dwight David Eisenhower and under Mr. Nixon, as well. Since Richard Nixon was President of the United States, Social Security has not been enhanced.

Here we are, coming out of a global pandemic, coming out of global inflation, and the very individuals who need our help the most—our seniors—we won't even give them a vote.

Mr. Speaker, this is the United States Congress. We come here and represent the people of our districts. This is a benefit they not only richly need but they deserve. It is something they have earned.

This is not an entitlement, as some profess. This is an earned benefit.

Yes, for all you viewers at home, all you have to do is look at your pay stub. It says FICA, Federal Insurance Contribution Act. The Federal insurance is Social Security; the contribution is yours.

Yes, the employer also gives, but he gets a tax break for that, completely able to write it off.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. WENSTRUP for allowing me the opportunity to come here this afternoon to address their bill but also for providing an opportunity as well because I don't think we are going to see many more coming where we will actually get to vote on Social Security benefits and enhancements for the people who we are sworn to serve.

Mr. Speaker, again, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security. It has been 53 years since we last enhanced the program. More than 5 million get below poverty level checks, having paid in all their lives, and 23 million Americans are being denied a tax cut that they would otherwise receive.

Teachers and firefighters, et cetera, would see the repeal of WEP and GPO, and we can't get a vote in the Ways and Means Committee or on the floor of the Congress on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, it is a disgrace. Make no mistake, both parties share the blame, but there is no excuse for not taking a vote and putting this before the American people so they can fully appreciate it. They understand the need. They feel it every day because of the situation that they find themselves in because Congress has failed to act and failed to vote.

The fundamental thing that we are sent here to do is represent people and

vote; not to vote on the most basic of issues, the Nation's number one anti-poverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for the children. We have failed.

Yes, and it is paid for. It is paid for by those very billionaires who stopped paying in on January 2 to Social Security.

The guy making \$35,000 to \$50,000, Mr. Speaker, is paying in the whole time. The guy making \$100,000 to \$150,000 is paying in the whole time. Those other guys aren't.

Most people don't realize that there is a cap, and they are exempt from paying. How about we lift that cap, and they pay their fair share? How about we extend the benefits of Social Security that haven't been done in 53 years? Our fellow Americans who have paid in will get pulled up out of poverty, and future generations will know that it is there and secure for them, as it was for their parents and grandparents.

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank my colleagues for a bipartisan effort in moving forward a solution. I am proud to say that the tradition within the Committee on Ways and Means, especially Social Security issues, is bipartisan. When we can work together, we can move legislation forward.

I always welcome opportunities to have discussions that we know are important for America. On the need to address Social Security, it is my hope we can have a bipartisan action moving forward.

Meanwhile, we have a bill here that I think shows that we can work together to strengthen Social Security, that we can root out some fraud, assist the American people in rooting out fraud, and, hopefully, ultimately, prevent it so that Social Security can be stronger as a result.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank Dr. Wenstrup for his diligent effort along the way, and I urge my colleagues to support this good piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3667, 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. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AUTHORITY OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5862) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorganize Customs revenue functions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5862

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

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 412 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 212(b)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—  
(A) in paragraph (1)—  
(i) by striking “consolidate, discontinue,” and inserting “discontinue”; and  
(ii) by inserting after “reduce the staffing level” the following: “below the optimal staffing level determined in the most recent Resource Allocation Model required by section 301(h) of the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978 (19 U.S.C. 2075(h))”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, National Account Managers, International Trade Analysts” after “Financial Systems Specialists”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, subject to subsection (b), consolidate, modify, or reorganize customs revenue functions delegated to the Commissioner under subsection (a), including by adding such functions to existing positions or establishing new or modifying existing job series, grades, titles, or classifications for personnel, and associated support staff, performing such functions, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management.

“(2) POSITION CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS.—At the request of the Commissioner, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall establish new position classification standards for any new positions established by the Commissioner under paragraph (1).”

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 412(a)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 212(a)(1)) is amended by striking “403(a)(1)” and inserting “403(1)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, America's trading relationships, as well as the challenges we face in trade around the world, are evolving every day. We must respond to those challenges now, not years in the future.

Families, farmers, workers, and small businesses rely on us to look out for them in an increasingly complex world.

Last year, the Committee on Ways and Means traveled to the port of Staten Island in New York and a cattle auction barn in Minnesota to listen to the American people whose livelihoods depend on international trade. They all asked Congress to do more to insist on strong enforcement of our trade laws.

The bill before us, H.R. 5862, will help address the challenges of ever-changing threats around the world through more effective enforcement of U.S. trade laws. It takes six narrowly defined jobs at Customs and Border Protection and replaces them with a single position of trade specialist in the agency's Office of International Trade.

This streamlining will make CBP respond faster and more effectively to our Nation's trade challenges and protect and defend America's economic interests.

I thank the bill's sponsor and author, certainly, Representative STEEL, as well as Representative PANETTA, for taking the lead on this critical issue for American workers and the security of our supply chains. This bipartisan legislation will help ensure that American workers, families, farmers, and small businesses are not left behind.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5862, the Global Trade Specialist Act. It is legislation that I am proud to have co-led with my friend and fellow Californian, Representative STEEL.

It is a bill that would allow Customs and Border Protection to fulfill the position of global trade specialist, which would help facilitate and further our Nation's trade by giving CBP the flexibility to flow with the future of international trade.

As we know well, Customs and Border Protection has an important role to play when it comes to supporting trade. That is why CBP should also have the proper authority to modernize their staffing as the trade environment evolves.

Currently, CBP's Office of International Trade has several distinct but separate trade positions. This includes jobs such as import specialists, international trade analysts, management and program analysts, trade econo-

mists, auditors, attorneys, and so forth. These jobs do help CBP execute and enforce U.S. trade laws and ultimately protect our American economy, but there is a position missing, and that is a global trade specialist.

CBP has created such a position, but it doesn't have the flexibility, nor does it have the legal authority to hire for this position. Our legislation would give CBP that needed authority and so much more.

The global trade specialist position would allow CBP to realign and reshape the workforce in response to the evolving trade environment. It would be able to do this because the position also would better utilize and focus existing resources and Customs' revenue functions. It would give CBP more flexibility to modernize its trade workforce, to retain its employees, and to build its institutional knowledge. It would equip trade employees to more effectively execute trade enforcement and compliance operations. It would increase professional development opportunities.

Ultimately, by making trade facilitation jobs more attractive and rewarding rather than bureaucratic and boring, this legislation would enhance CBP's responsibility to recruit and retain staff and meet the mandated staffing levels as set forth in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

In the formulation of this bipartisan legislation, I am not only proud to have worked with my fellow Ways and Means and California colleague, Mrs. STEEL, but it was built from provisions that were included in both the House's America COMPETES Act and the Senate's United States Innovation and Competition Act.

We also have incorporated feedback from CBP to ensure that this provision would work as intended and made additional changes at the request of Office and Personnel Management.

Lastly, this legislation is supported by the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents CBP workers.

Due to its broad support, this legislation passed unanimously at that Ways and Means Committee markup last November. I thank Chairman ADRIAN SMITH and, of course, Ranking Member NEAL for supporting this bipartisan bill that is the product of good-faith collaboration.

It is a bill, Mr. Speaker, that will allow CBP employees to go beyond a bureaucratic role and actually allow CBP to be creative, to be flexible, and to be forward-thinking when it comes to the ebbs and flows and the future of trade.

That is why I worked on this legislation, that is why I fully support its passage, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Global Trade Specialist Act.

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

□ 1715

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentle-

woman from California (Mrs. STEEL), an author of the bill.

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5862, the Global Trade Specialist Act.

I am proud to have introduced this bipartisan legislation with fellow Californian, Congressman JIMMY PANETTA.

In the 20-plus years since Congress created the Department of Homeland Security, the world has changed drastically. That means reforms are needed to improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection's global trade operations.

For over 5 years, CBP has requested authorization to create a global trade specialist position within its International Trade Office. This position would improve trade law enforcement and facilitate legitimate trade.

My bill will make narrowly tailored updates to help CBP respond to ever-evolving trade challenges by better utilizing existing personnel within CBP.

Both the House and Senate already passed bills that would grant CBP the authority to create a global trade specialist position, but neither bill has yet been enacted into law.

The Ways and Means Committee has repeatedly heard hearing testimony about how a global trade specialist position within CBP will better serve the needs of American workers and safeguard supply chains. That is why the Ways and Means Committee passed the bill unanimously by a margin of 42-0 in November of last year.

As geopolitical relationships change more rapidly and drastically in the modern world, it is critical that we empower CBP to operate as efficiently as possible. This legislation will empower CBP to address the dynamic and urgent nature of U.S. trade enforcement and help maintain American dominance in the global economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote to finally get this commonsense solution across the finish line for the American people.

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

In closing, as you have heard, Mr. Speaker, this legislation has broad bipartisan support and support from the CBP. It really is critical that we modernize our trade administration as our trade environment is changing faster than ever. CBP's staffing model must evolve, and Congress must do its part to facilitate that evolution.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, to send this to the Senate and ultimately to the President's desk for signature into law.

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

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

I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for very sufficiently described the bill, why we need to do it, and the details contained in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly 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 Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5862, 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. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PROTECT REPORTERS FROM EXPLOITATIVE STATE SPYING ACT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4250) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4250

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protect Reporters from Exploitative State Spying Act” or the “PRESS Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED JOURNALIST.—The term “covered journalist” means a person who regularly gathers, prepares, collects, photographs, records, writes, edits, reports, investigates, or publishes news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest for dissemination to the public.

(2) COVERED SERVICE PROVIDER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered service provider” means any person that, by an electronic means, stores, processes, or transmits information in order to provide a service to customers of the person.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “covered service provider” includes—

(i) a telecommunications carrier and a provider of an information service (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153));

(ii) a provider of an interactive computer service and an information content provider (as such terms are defined in section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230));

(iii) a provider of remote computing service (as defined in section 2711 of title 18, United States Code); and

(iv) a provider of electronic communication service (as defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code) to the public.

(3) DOCUMENT.—The term “document” means writings, recordings, and photographs, as those terms are defined by Federal Rule of Evidence 1001 (28 U.S.C. App.).

(4) FEDERAL ENTITY.—The term “Federal entity” means an entity or employee of the judicial or executive branch or an administrative agency of the Federal Government with the power to issue a subpoena or issue other compulsory process.

(5) JOURNALISM.—The term “journalism” means gathering, preparing, collecting,

photographing, recording, writing, editing, reporting, investigating, or publishing news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest for dissemination to the public.

(6) PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF A COVERED JOURNALIST.—The term “personal account of a covered journalist” means an account with a covered service provider used by a covered journalist that is not provided, administered, or operated by the employer of the covered journalist.

(7) PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICE OF A COVERED JOURNALIST.—The term “personal technology device of a covered journalist” means a handheld communications device, laptop computer, desktop computer, or other internet-connected device used by a covered journalist that is not provided or administered by the employer of the covered journalist.

(8) PROTECTED INFORMATION.—The term “protected information” means any information identifying a source who provided information as part of engaging in journalism, and any records, contents of a communication, documents, or information that a covered journalist obtained or created as part of engaging in journalism.

(9) SPECIFIED OFFENSE AGAINST A MINOR.—The term “specified offense against a minor” has the meaning given that term in section 111(7) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20911(7)).

#### SEC. 3. LIMITS ON COMPELLED DISCLOSURE FROM COVERED JOURNALISTS.

In any matter arising under Federal law, a Federal entity may not compel a covered journalist to disclose protected information, unless a court in the judicial district in which the subpoena or other compulsory process is, or will be, issued determines by a preponderance of the evidence, after providing notice and an opportunity to be heard to the covered journalist, that—

(1) disclosure of the protected information is necessary to prevent, or to identify any perpetrator of, an act of terrorism against the United States; or

(2) disclosure of the protected information is necessary to prevent a threat of imminent violence, significant bodily harm, or death, including specified offenses against a minor.

#### SEC. 4. LIMITS ON COMPELLED DISCLOSURE FROM COVERED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(a) CONDITIONS FOR COMPELLED DISCLOSURE.—In any matter arising under Federal law, a Federal entity may not compel a covered service provider to provide testimony or any document consisting of any record, information, or other communications stored by a covered provider on behalf of a covered journalist, including testimony or any documentation relating to a personal account of a covered journalist or a personal technology device of a covered journalist, unless a court in the judicial district in which the subpoena or other compulsory process is, or will be, issued determines by a preponderance of the evidence that there is a reasonable threat of imminent violence unless the testimony or document is provided, and issues an order authorizing the Federal entity to compel the disclosure of the testimony or document.

(b) NOTICE TO COURT.—A Federal entity seeking to compel the provision of testimony or any document described in subsection (a) shall inform the court that the testimony or document relates to a covered journalist.

#### (c) NOTICE TO COVERED JOURNALIST AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.

(1) IN GENERAL.—A court may authorize a Federal entity to compel the provision of testimony or a document under this section only after the Federal entity seeking the testimony or document provides the covered journalist on behalf of whom the testimony

or document is stored pursuant to subsection (a)—

(A) notice of the subpoena or other compulsory request for such testimony or document from the covered service provider not later than the time at which such subpoena or request is issued to the covered service provider; and

(B) an opportunity to be heard before the court before the time at which the provision of the testimony or document is compelled.

#### (2) EXCEPTION TO NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notice and an opportunity to be heard under paragraph (1) may be delayed for not more than 45 days if the court involved determines there is clear and convincing evidence that such notice would pose a clear and substantial threat to the integrity of a criminal investigation, or would present an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm, including specified offenses against a minor.

(B) EXTENSIONS.—The 45-day period described in subparagraph (A) may be extended by the court for additional periods of not more than 45 days if the court involved makes a new and independent determination that there is clear and convincing evidence that providing notice to the covered journalist would pose a clear and substantial threat to the integrity of a criminal investigation, or would present an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm, including specified offenses against a minor, under current circumstances.

#### SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON CONTENT OF INFORMATION.

The content of any testimony, document, or protected information that is compelled under sections 3 or 4 shall—

(1) not be overbroad, unreasonable, or oppressive, and, as appropriate, be limited to the purpose of verifying published information or describing any surrounding circumstances relevant to the accuracy of such published information; and

(2) be narrowly tailored in subject matter and period of time covered so as to avoid compelling the production of peripheral, nonessential, or speculative information.

#### SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) apply to civil defamation, slander, or libel claims or defenses under State law, regardless of whether or not such claims or defenses, respectively, are raised in a State or Federal court; or

(2) prevent the Federal Government from pursuing an investigation of a covered journalist or organization that is—

(A) suspected of committing a crime;

(B) a witness to a crime unrelated to engaging in journalism;

(C) suspected of being an agent of a foreign power, as defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801);

(D) an individual or organization designated under Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

(E) a specially designated terrorist, as that term is defined in section 595.311 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto); or

(F) a terrorist organization, as that term is defined in section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(II) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(II)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILEY. 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. 4250.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, I am presenting bipartisan legislation to protect vital First Amendment freedoms from being infringed and chilled by overreaching government actions. I thank my colleagues across the aisle for their support of this issue.

This bill prohibits the Federal Government from compelling a journalist to disclose documents, communications, or other information obtained or created as part of the journalist's job.

Our Founders chose to enshrine the freedom of the press in the First Amendment of the Constitution, alongside freedom of speech and other fundamental freedoms, because it is a lynchpin of republican government. It is vital to the functioning of a free and democratic society.

As James Madison said: "A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps both. . . . And a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Well, the most commonly understood form of potential abuse involves the output of a free press; that is, censorship. It is also critically important to protect the input; that is, the work of journalists in reporting on the affairs of the Nation. A key aspect of freedom of the press is the pursuit of the truth without government entanglements or intimidation.

If the government forces journalists to reveal sources or work product, it could undermine the gathering of information that is in the public interest. That is why 32 States and the District of Columbia have expressly protected this right with statutory shield laws, and 49 States have either a statutory or common law privilege that protects journalists from compelled disclosure. These laws allow journalists to do their jobs without fear that the government will unreasonably seize their records.

Today's legislation, the PRESS Act, does the same thing at the Federal level. Administrations from both parties have been guilty of unjustly targeting journalists and using compulsory processes to obtain information from them and their sources.

Now, over the years, versions of this very bill have received widespread support from across the political spectrum, and indeed, this bill passed through the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous, bipartisan vote.

Mr. Speaker, liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and journalists are often the first to expose government fraud, waste, abuse, and encroachments on personal freedoms.

In a free country, we need to make sure that the government cannot unmask journalists' sources without good cause, and that is why the need for this legislation is so strong. This bill provides those protections, and it is long past time for this legislation to be signed into law.

I will close by again thanking my Democrat colleagues for their support and especially my fellow Judiciary Committee colleague, Mr. RASKIN. This bill is proof that it is possible for Congress to set politics aside and act to protect the rights of all Americans.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4250, the Protect Reporters from Exploitive State Spying Act, or the PRESS Act, and I yield myself such time as I may consume in support of this bill.

Introduced by my colleagues, Representatives KEVIN KILEY, DARRELL ISSA, HARRIET HAGEMAN, RUSSELL FRY, JAMIE RASKIN, and TED LIEU, H.R. 4250 is a reporter shield law that will ensure that journalists can engage in effective journalism while reducing the risks of putting themselves, or their confidential sources upon whom they rely to bring critical stories to the public's attention, in legal jeopardy.

Specifically, H.R. 4250 would create a strong but qualified Federal statutory privilege that protects journalists from being compelled by the Federal Government to reveal confidential sources and information.

The bill also allows the government to defeat this privilege under certain circumstances where a court determines that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or identify any perpetrator of an act of terrorism or to prevent a threat of imminent violence, significant bodily harm or death, and then only after the journalist is provided notice and an opportunity to be heard before the court.

Additionally, the bill prohibits the Federal Government from compelling an electronic service provider that stores a journalist's information to disclose that information, as well as information relating to the journalist's personal account or technology device to the government. The government can defeat this privilege only if a court determines that there is a reasonable threat of imminent violence absent the information's disclosure and subject to notice and other requirements and exceptions.

Lastly, the PRESS Act contains a rule of construction that provides that the act should not be construed to apply to civil defamation, slander, libel claims, or defenses under State law. The rule of construction also makes clear that the act does not prevent the Federal Government from pursuing an

investigation of a journalist or organization that is suspected of engaging in criminal or terrorist activity, is a witness to a crime unrelated to journalism, or is suspected of being an agent of a foreign power.

This is necessary and long-overdue legislation. Over the past several decades, Democratic and Republican Presidential administrations have attempted to crack down on leaks of classified information to media outlets, and these investigations have included efforts to obtain journalists' records.

In 2021, the Washington Post, the New York Times, and CNN reported that the Department of Justice, under the Trump administration, sought the information and records of their reporters. Previously, during the Obama administration, the Department reportedly searched FOX News reporter Jeffrey Rosen's emails and even listed him as a co-conspirator in an Espionage Act case against the source of leaked information.

These and other recent episodes further illustrate the need for stronger protections for journalists and their sources.

Indeed, one of the most critical roles that the free press plays in our democracy is to keep the public informed about the functioning of government and the policymaking process, including allegations of government wrongdoing or incompetence. Yet, the press' ability to carry out this role would be seriously eroded if a reporter could not obtain complete and accurate information about such wrongdoing or incompetence by assuring confidential sources their anonymity.

The PRESS Act would protect a journalist's ability to bring these important stories to the public's attention, stories which almost always hinge on protecting the identity of confidential sources without unwarranted interference by the Federal Government.

□ 1730

The lack of a Federal press shield law is quite striking given the broad and bipartisan support for such laws.

Currently, over 40 States and the District of Columbia have enacted press shield laws or otherwise afford similar privileges through their State constitutions or common law.

Here in Congress, there is long-standing and bipartisan support for a Federal press shield law. For example, former Vice President Mike Pence, when he was a Member of Congress back in 2005, introduced the Free Flow of Information Act, which was very similar in concept to H.R. 4250.

The Free Flow of Information Act subsequently passed the House twice in the 110th and the 111th Congresses, the first time by a 398–21 vote, and the second time by voice vote under suspension of the rules.

Last Congress, the House passed the PRESS Act by voice vote under suspension of the rules, as well.

In this Congress, the bill passed the Judiciary Committee by a 23–0 vote, and, unfortunately, despite this history of broad bipartisan support, the Senate has never acted on any of these bills, though hope springs eternal.

I am encouraged that, even as stark differences among Members of this body remain, this important legislation continues to enjoy bipartisan support.

I thank Chairman JORDAN for his work in helping to bring H.R. 4250 to the floor today, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I note that the PRESS Act is endorsed by a number of First Amendment and press freedom organizations, including the ACLU, the Center for Democracy and Technology, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Demand Progress, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the First Amendment Coalition, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, the National Association of Broadcasters, PEN America, the Protect The 1st Foundation, the Radio Television Digital News Association, and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 4250, a necessary and long overdue Federal protection for journalists and their sources.

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. I again thank Mr. RASKIN for working with me on this legislation, as well as Chair JORDAN and Ranking Member NADLER for helping to get it through the Judiciary Committee with unanimous bipartisan support.

I very much look forward to seeing this bill get to the President’s desk and get signed into law this year. I urge all of my colleagues here in the House to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4250.

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3250) to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

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

S. 3250

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

#### SECTION 1. REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND.

(a) DEFINITION OF VICTIM OF CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the term “victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103” means any individual—

(A) who suffered direct or proximate harm as a result of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that occurred over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, and was present at or near the scene of the bombing when it occurred, or immediately thereafter; or

(B) who is the spouse, legal guardian, parent, child, brother, sister, next of kin, or other relative of, or who is determined by the applicable district court of the United States to be an individual who possesses a relationship of similar significance to, an individual described in subparagraph (A) or an individual otherwise described in this subsection.

(2) LIMITATION.—The term “victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103” does not include an individual who participated or conspired in the crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or other law or rule to the contrary, in order to permit victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to access court proceedings in the criminal case against Abu Agila Mohammed Mas’ud Kheir Al-Marimi and against any co-conspirator subsequently charged and prosecuted in a court of the United States for crimes related to the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the district court of the United States in such a case shall order that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available to victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(2) NO LIMIT ON LOCATION.—Remote video and telephonic access to proceedings shall be made available under paragraph (1) to a victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 without regard to the location of the victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(c) DISTRICT COURT DISCRETION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or limit the discretion of a district court of the United States to control the manner, circumstances, or availability of re-

mote video or telephonic transmissions where necessary to control the courtroom or protect the integrity of court proceedings or the safety of parties, witnesses, or other participants in the proceedings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials on S. 3250.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 1988, a bomb planted by Libyan terrorists detonated on Pan Am Flight 103 while it was flying over Lockerbie, Scotland; 270 people, including 190 Americans, 34 of which were from my home State, the State of New Jersey, lost their lives in this tragic attack.

Over 30 years later, the Department of Justice announced the arrest and indictment of the alleged bomb maker. His trial is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., with pretrial hearings that are already underway.

However, given the time that has passed and the attack’s international impact, surviving families are generally older, and some of them are physically unable to attend these hearings. Others live scattered across the United States of America and the world, making it difficult to travel and to attend.

In light of this fact, the government filed an unopposed motion with the court to provide remote access to the proceedings for the victims of this bombing. Unfortunately, the court denied the motion, finding that no statute or case law authorized such an accommodation.

This bill, fortunately and importantly, provides that authorization. S. 3250 provides the court with a limited, one-time only authorization to accommodate the victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing by making remote video and telephonic access available to these victims and their families.

Additionally, there is precedent for this type of measure. Congress passed similar laws authorizing access to trials for victims of September 11 and again during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill is supported by Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, which is an organization comprised of family members whose loved ones were killed on the flight. Their unyielding resolve in holding those responsible for the murder of their loved ones is the embodiment of American tenacity and American spirit.

I am proud to have spearheaded the House version of this important legislation, which will ensure that the victims of these attacks can witness as the architect of this atrocity faces the full weight of the American justice system.

Let this case serve as an unwavering warning to our enemies around the world: If you harm Americans, if you dare to strike at the heart of America, know this—there will be no refuge and no corner of the Earth where you can hide. You will find no peace.

I urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3250, a bill to ensure that the victims and families of the victims of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, have remote access to the court proceedings that will finally bring one of the perpetrators of this terrorist attack to justice.

Mr. Speaker, on December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 took off from London Heathrow Airport en route across the Atlantic to New York's Kennedy Airport.

Thirty-eight minutes after it took off, while flying high above Lockerbie, Scotland, a bomb set off by a Libyan terrorist exploded, destroying the plane instantaneously and taking the lives of all of its passengers, as well as the lives of 11 residents of Lockerbie, who were killed by falling debris—270 people from 21 different countries, including 190 Americans, were killed in this deadly attack.

For more than three decades, law enforcement officials in the United States and around the world have worked relentlessly to see that everyone responsible for the bombing is held accountable.

Thanks to their hard work, one of the terrorists behind the attack will soon face trial for his actions in Federal district court. Because the victims and their families are scattered in more than a dozen countries throughout the world, and many have reached an advanced age that makes travel very difficult, it is nearly impossible to ensure these victims and family members have meaningful access to the court proceedings without some sort of remote audio or visual option.

Unfortunately, the district court where the trial would take place has determined that it does not have the authority to permit such remote access—in other words, cameras in the courtroom, or at least live streaming.

This legislation, therefore, would provide statutory authority and instruction to the district court in this case to order and ensure that remote video and telephonic access to the trial proceedings be made available to the victims.

Now, that is not too much to ask for the victims of the Lockerbie tragedy.

It is also not too much to ask on behalf of the American people who need and want to view the proceedings in U.S. v. Trump who can't get to Washington, D.C., to see it, but they would love to view it and hear it in live time, in real time.

Although the Lockerbie bombing occurred many years ago, the wounds are still fresh for the grieving families left behind. This legislation would help provide some level of comfort so that they can observe one of those responsible for this deadly attack being brought to justice.

I thank Senators CORNYN and GILLIBRAND for their efforts in bringing this important bipartisan legislation forward. I also thank my good friend, Representative VAN DREW, Ranking Member NADLER, and Representative CHRIS SMITH for leading this legislation in the House.

I urge all Members to support it.

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the author of this legislation and I don't agree on much. We fight like cats and dogs, with me being the dog, but on this, we agree.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 remains one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on American civilians in America's history. Now, 35 years later, we are on the verge of finally—finally—holding those responsible individuals accountable.

Let that be a symbol of America's unending pursuit of justice against those who would choose to do our country and our citizens harm.

I thank the families of the victims of this attack for their involvement with this bill and their tireless work in achieving justice for their loved ones.

I thank the bipartisan coalition both in the Senate and here in the House that helped this bill move rapidly to the President's desk.

I thank my good friend from Georgia for his support, and I thank Ranking Member NADLER. He is an important guy, and I certainly should thank him, as well. We appreciate his support and appreciate Ranking Member NADLER as well as, of course, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JIM JORDAN.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important 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 New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3250.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HONORING GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENT AND GREAT AMERICAN LANCE CORPORAL JOSEPH BARNA

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I was reminded recently by my very good friend and great American, Tiffany Cloud, of another great American from my district, an avid writer and Marine Corps veteran, Lance Corporal Joseph Barna, whom I was pleased to meet several years ago.

Joe recently won a national gold medal for his essay "Our Life Is About Memories" in the prestigious 2023 Veterans Administration creative arts contest. This impressive feat marks his fourth national gold medal in this highly competitive veteran writing contest.

Joe Barna served our country with honor during the Korean war with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Regiment, 1st Battalion, Baker Company, Anti-Assault Platoon.

He writes essays, and he wrote a book, "God Makes Angels and Navy Corpsmen: A Korean War Veteran's Memories of the War and Life."

Joe also uses his writing talents to actively promote veteran causes throughout our community. He is all about America, and he is all about veterans.

Mr. Speaker, today on the House floor, I am not only honored to recognize Lance Corporal Joseph Barna, but I strongly encourage all Americans to read the essay "Our Life Is About Memories." It is sad, heartwarming, patriotic, and written by a great American.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Barna for his service.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2926. A letter from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Annual Report to Congress on the fiscal Year 2022 operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 942; Mar. 4, 1927, ch. 509, Sec. 42 (as amended by Public Law 104-66, Sec. 1102(b)(1)); (109 Stat. 722) and 30 U.S.C. 936(b); Public Law 91-173, Sec. 426(b) (as amended by Public Law 107-275, Sec. 2(b)(4)); (116 Stat. 1926); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-2927. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Action to Delay Effective Date Consistent With Congressionally Enacted Moratorium (RIN: 0936-AA14) 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-2928. A letter from the President, transmitting a report on strikes against facilities to deter, degrade, and disrupt the ability of the Houthi militants to carry out future attacks against the United States and vessels operating in the Red Sea region, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(c); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(c); (87 Stat. 556) (H. Doc. No. 118-99); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3058. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-347). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5863. A bill to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters; with an amendment (Rept. 118-348). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 6918. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; with an amendment (Rept. 118-349). 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 Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 6994. A bill to require the reopening of covered recreation sites closed due to a natural disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 6995. A bill making continuing appropriations for the Armed Forces and certain

Federal civilian personnel in the event of a Government shutdown during fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6996. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 6997. A bill to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6998. A bill to ensure equal treatment for certain faith-based organizations in certain Small Business Administration programs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 6999. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require reports about the prosecution of certain offenses for recipients of Byrne grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 7000. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 7001. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest System land in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. HILL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. McCaul, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COSTA, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. STAUBER):

H. Res. 965. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen, who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BACON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CAREY, Mr. CARL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CLINE, Mr. COLE, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr.

SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. FRY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. MACE, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MAST, Mrs. MCBAUGH, Mr. McCaul, Ms. MCCOLLM, Mr. MCCRICK, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SELF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ALFORD, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MILLS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. IVEY, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 966. A resolution condemning rape and sexual violence committed by Hamas in its war against Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEMER, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. CHU, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS):

H. Res. 967. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit Members to vote by proxy in certain cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 968. A resolution calling on Congress to condemn voter suppression laws enacted by States and political subdivisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Mrs. KIM of California:

H.R. 6994.

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

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the reopening of covered recreation sites closed due to a natural disaster, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 6995.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this bill is to make continuing appropriations for certain federal personnel in the event of a Government shutdown during Fiscal Year 2024.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 6996.

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

clause 1 of section 4 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 6997.

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

Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disaster Relief

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 6998.

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

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 ensure equal treatment for certain faith-based organizations in certain Small Business Administration programs.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 6999.

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

US Constitution Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Holding prosecutors accountable via reporting requirements and grant eligibility.

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 7000.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: “To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes . . .”

The single subject of this legislation is:

To clarify that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau may not exert its authority over the business of insurance.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 7001.

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:

Forest Service land conveyance

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 79: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 491: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 522: Mr. COSTA and Mrs. PELOTA.

H.R. 807: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 830: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 895: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 987: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1008: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1179: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1230: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 1247: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 1293: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1413: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mrs. PELOTA.

H.R. 1507: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1526: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1716: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 1788: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 1831: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 2555: Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 2620: Mr. YAKYM and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 3433: Ms. MENG and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 3435: Mr. MANN and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3474: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 3492: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 3541: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 3625: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 3654: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 3847: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 3913: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 4006: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 4175: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H.R. 4224: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 4293: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 4363: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 4431: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 4564: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 4758: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 4993: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 5012: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 5041: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 5141: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5267: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. NORMAN, and Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 5302: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 5652: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 5819: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 5825: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5960: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 5995: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 6046: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 6062: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 6159: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H.R. 6248: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 6279: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 6280: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 6300: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 6342: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 6349: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 6495: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 6673: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 6683: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 6758: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 6805: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 6864: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 6918: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. STAUBER, and Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 6943: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 6945: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 6962: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 6964: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.J. Res. 54: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. LALOTA.

H. Res. 50: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H. Res. 82: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. PALMER.

H. Res. 735: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS and Mr. CASAR.

H. Res. 786: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 964: Mr. PALMER.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

No. 8

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Lord of history, lead our Senators above all irrelevancies and trivialities to a unity of passion and purpose. Create in them an elevated and refined patriotism that will make them eager to know and do Your will. May the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts receive Heaven's approval. In the awareness that "without a vision the people perish," give our lawmakers a fresh revelation of the United States of America. Also, keep ever before them the dream of a better world that is yet to be.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 16, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AMENDING THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2872, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 243, H.R. 2872, a bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as of today, over 200 million Americans remain on alert as heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures persist across the country. As far south as Texas, Americans are seeing snow, ice, and dan-

gerous road conditions and power outages by the hundreds of thousands.

On Friday, Governor Hochul declared a state of emergency for western New York and warned residents to stay off the roads. Of course, I might say, though, the cold did not stop the Buffalo Bills. Go Bills.

And, last week, Senator GILLIBRAND and I sent a "stand ready" letter to FEMA, urging them to remain at the ready to assist our State officials with whatever support they request.

Thankfully, snowfall in New York has slowed today compared to over the weekend, but we are not out of the woods yet. Yet another wave of lake-effect weather is set to pass through our State in the coming days.

My office will continue to remain in touch with State officials, and I urge everyone to continue to exercise caution.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now, on the CR, over the weekend, Congressional leadership reached a bipartisan agreement on a clean extension of government funding until March 1 and March 8, which will prevent a government shutdown.

The focus of this week will be to pass this extension as quickly as we can. Time is of the essence. If we don't act soon, the government will run out of funding at midnight this Friday, January 19, just a few days away.

So, today, the Senate will take the first vote to move forward on a clean CR, putting the Senate on a path to pass the CR before Friday's deadline. If both sides continue to work in good faith, I am hopeful that we can wrap up work on the CR no later than Thursday.

The key to finishing our work this week will be bipartisan cooperation in both Chambers. You can't pass these bills without support from Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate.

And passing a clean CR this week is important for two main reasons: First,

- This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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passing the CR, of course, will avert a harmful and unnecessary government shutdown. No reasonable Member on either side, Democrat or Republican, wants a government shutdown. Both sides recognize that a government shutdown would mean crushing delays to veterans programs; nutrition programs for women, infants, and children; delayed benefits for our military; and so much more.

Second, passing the CR will give our appropriators time to finish drafting all 12 bills to reflect our bipartisan agreement. Congressional leaders have already agreed to a top-line number that will protect critical priorities like housing, veterans' benefits, healthcare, nutrition programs, and more. We want to move forward as quickly as we can to turn this top-line number into legislation, but everyone knows we need more time.

Now while most Democrats and Republicans want to avoid a shutdown, a small group of hard-right extremists seem dead set on making a shutdown a reality. With little leverage to actually enact their agenda, these extremists have tried again and again to bully the Speaker, bully their own Republican colleagues, and bully the country into accepting their hard-right views. That is it. The only tactic the hard right has in its playbook is to bully everyone else into submission, just like Donald Trump does. And the reason is simple: Most Senators, most Congressmen—Democrat and Republican—do not accept that their draconian cuts will be good for America. So the only thing they can do is bully because they can't convince, they can't win over people by argument, so bullying seems to be their way to go.

Even now, the hard right, amazingly, is demanding that the Speaker walk away from the agreement that the four corners made on the appropriations top lines. That is simply ridiculous, as even many Republicans recognize, and it goes to show you how unserious, how incapable the hard right is of doing the hard work of governing.

But if the hard right's tactics in the House have proved one thing, it is that bullying almost never works—and it ain't working for them. Bullying didn't work during the default; it didn't work during previous shutdown threats; and it is certainly not going to work now.

I hope that both sides can continue working together this week to move forward with the CR quickly to prevent a government shutdown before the Friday deadline.

#### TAX FRAMEWORK

Mr. President, now on the tax framework, this morning, Senate Finance Chairman WYDEN and House Ways and Means Chairman SMITH announced a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on a tax framework that will significantly improve the lives of millions of working families and help Main Street businesses growing in today's economy. It has taken a lot of hard work to come up with this framework, and I applaud

the good work done by Chairman WYDEN, Chairman SMITH, and everyone on both sides who made this agreement possible.

I support this bipartisan tax framework because it makes important progress to expand the child tax credit, helps address our affordable housing crisis, and helps keep U.S. businesses competitive against the Chinese Communist Party. As everyone knows, it takes bipartisan support to get things done, so I hope our Republican Senate colleagues are willing to work with us to keep this process going.

Now, this tax package has a great many provisions, but there are two that I think distill why it is so important an achievement. The first number is 16 million; that is the number of children from low-income families who would benefit from this tax package's expansion of the child tax credit. It goes a good part of the way toward restoring full refundability to the CTC, and largest tax credits will go directly to families who earn the least. For instance, under this tax package, a family with three kids where one parent earns \$32,000 a year will receive almost a thousand dollars more from the CTC in the first year alone, and a single parent with two children earning \$13,000 part time would see their credit double, a gain of over \$1,500 in the first year. That is more money for parents to pay for groceries, diapers, baby formula, clothes, toiletries—the things parents absolutely need, in many cases, struggle to afford.

Now, the second—the first number was 16 million—the second number of significance is 200,000. That would be the number of new affordable homes that will be made possible because of this agreement through the expansion of the low-income housing tax credit. I pushed very hard to make sure that strong, low-income housing tax credit provisions were included in this tax agreement. I made it public that omitting it would be unacceptable, and I could not support the package without it.

The housing shortage is one of the biggest issues we face in this country. It affects urban, suburban, and rural areas. It is one of the biggest issues we face in New York where we need to build more affordable housing.

The low-income housing tax credit is one of the most effective tools in existence to increase the supply of affordable housing, and this package will make this credit far more generous and far more easy to access.

So, once again, I commend Chair WYDEN and Chair SMITH for all of their hard work in making this framework possible.

Again, it will take bipartisan support in both the House and Senate if we want to take the next steps forward. I hope Members of both parties are willing to work with us on this package because there are many things in it that both sides can celebrate. It represents a great opportunity to help working

families, help Main Street businesses, and lower costs for people across the country.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, on the supplemental, as we continue to work to fund the government, Senate negotiators remain hard at work finalizing an agreement for a national security supplemental. As I have said repeatedly, it is a matter of the highest national urgency that we pass the supplemental. At stake is the security of our country, the security of our friends abroad—including Ukraine and Israel—and nothing less than the future of Western democracy. We cannot afford to let these issues go unaddressed.

Passing the supplemental is one of the hardest things the Senate has done in a very long time. But for the sake of our national security, of our friends abroad, of our fundamental values, and of the strength that this country is regarded in in the rest of the world, we must stay the course.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, our Nation honored one of the most consequential lives in American history. The America in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., labored for change was the same America in which I grew up.

I was fortunate to be raised by parents who believed deeply in equal rights, but the scourge of segregation was not unfamiliar in the places I spent my formative years.

As I have shared with some of our colleagues before, I was especially lucky to witness one of the most climatic moments of the civil rights movement as I was a congressional intern here in Washington. I remember stepping outside my office on August 28, 1963, and taking in the enormous crowds that had flocked to participate in the March on Washington. I remember looking down toward the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial beyond.

I was too far away to hear Dr. King's immortal words with my own ears, but I was proud to be a witness to that remarkable history he wrote that day and throughout his extraordinary life.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now an entirely different matter, House and Senate negotiators worked hard and reached an agreement on top-line government funding levels for the current fiscal year, and work continues to deliver full-year appropriations through regular order. Shutting down the government, even part of it, would interrupt this important progress. That is why, today, the Senate will begin the process of passing a short-term extension of government funding to allow this work to continue.

I am grateful that the Speaker of the House was able to secure serious rollbacks on reckless spending, but it remains to be seen whether the Biden administration can get serious on its responsibility to provide for the common defense. For 3 straight years, the President has turned in budget requests with real dollar cuts to funding America's Armed Forces. Even a quick glance around the world shows how little we can afford to shortchange the men and women defending the United States and our interests. We need to take this responsibility seriously.

## IRAN

Mr. President, now, on another matter, 3 years ago, I warned the Biden administration that it needed to take a tougher approach to growing threats from Iran and its terrorist proxies. I warned against removing the Houthis from the Terrorist Watchlist, and I called attention to how, even then, Iran was increasing its shipments of ever deadlier and longer range weapons to the terrorists in Yemen.

But from the beginning, the administration chose to meet Iranian aggression with accommodation. The President's team operated on a profoundly naive assessment of the threat that we face. They abandoned pressure and squandered leverage in an attempt to revive a failed nuclear deal.

They hectored regional partners under attack, as if their defensive actions against Houthi terrorists had provoked these Iranian proxies in the first place. And then they trumpeted the utterly fictional successes of their approach.

Remember how the President's National Security Advisor described the state of the world last September—just last September—in an incredibly timed essay in Foreign Affairs. Just weeks before Iran-backed terrorists would slaughter 1,200 Israelis on October 7, he claimed the United States had an “enhanced deterrence” to deter “further [Iranian] aggression” and that the Middle East was “quieter than it has been for decades.”

And 3 years in, the price of these delusions has become inescapably obvious. To the extent that President Biden sought detente with the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism, he was woefully ill-advised about the nature of the Iranian regime. To the extent that this administration ever seriously sought to deter Iran and its proxies, their efforts have demonstrably failed.

So let's be absolutely clear. The United States is capable of destroying those who threaten our allies, our interests, and American lives. A global superpower is equipped to bring enormous force to bear against its enemies. But deterrence isn't just about capabilities. It is not enough for Iran to know that America has the means to demolish its military and its network of terrorists. No. Deterrence requires that our adversaries actually believe we are willing to use these capabilities.

It requires credibility. And when credibility is eroded, it is not easily restored.

It will be difficult for the Biden administration to convince Tehran and its agents that after 3 years spent scolding our partners for wanting to defend themselves from Houthi terrorist attacks, America now intends to do the same thing.

It will be difficult for the administration to convince our adversaries that, after years of bending over backwards to accommodate Iran and wringing our hands over the use of military force against its proxies, we are now prepared to respond directly against Iranian targets.

Restoring credible deterrence means identifying what our adversaries hold dear and proving we are willing to hold it at risk.

Now, I am certain, Mr. President, that there are things Tehran considers more precious than empty terrorist warehouses in Syria or Houthi radar systems in Yemen. Iran uses proxies precisely because they consider them expendable. Taking pains to avoid killing these proxies or targeting Iranian forces and interests themselves tells Tehran that its strategy is actually working.

President Biden owes it to the American people to explain how, exactly, he intends to compel Iran and its proxies to actually change their behavior.

He owes it to the Nation to start explaining how the stakes of conflict in the Middle East ripple across the world; how the challenges we face in the Red Sea, Ukraine, and the Indo-Pacific are all connected; and how the cost of failing to meet them compounds.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration is not alone in its failure to take its responsibility seriously. This afternoon, the Senate must take it upon ourselves to reject an attempt to degrade our Nation's credibility even further.

The resolution brought forward by Senator SANDERS is little more than performative leftwing politics. It is not, as our colleague would suggest, about authorizing a report on aid to Israel. It is not even about human rights. It is about tying the hands of a close ally locked in a necessary battle against savage terrorists.

It is a gift to the leftwing anti-Israel activists.

So colleagues who share a concern about the plight of innocent people in Gaza should set their attention on the Hamas terrorists who orchestrate their suffering—the terrorists who take hostages, steal humanitarian aid, and use their own citizens as human shields; the terrorists who go to loathsome extremes to imperil innocent human life.

America's ally Israel takes extraordinary risks to minimize civilian casualties. Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Iran's other proxies across the region go to extraordinary lengths to maximize senseless death. We must

not confuse one for the other. The distinction here is clear and boldfaced.

Any colleague considering a vote for the Sanders resolution ought to consider what message they would like to send to America's allies and partners facing shared threats around the world and what message they would like to send our adversaries who doubt our resolve.

Israel deserves America's firm support as it roots out terrorist killers and restores its security.

Soon, the Senate will have an opportunity to make necessary investments in our capacity to support Israel and other threatened partners from Ukraine to Taiwan or the Philippines. As the threats to our interests grow, so do the costs of defending them.

In just the time the Senate has been working on the national security supplemental, operational costs for U.S. forces in the Middle East have risen. As I have warned for weeks, using million-dollar missiles to defend against thousand-dollar drones strains an already insufficient inventory of long-range capabilities.

The supplemental is our chance to expand our capacity to meet the national security challenges we face. The American people deserve leaders who are willing to take these challenges seriously.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when is enough enough?

At the start of 2024, we find ourselves in another Presidential election cycle, and as we move closer to election day in November, we can expect political tensions to rise. But, as the new year begins, a rise in political violence threatens to overshadow the traditional Presidential process.

Across the country, at every level of government, we are experiencing a surge in violent threats against public officials and government workers. Some officials have been victims of swatting incidents, in which false 9-1-1 calls lead to law enforcement swarming the homes of targeted individuals. In other cases, officials have received death threats or bomb threats where they live or work, and in some tragic instances, violent threats have escalated into violent acts.

It should go without saying, but it is worth repeating: Political violence in furtherance of any cause—any cause—is unacceptable. But it is undeniable that the recent spike in violent threats and acts has one major source: the grievances of former President Trump.

Just over 3 years after President Trump called his supporters to Washington, DC, and directed them to this

Senate Chamber and Capitol Building, where they staged a violent insurrection, his calls for retribution against his perceived enemies continue on an almost daily basis. Recent victims have included the secretary of state in the State of Maine, the former speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives, and the employees of the Georgia secretary of state's office—all of whom were targets of swatting and violent threats. These individuals were targeted for their roles in upholding the lawful result of the 2020 Presidential election or for their involvement in the upcoming election. Many election workers at lower levels have also been threatened, especially women and people of color.

Just this morning, POLITICO published an article about the fears and concerns of local election workers and the conspiracy theories and threats they face. These threats deter Americans from engaging in civic life or even seeking public office.

The recent rise in political violence has not just affected those who run for office or help to run our elections; judges, jurors, and officers of the court have also faced threats. Just last week, Justice Arthur Engoron—the New York State judge presiding over the former President's civil fraud trial—had his home swarmed by police after someone called in a fake bomb threat. This occurred hours after Trump took to his now favorite social media platform, Truth Social, and called Judge Engoron “a Trump-hating judge.”

This came on the heels of similar swatting, targeting the homes of Jack Smith and Judge Tanya Chutkan—the special prosecutor pursuing criminal charges against the former President for election interference and the judge overseeing the case. The former President has repeatedly attacked both of these public servants by name.

Last August, Judge Chutkan received a voice mail saying:

If Trump doesn't get elected in 2024, we're coming to kill you, so tread lightly.

On Christmas Eve, Trump called Special Counsel Smith “deranged” and claimed he was one of President Biden's “misfits and thugs.” The very next day, the special counsel's home was targeted with a swatting call.

The justices of the State Supreme Courts of Colorado and Wisconsin, along with staff, jurors, and prosecutors, have also faced threats due to their involvement in the former President's legal case. All of these individuals have been targeted simply because they continue to fulfill their duties to uphold the law.

All the while, former President Trump has refused to condemn the actions of his supporters, and at times, he clearly encourages it. Yet we rarely hear any of our Republican colleagues criticize their de facto leader for his public threats of violence or his encouragement of his most extreme supporters.

Threats of violence and violence are antithetical to our democracy, what-

ever their political source. In a free country, there are countless ways for people to legitimately and peacefully react and respond to political events and outcomes with which they disagree. People can vote as they choose. They can encourage their fellow citizens to do likewise. They can organize and advocate whether by knocking on doors, speaking at rallies, or posting on social media. They can peaceably assemble and protest public officials and the policies they pursue.

In the United States, these kinds of political activities are not merely tolerated; they are encouraged, and they are protected by the Constitution and the force of law. But we cannot as a nation tolerate, let alone encourage, threats of political violence by anyone, including the former President of the United States.

The recent rise in political violence marks a renewed attempt to use violence and the threat of violence to intimidate public officials, election workers, and our fellow American voters.

Sadly, the specter of political violence is not new. In 1968—another Presidential election year, one marred by heinous acts of violence—Robert Kennedy gave remarks the day after Martin Luther King was assassinated. He spoke about the mindless menace of violence in America, and he quoted Abraham Lincoln, who more than a century before wrote:

Among free men, there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet; and [those] who take such appeal are sure to lose their case, and pay the cost.

Today, I am calling on my colleagues in both political parties to publicly condemn the state of violence which is dominating in this country. We have come to accept it as commonplace. Shame on us in that regard. If this true democracy is to succeed, we all have to speak out against violence on both sides of the equation. We must stand together in opposing violence and threats of violence. Our democracy is strong, but it is only as strong as the people who participate in it, who protect it, and who serve it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we are all returning to a snowy Washington, DC, but it never ceases to amaze me, when I come back to the Nation's Capital from home, back in Texas, the disconnect between what people are focused on back home—namely, their jobs, their family, and, well, football. That didn't turn out so well for us this

weekend. But the mainstream media and, of course, social media, which amplifies what people are talking about or the message that they want to convey—the so-called influencers, which are, really, in some instances, no more than propagandists—and even our foreign adversaries are engaging in a non-stop battle to control the narrative here in Washington, DC, on a variety of issues, including the terrorist attack that occurred in Israel on October 7 of last year.

Yesterday marked 100 days since Hamas terrorists murdered more than 1,200 Israelis and took about 240 hostages. I traveled to Israel with several of my Senate colleagues on the Senate Intelligence Committee last week, and we witnessed the grief and the fear that has gripped the Israeli people over the last few months. It was a familiar feeling because it seemed very much like where the American people were 3 months after the attacks of 9/11/2001, when al-Qaeda killed 3,000 Americans.

In Tel Aviv, photos of the hostages who were still being held captive by Hamas lined the walkway. The photo of a 9-month-old baby held hostage literally stopped me in my tracks, wondering who would it be, what kind of person would take a 9-month-old baby and hold it hostage.

In the face of every person I spoke with, from families of hostages to senior government officials, there was, understandably, a deep sense of shock, mourning, and anger. Again, it reminded me of how we felt after 9/11. We were grieving, we were shocked, we were angry, and we were absolutely committed to holding those responsible accountable.

Our shared sense of purpose extended far beyond the borders of the United States. Our friends and allies around the world said: We have America's back. And they have supported our mission to destroy the al-Qaeda threat.

That is exactly the kind of response you would expect when a terrorist group viciously attacks a friend—solidarity. Sadly, Israel has not received the overwhelming support that our country did in the wake of 9/11. In the more than 100 days since this war began, Israel has been criticized for defending itself. It has been villainized for going after the terrorist group that murdered, raped, and kidnapped its people.

This is not a view just held by a few people. Anti-Israeli rhetoric has spread like wildfire across social media. It has taken root at elite college campuses and even here in the Halls of Congress.

This past weekend, we saw the latest chapter in blaming the victim, as thousands of protesters gathered in downtown Washington, DC, to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. I would say a ceasefire would be great, but there is no guarantee Hamas won't continue to kill innocent men, women, and children. So it is just not feasible.

Protesters chanted: “Ceasefire now.” “End the war in Gaza.” They carried

signs that said “Free Palestine” and “Let Gaza live.” They accused Israel of being an apartheid government and outrageously said the United States was supporting genocide.

Again, this was not a small protest. Thousands of people lined the streets of our Nation’s Capital, and countless others protested around the world as part of a “Global Day of Resistance,” as it was called.

I find it deeply disturbing to see this view shared by so many because it is completely divorced from reality. These protesters have the entire problem completely backward. Hamas is not a victim; Hamas is the aggressor in every possible sense, along with its state sponsor, Iran.

While we were in Israel, my colleagues and I were shown footage of the October 7 attack, which was captured by Hamas terrorists. In other words, they were taking video of themselves killing innocent men, women, and children. They intentionally filmed all of these atrocities they committed so the entire world could see. But what we saw affirms that these are not victims in any sense—Hamas, that is. They are murderers. They are rapists. They are kidnappers, and they are terrorists.

Hamas carried out the most gruesome atrocities I have ever seen, and I hope to never see those again. But we cannot, under any set of circumstances, allow them to be viewed as the victim in this war.

This is not only Israeli blood on the hands of Hamas. Hamas is also responsible for immense suffering by civilians living in Gaza. Hamas raises vast amounts of money from the Palestinian people and outside donors, but that money does next to nothing to support a better quality of life for Palestinians. It isn’t invested in schools, hospitals, or housing. Instead, it is used to arm Hamas’s wartime operations.

This terrorist group spends vast amounts of money building tunnels beneath the streets of Gaza—some 500 kilometers. It is a virtual city under a city. It allows it to hoard weapons. We literally saw manufacturing facilities for weapons and ammunitions in the tunnels. And, of course, it is used to keep food and fuel and to shield themselves from the violence above ground. Unfortunately, these tunnels are also used to hide the hostages, more than 100 of whom are still in Hamas captivity.

Hamas builds these tunnels beneath hospitals and schools and other vulnerable locations in order to give credence to Hamas’s lie that it is the victim, not the aggressor.

Here in the United States, we are thousands of miles away from this war. Hamas didn’t invade our neighborhoods. They didn’t murder and kidnap our family or friends. And they aren’t launching rockets that threaten us each night. But just because we aren’t living with the daily realities of this war doesn’t mean that we can be di-

vorced from it. War is not just a battle of brute force; it is also a contest for public opinion.

Hamas goes to great lengths to shift the narrative and build sympathy. It is not a new strategy, but it is deeply disappointing to see how many Hamas sympathizers are found on American soil. It is disheartening that scores of Americans are lapping up Hamas’s lies. By claiming that Israel is the aggressor, they are playing directly into these terrorists’ hands.

We know war is ugly. It is tragic. It hurts innocent people and punishes the most vulnerable. William Tecumseh Sherman, a Civil War general said:

War is hell. You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it.

The realities of this war are nothing short of devastating. I understand the desire for the violence to end, and I hope and pray that it will soon. But we must remember this can only happen when the Hamas threat is defeated.

The ultimate goal of Hamas, along with its state sponsor Iran, is to end the Jewish State, to wipe Israel off the map. That is the only risk of genocide in this war.

We have a responsibility to call out and correct the falsehoods and mischaracterizations that are spreading in our own country. We have a responsibility to do our best to inform the American people about the facts and to make sure they understand who is the aggressor and who is the victim. And, in the end, I believe we have a duty to stand with our ally Israel as it does what is needed to root out the terrorist threats in its own country.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate Religious Freedom Day, recognized by Presidential proclamation since 1993. The day is timed to honor the passage of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom on January 16, 1786. This statute became the basis of the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom for all Americans.

I was inspired to offer these thoughts by the moving address on anti-Semitism delivered in this Chamber by Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER a few weeks ago. His powerful comments addressed the fears felt today by so many Jewish Americans, the connection between those fears and the tragic global history of anti-Semitism, and how Americans can come together to reject religious bigotry against Jews.

As a person who takes my own Catholic faith seriously, it is important to listen to those who feel discriminated against due to their religion. During our history, Catholics have often been targeted by groups like the Ku Klux Klan. I am fortunate to say that I have never faced anti-Catholic bigotry, but those who haven’t faced religious discrimination need to

be sensitive to the real fears of those who face it every day. All of us are God’s children—brothers and sisters meant to dwell together in unity.

The final part of Senator SCHUMER’s address regarding what we can do as Americans to reject anti-Semitism or any discrimination based on religious beliefs reminded me of the principles imbedded in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, and I am convinced that part of the solution to the rise in anti-Semitism is to go back to first principles and remind ourselves of the values that we have long proclaimed as Americans.

The Virginia statute was first drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1777. Its purpose was simple and powerful—to declare that a person could freely choose whether and how to worship and would neither be preferred nor punished for that choice. This was at stark odds with prevailing English practice, in which the Church of England was the state-sponsored church, and other Christian sects and non-Christian religions were discouraged, punished, or outlawed. Official discrimination against Jews in English law persisted well into the 19th century, and life in the American Colonies of England before the Revolutionary War showed the continuation of this preferential treatment for certain religious practices over others.

The operative clause of the Virginia statute is as follows:

[N]o man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to protest, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.

We complain that things move slowly in the U.S. Senate. This is not a new complaint about legislative bodies. It took 9 years for the Virginia General Assembly to take up and pass Jefferson’s statute, and the State legislative leader who finally gained passage of the measure was Madison. Madison witnessed discrimination against Baptist ministers in Virginia by those associated with the Church of England, and he believed deeply that religious liberty needed protection.

The Virginia General Assembly passed the statute on January 16, 1786, in a building at the corner of 14th and East Cary Streets in downtown Richmond, a few blocks from where I live. Today, that site is a small museum, the First Freedom Center, highlighting the idea of religious freedom and how it became a bedrock principle of American law.

Madison was soon charged with drafting the Bill of Rights to the American Constitution. He used the Virginia statute as the basis for the religious protections of the First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

The statute also informed article VI, clause 3 of the Constitution:

[N]o religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

These provisions demonstrate a powerful intent to form an America where all can worship as they please without fear. The meaning of these clauses was well understood at the time.

Early in his first term as President, George Washington corresponded with the Jewish community of Newport, RI. In his beautiful letter from August 1790—he had been President a little bit over a year—he described an America that was not merely tolerant of religious pluralism but where all could equally claim the blessings of citizenship. Here is what he wrote:

All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens.

He concluded with a wish specifically directed at American Jews:

May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of other inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.

“[A]nd there shall be none to make him afraid.” This is our birthright as Americans. Those of us who take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States have pledged to act in way to make these words real. We have to guard, protect, and celebrate—not merely tolerate—a society where people of different religious faiths can live in the same neighborhoods, attend the same schools, work side by side, and do so as friends.

When we live up to this promise, it is not only for the benefit of those living here. There are many places in the world where this protection of religious freedom is nonexistent, barely possible to even imagine. Yet, if people around the world can see America as a place where people of different faiths live together in respect, equality, and friendship, they can at least believe in that as a possibility for their own societies.

We need a recommitment to the first freedom—religious liberty.

While comprehensive statistics on religiously motivated harassment are not complete, there is a disturbing spike in anti-Semitism as well as harassment directed at Muslims or people of Arab descent, who are targeted either for religious or ethnic reasons. We have seen Jewish students harassed on campuses in recent months, following upon horrific violence directed against Jews in Charlottesville in 2017 and Pittsburgh in 2018. We have seen the bigotry-fueled murder of a 6-year-old Muslim boy in Illinois and the heartless shooting of three Palestinian college students in

Burlington—Mr. President, the State you represent—just within the last few months.

One troubling form of discrimination is targeting Americans for events occurring elsewhere in the world. In Williamsburg, VA, just a few weeks ago, a Jewish group was denied the ability to display a menorah at a local festival because organizers claimed that they didn’t “want to make it seem like we’re choosing a side” in the ongoing war in Gaza. American Jews celebrating Hanukkah here should not be blocked from a celebration of the season because of a war thousands of miles away. Arab and Muslim Americans have long faced fear and discrimination because of the ignorant assumption that the horrific actions of extremists in the Middle East, operating on the margins of society, somehow reflect the views of an entire faith or community.

That we have strong and diverse views about events happening around the world is natural. Events in the Middle East have long caused heartbreak, and the current war in Israel-Gaza is tragic. But events elsewhere give no cause for bigotry or violence against fellow Americans.

Organizations monitoring hate crimes have seen significant spikes in attacks on American Jews and American Muslims and Arabs since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7. At the very time when we should be showing the world that there is a different way, that religious pluralism can actually work, we are seeing tears in the social fabric we have worked so hard for so long to stitch together.

While religious bigotry can affect any group, recent statistics indicate that the most frequent targets in America today are Jews. Jews make up only 2.4 percent of the American population, but statistics in recent years have shown that the overwhelming majority of hate crimes committed out of religious animus—nearly 60 percent—are driven by anti-Semitism. Instances of anti-Semitism between October 7 and January 7 increased by 360 percent over the same period a year ago. We also see rising anti-Semitism around the world. And increasing anti-Semitism is often an early warning sign of the fragility of a democracy.

My conversations in recent months with Jewish friends and acquaintances have been saddening. Some are worried about their own safety and, even more painfully, the safety of their children and grandchildren. Some even wonder whether they might need to leave this country one day, just as Jews have been forced out of many other countries over time due to bigotry.

One expressed to me the powerful feeling of wanting to belong to the American family, to be truly welcomed and safe after a history of global anti-Semitism but now feeling pushed aside. He recounted standing up for so many excluded groups over the course of his life but sadly wondered why more are not standing up for Jews now.

Another friend recounted growing up in a mixed household with a Jewish father who would often say, “The world has always hated Jews, and you think you are accepted here? You’ll learn different one day.” She told me that she and her siblings would roll their eyes at their dad when he would say this when they were kids. Now she says, “For the first time in my life, I begin to understand what he meant.”

A third friend told me something that really shocked me. Some family members are deciding to remove the mezuzahs placed on the doors of their homes. A mezuzah is a small cylinder with a sacred Hebrew text inside, placed on the door of a home and sometimes on interior doors as well, to provide a blessing and protection to those within. My friend told me that it is an obvious—perhaps too obvious—sign that it is a Jewish household. So while this tradition dates back centuries, people are tempted to avoid it just out of fear that the presence of a mezuzah may lead them to be targeted for discrimination.

I researched this a bit and found that my friend’s fear was well-founded. There are many examples of people facing harassment or having their homes vandalized merely because of their mezuzah. In 2022, for example, Jewish students at the University of Indiana found that their mezuzahs were being stolen or defaced. This instance followed others on or near the campus in which swastikas and other anti-Semitic phrases appeared.

Senator SCHUMER laid out the prevalence of anti-Semitism throughout global history. We have never been immune to it here even as we profess the freedom of each person to worship as they choose. So how should we deal with this blight on our values and recommit to respecting the religious beliefs of each person?

First, let’s take pride in our tradition of religious freedom and celebrate it today and every day. It has made our society rich in faith traditions. By being authentically who we are, we can educate each other about religious beliefs and grow deeper in our own spiritual understanding.

I am a better Christian because of things that I have learned from friends who are Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, and from those who have deep ethical and spiritual grounding, though not expressed as religious faith at all. And I hope that living my own Christianity may have a positive influence on others’ spiritual beliefs as well.

Second, let’s get better at tracking hate crimes and other forms of discrimination committed on the basis of religion. We passed the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer NO HATE Act. Heather Heyer was the very, very remarkable young woman who was killed by neo-Nazis in Charlottesville in August 2017. I was proud to cosponsor that bill. We passed it in 2021 to provide training and implementation grants to

help law enforcement agencies report and respond to hate crimes.

This will solve gaps in reporting. Eighty percent of law enforcement agencies participating in national crime databases reported no hate crimes between 1996 and 2020. This is likely a serious underreporting problem rather than an indication that hate crimes don't happen. Better measurement alone will not solve the problem, but the failure to accurately measure religious discrimination renders improvement very difficult.

Third, let's commit to increasing education about religious discrimination throughout our history and the reasons why America embraced the guarantee of religious freedom as our Nation was founded. I am gratified, for example, that Virginia has made education about the Holocaust an important part of our social studies curriculum. In a recent hearing on anti-Semitism before the HELP Committee, a key fact that emerged was just how poorly informed many are about this topic. And the plethora of misinformation spread by irresponsible social media platforms makes the need for better education even more urgent.

If we just count on the criminal justice system to deal with this topic, we will never be successful. We need to inculcate a curiosity about spirituality and a love for religious pluralism in our young people. This is not about indoctrination; it is about respect.

Fourth, let's embrace a whole-of-government response to anti-Semitism by working to implement the recommendations contained in the "U.S. National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism" announced by the Biden administration in June 2023. This comprehensive approach is built around four key pillars: education, safety, fighting the normalization of anti-Semitic words and actions, and building solidarity. It can be a model for similar work at the State and local levels. We can do more in Congress and in communities across America to make this strategy visible and meaningful.

Finally, there are acts that we can each take as individuals to show we respect the religious beliefs of all. There have been powerful examples throughout history of actions of solidarity against anti-Semitism.

I am pleased to partner with my Republican colleague Senator BILL HAGERTY of Tennessee to recognize forgotten heroes of the Holocaust with the Congressional Gold Medal. These were diplomats from over two dozen countries who took grave personal risks to help Jews escape Nazi-occupied Europe. Their actions show us the power of an individual to be a light in the darkness, to say: I am not Jewish, but I see what is happening to Jews, and I will do what I can to help.

When students at the University of Indiana confronted anti-Semitism on campus in 2022, they came up with a novel solution. Noting that the desecration of mezuzahs made Jewish stu-

dents afraid to display them, a campus organization produced and then distributed mezuzahs across the campus to Jewish students and non-Jewish students alike. They reasoned that a massive display of mezuzahs on the community's doors would send a message of solidarity and render it less likely that a Jewish student would fear being targeted for bigotry.

I will follow the creative idea of the Indiana students by installing a mezuzah at the entrance to my home. I want to send a message to Jews and all people that they will always be welcome. I won't put Hebrew Scripture inside of the mezuzah because I don't feel that, as a Catholic, I should appropriate that particular religious tradition, but I will put these words on a small message inside: "None shall be afraid"—echoing the letter George Washington wrote more 230 years ago. That message applies not just to American Jews but to all who seek to live in harmony with others of diverse spiritual views.

I encourage others to follow the inspiration of these young people. Find a mezuzah at a local synagogue or Judaica shop and install it on the door of your home. Place within it a message of hope and acceptance—Washington's words or the First Amendment or another message meaningful to you. Or take other steps to demonstrate that you celebrate our religious freedom and offer welcome to all. Stand together with those of all spiritual traditions against forces that would divide or harm us. By doing so, let's move closer to the ideal that America professed at our founding.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined today, Senator SANDERS be recognized to make a motion to discharge S. Res. 504; and that if the motion is made and upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote in relation to the motion to discharge; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 2872 ripen upon disposition of the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. For the information of the Senate, Senator SANDERS had a flight delay and is still expected to make the motion to discharge his resolution and speak prior to this evening's votes. Senators should expect votes to start at approximately 6:45 p.m.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from South Carolina.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I want to speak a few minutes on the business before the Senate here. Apparently, S. Res. 504 will be taken up in about an hour or so. And this resolution basically requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Foreign Relations Committees of the House and Senate regarding human rights practices and violations against the State of Israel regarding their operations in Gaza.

I can only imagine how this is playing in the Middle East. I can only imagine the joy that terrorist groups throughout the world have that we are even talking about such a proposal.

The question, I think, for this body—certainly, for me—is, what was October 7? Was it just a continuation of a tit for tat between Israel and Hamas, or was it an effort by Hamas—a terrorist organization under United States law—an effort to kill innocent civilians in Israel at a rate we haven't seen since the Holocaust?

I just got back. I would urge everybody in the body to go over there and take some time to visit the kibbutz—the kibbutzes in question, where Hamas came en masse, took over kibbutzes, cut the heads of children off, slaughtered people in front of their parents and their children, committed atrocities on par with the Nazis, if not beyond, and recorded them for posterity. So the response is, the U.S. Senate is going to ask for a report about how Israel is conducting military operations. Wow.

Again, to the terrorists who are emboldened, maybe, by this discussion—this is going to go down in flames. The Senate is going to reject this big time. And here's why: I think most people—at least on my side—see October 7 as Pearl Harbor on steroids.

What would happen after Pearl Harbor if some Senator or Congressman did something like this to America?

Did anybody in America believe that the response after Pearl Harbor was anything but total war?

The Japanese Empire and Nazi Germany were in league with Mussolini in Italy to destroy the world as we know it. A surprise attack against our forces on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, awakened this country, and we embarked on "a noble crusade," I think as General Eisenhower—eventually President Eisenhower—described, in destroying the Nazi regime and Imperial Japan. Nobody during those times would have suggested anything like this, because the only way you could

destroy those regimes was to destroy the infrastructure around the regimes.

The problem I have with this—not only does it empower the terrorists, it is the most tone-deaf thing maybe in the history of the Senate—is that it ignores the fact that Hamas has tunnels under hospitals, under schools. They use civilians as human shields. They routinely violate the law of war—and there is nothing in here about that. So all I can say is that the Senate will reject this idea.

And to the left, what are you thinking? To the people who go in and try to interrupt cancer treatments in New York at a cancer hospital, what are you thinking?

A ceasefire with Hamas only allows Hamas to regroup. Do you not see Hamas for who it is? It is a terrorist organization. They are religious Nazis.

They are not taking up the cause of the Palestinian people. They are abusing the Palestinian people probably greater than anybody. A Hamas spokesperson said a few weeks ago that there will be another October 7, another October 7, and another October 7.

Probably the biggest mistake Israel made was withdrawing from Gaza, because when they did, the Palestinians took over.

To the Palestinians who want to live in peace with Israel, Hamas throws them off the roofs of buildings in Gaza.

So we are dealing with the most barbaric organizations in the history of the world who are bent on destroying the Jewish people, are calling for attacks on the United States, and we have a resolution in front of us asking the Secretary of State to investigate the Government of Israel for war crimes.

You talk about upside down and backwards.

Just having been back from Israel, I can assure you the IDF is spending more time trying to protect innocent Palestinians than Hamas. What is odd about this whole thing is that Hamas is doing everything they can to expose civilians to military action, and Israel is trying—I think in a reasonable way—to lessen the exposure.

What do you call a group of people that build tunnels under hospitals and have command infrastructure under a hospital? You call them bloodthirsty terrorists who are trying to prey on the rules that exist in the law of war. By being under the hospital and the schoolhouse and firing rockets from apartment buildings, they have militarized these locations.

So here's what I would tell our friends in Israel: This effort to have you investigated will fail in the U.S. Senate. Keep doing what you need to do to make sure there is no more October 7s. Make sure that Hamas, as we know it, is destroyed. Do the best you can to protect civilians who are in harm's way.

A little bit about Gaza: From the time you are born, you are taught to kill the Jews. The most radicalized na-

tion on the planet, I would say, is Gaza, and a close second would be the West Bank.

When Germany and Japan were destroyed by military force, it took a generation to change the culture. So the Prime Minister of Israel says his goal is to demilitarize and deradicalize. Well, the way you demilitarize is you destroy Hamas as a military power. They have, I think, about 24 brigades.

If we end this conflict with their military capability still standing, we will have made a huge mistake.

The idea of anything but unconditional surrender in World War II was laughable. We used two nuclear bombs, and that is what was required to get Japan to surrender. So when you look back in history, the invasion of Japan that was being planned could have resulted in up to 1 million casualties of American forces. We brought that war to conclusion by using two atomic bombs that eventually allowed unconditional surrender. Anything less than unconditional surrender in World War II would have been a mistake.

Anything short of destroying Hamas militarily would be a mistake for the ages. If Hamas is still standing militarily after this attack of October 7, we will all pay a heavy price.

The world is watching.

To the world: If you see Israel as the bad guy here, you are missing a lot. There is no moral equivalency in play. Hamas goes out of its way to make sure civilians are killed in large numbers. That is part of their strategy, to require Israel to use military force in a way to heighten the likelihood of death by integrating their military infrastructure with civilian infrastructure.

So we will have a vote here soon. This resolution will fail. But the idea behind this resolution is scary to me.

You need to go to Israel and get briefed about what happened on October 7—what happened to the women, what happened to the children, and what is happening to the hostages. If you go and have that briefing and you believe that the only response—and if you believe anything less than total war to destroy Hamas is required, I would be surprised.

What would we do if this happened to us? What would we do to any terrorist group or government that brought about such atrocities against the American people?

We would hunt them down. We would make sure they could never do this to us again. That is exactly what Israel has to do.

It will be a long time before the populations of Gaza and the West Bank are going to be capable, I believe, of living in true peace with Israel, because if you have been taught from the time you were born and all through your life to hate somebody and to learn math by the following: “If you had 10 Jews and you killed 6, how many would you have left?” it is going to be a tall order to change that population.

But here is the good news: We have seen from Germany and Japan that it

can change, but it is going to take a lot of effort. I am willing to help the people in the West Bank and Gaza once Hamas has been destroyed. I am hopeful we can do a deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel in normalizing and effectively putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I believe Iran is the root of all evil here and that this attack was partly due to stopping the normalization efforts between Saudi Arabia and Israel. I have been supporting the efforts of the Biden administration, and I want to publicly thank them for continuing to push. I will do all I can as a Republican to help President Biden bring about the normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel. That would isolate Iran, and it would effectively end the Arab-Israeli conflict. One of the benefits of that deal would be to give the Palestinian people a better future.

This resolution is not only off base; it is dangerous. It is doing harm. It sends absolutely the wrong signal at the wrong time.

So, to the people who believe this is a good idea for the United States to launch an investigation of Israel as a potential war criminal after October 7, you have learned very little from history. The proper response by Israel is to destroy Hamas. The problem Israel has in that task is that Hamas is trying to make sure Israel kills as many innocent people as possible. Therein lies their dilemma. So this is a horribly bad idea.

To the American people, put yourselves in the shoes of Israel: an attack, barbaric in nature, that is designed to destroy you. Hamas's goal is not to liberate the Palestinian people; it is to kill the Jews. Hamas's goal is not to bring about a better life for the Palestinian people but to destroy the lives of the Jewish people.

They are religious Nazis. If you don't believe me, listen to them. They will not hide their agenda. They celebrate it. The SS tried to hide their war crimes. They tried to rebury bodies and destroy the concentration camps, but they were unable to hide their crimes. Hamas filmed their crimes. They want you to see what they were willing to do to babies and to women.

The question for the world is, What is the right response?

The right response, ladies and gentlemen, is, when you see evil, confront it. When you deal with people who are willing to destroy children or to rape daughters in front of the mother and father, you need to destroy them.

So, not only will this resolution fail, I believe the U.S. Senate will ensure that Israel has the latitude it needs to destroy not only an enemy of the Israeli people—Hamas—but the enemy of mankind itself.

I look forward to voting this resolution down, and I will be coming up with one of my own to try to correct the record.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S. RES. 504**

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S. Res. 504.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S. Res. 504, a resolution requesting information on Israel's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the vote: Senator SANDERS for up to 25 minutes, Senator MERKLEY for up to 5 minutes, and Senator CARDIN for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, let me apologize to my colleagues for being late. It turns out today was not a great day to travel by plane. I thank the leadership for delaying the vote as well.

We will soon be voting on a resolution requesting information on Israel's human rights practices under section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

There has been some confusion as to what this resolution does and does not do. I would like to say a few words about why it is critical that this resolution come to the floor, why it is imperative that this resolution be passed, imperative that we have this debate and recorded vote, and why Congress must have the information requested in this resolution.

Very sensibly, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, requires that any security assistance or military equipment provided by the United States of America to any country must be used in line with internationally recognized human rights. This is not a radical idea and something I hope that we all agree with. This act prohibits assistance to any government that engages in a consistent pattern of human rights violations.

This is U.S. law established over 50 years ago—not a new idea. The act also provides Congress with several oversight tools to ensure that this law is followed. One such tool is section 502B(c), which allows Congress to direct the State Department to provide information on the human rights

record of any country—any country—receiving U.S. military assistance.

That is what this resolution does, in line with 50-year-old existing law. It directs the State Department to provide any credible information it may have on potential violations of internationally recognized human rights by Israel in its military campaign in Gaza.

It focuses on the denial of the right to life caused by indiscriminate or disproportionate military operations as well as by restrictions on humanitarian access.

It also asks for information on steps the United States has taken to limit civilian risk in this war, a certification that the Leahy laws are being fully applied, and a summary of the arms and munitions provided to Israel since October 7.

This is a simple request for information. That is all this resolution is about. It does not alter aid to Israel in any way; it simply requests a report on how U.S. aid is being used. This is a very modest, commonsense proposal, and, frankly, it is hard for me to understand why anyone would oppose it.

So we will soon be voting on a very simple question: Do we support asking the State Department for information on whether human rights violations may have occurred using U.S. assistance in Israel's military campaign? That is it. That is what this resolution is about. It is noncontroversial, and it should be passed in large numbers. This is not the case today. We don't have the information.

The State Department will provide a report. The information requested in this resolution is straightforward to provide—not hard for the State Department—and it is critical to congressional oversight. The State Department should have it readily available, as required under current U.S. law and policy. Further, in the highly unlikely event the 30-day deadline is not met by the State Department, the law allows Congress to pass a measure continuing aid. After the report is received, Congress may then consider any changes it deems necessary for security assistance to the country in question. Any such resolution must pass both Houses of Congress and be signed by the President.

But, again, what we are voting on today is simply a request for information. Let me say a few words as to why this resolution is necessary, and these rather horrific photographs behind me I think say it all.

First, it is necessary because of the scale of the destruction in Gaza, the indiscriminate nature of the military campaign, the humanitarian catastrophe that is now occurring, and the limits on humanitarian access—food, water, medical supplies, and fuel.

Second, because of the extensive use of U.S. weapons in attacks that have killed thousands of civilians. Much of the destruction that has taken place in Gaza has been done with U.S. weapons.

Thirdly, I am concerned about the implications of some of the very ex-

treme statements and unclear intentions coming out of the Netanyahu government.

(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

It has been more than 100 days since this war began with the horrific Hamas terrorist attack which killed 1,200 innocent men, women, and children in Israel, and which took more than 200 hostages, over 100 of whom are still cruelly being held in captivity as of today.

While there is no question in my mind that Israel has the right to defend itself and go to war against Hamas, who started this terrible situation, Israel does not have the right to go to war against the entire Palestinian people, innocent men, women, and children in Gaza. Tragically, that is what we are seeing right now.

As we all know, the military campaign being waged by the rightwing Netanyahu government has led to massive destruction and widespread civilian harm. This has been far and away the most intensive bombing campaign of the 21st century. As President Biden has said repeatedly and the press and human rights monitors have exhaustively documented, this bombardment has been largely indiscriminate.

The results of this bombing campaign have been catastrophic, and I underline the word “catastrophic.”

Since October 7, the start of the war, over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli bombs and over 60,000 have been injured and wounded. Seventy percent of these victims are women and children, and it is believed that thousands more victims lie under the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza.

Since the beginning of this war, 1.9 million Palestinian men, women, and children have been driven from their homes. That is 85 percent—85 percent of the total population of Gaza has been forced out of their homes. Where are they going? They have been driven here. They have been driven there. They do not even know today whether they are ever going to be able to return to their homes. These are impoverished people who have no idea as to what their future is or will be.

Despite the sharing of coordinates with Israeli forces, 40 United Nations facilities have sustained direct hits, 61 U.N. installations have suffered collateral damage, and 150 U.N. workers have been killed—150 U.N. workers have been killed.

United Nations reports that over 234,000 housing units have been damaged and more than 46,000 homes completely destroyed in Gaza, amounting to nearly 70 percent—70 percent—of the housing stock, a figure confirmed by academic analysis of satellite radar data. That means—and this is rather an incredible reality—that means that the destruction of Gaza after 100 days has surpassed the destruction of Dresden during World War II, where half the homes in that city were destroyed, and is beyond the damage in dozens of

other German cities subjected to years of bombing during World War II.

Today, not only are the vast majority of people in Gaza homeless, but they lack food, water, medical supplies, and fuel. A recent U.N. report indicates that half of the population of about 2.2 million people are at risk of starvation, and 90 percent say they regularly go without food for a whole day. Parents there go out of their way to make sure their kids eat first.

The chief economist at the World Food Programme said that the humanitarian disaster in Gaza was among the worst he had ever seen. Aid groups say that in the coming weeks, the entire population of Gaza could face famine.

Let us be clear. The reason as to why this resolution must be passed today is that right now, right now as we speak, hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza, innocent children, are starving right before our eyes. We cannot turn away. We must act.

Tragically, despite the efforts of the U.N. and others, despite the growing humanitarian crisis we are seeing, the situation has actually gotten worse in terms of getting aid to the people in need, to these children. Aid groups say that humanitarian access actually deteriorated in January compared to December. Trucks are crossing the border much too slowly, much too few, but even these trucks can't go beyond the immediate border area because the Netanyahu government won't let them proceed in a way that is safe.

That is the situation as it stands today. Humanitarian workers who have spent decades serving in war zones say that this catastrophe goes beyond anything they have ever seen.

Let me repeat. This is not some tragedy taking place in Asia, in Africa—God knows there are enough tragedies all over the world—but this is a tragedy in which we, the United States of America, are complicit. Much of what is happening, much of the bombardment and the other actions that we are seeing now, is happening right now with U.S. arms and equipment. In other words, whether we like it or not, the United States is complicit in the nightmare that millions of Palestinians are now experiencing.

The Wall Street Journal reported on December 1 that the United States had provided at least 15,000 bombs and 57,000 artillery shells to Israel, including more than 5,400 huge, 2,000-pound bombs that can flatten entire neighborhoods. The Washington Post reported that in just 6 weeks after October 7, Israel dropped more than 22,000 American-supplied bombs on Gaza—22,000 American-supplied bombs. CNN reported that nearly half of these bombs were unguided, so-called dumb bombs.

So that is where we find ourselves at this moment. Mr. President, 24,000 Palestinians in Gaza are dead—70 percent are women and children—and 60,000 have been wounded. Seventy percent of the housing stock has been damaged or destroyed, and almost 2 million people

are trying to survive with inadequate supplies of food, water, medicine, or fuel. And the humanitarian situation is getting worse by the minute. Hundreds of thousands of beautiful children are facing starvation.

Given the scale of the destruction and the extensive use of American arms, military equipment, in this campaign, Congress must act, and that is why we must pass this 502B resolution. We must ensure that U.S. aid is being used in accordance with international human rights and our own laws.

A vote for this resolution is simply to request more information on a tragic situation that the American people care about.

Go back home, I say to my colleagues—red State, blue State, purple State—this issue, this suffering, is on the minds of the American people.

That is all this resolution does.

Now a vote against this resolution—which I have a hard time really understanding—it says: I don't want more information. I am going to vote against this resolution. I don't want a report from the State Department. I don't want to know how U.S. military aid in Israel is being used. I don't want to know what responsibility the United States may have for this humanitarian disaster. I want to keep my head in the sand. I don't want to see what is going on.

And, frankly, no matter what your view on this terrible war may be—agree with me; you don't agree with me—we cannot bury our eyes in the sand.

The truth is that since that terrible day on October 7 when Hamas attacked Israel, the Senate has had little meaningful debate on this war, despite the horrific toll and the deep concerns of many Americans. We have passed symbolic resolutions, but we have not considered a single measure that grapples with the unprecedented destruction, the humanitarian crisis, or the use of American weapons in a military campaign that has left so many dead, wounded, and displaced.

Now, no matter what happens on this vote, I know that this will not be the end of this debate. It is just the beginning.

And, finally, I would like to say a word about this resolution's broader importance. Right now, we are focusing on Israel, as we should, given the situation in Gaza. But, in general, what this provision does is extremely sensible. It demands accountability as to how U.S. military aid is used and whether the recipients of that aid abide by international law and our own human rights standards. This is true for Israel, for Saudi Arabia, and for any country that receives U.S. military aid.

Frankly, I hope this vote is the first of many as we take a hard look at how our military aid is being used.

Therefore, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2304 and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export

Control Act of 1976, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of the further consideration of S. Res. 504, a resolution requesting information on Israel's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's request is already pending.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I reserve the balance of my time, and I would yield the floor to Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, on October 7, Israel suffered a horrific terrorist attack by Hamas. It echoes very much the impact that we felt here in America on 9/11 when we suffered a horrific terrorist attack, and it connected our hearts to the hearts of Israelis in a powerful way. And, certainly, I completely supported and support now the cause of Israel to go after Hamas to stop this terrorist threat. I fully support the grief they feel with the hostages who remain and their desire, their goal, to get those hostages free, and I know that the United States has been working in partnership with Israel toward that objective.

Tonight, we are further into that campaign, and we have before us a request for a report from the administration through the exercise of 502B(c) on any potential violations of internationally recognized human rights that may have occurred in this conflict—a request for a report that would be due in 30 days.

And I am here tonight still supporting strongly Israel's right to go after Hamas, but also saying that we have a responsibility to ask hard questions about how a war is conducted—every war. And we weigh in on human rights all around the world.

I cochair a commission that looks into China's abuses of human rights in all kinds of dimensions, from Tibet to the slavery of the Uighur population.

So why is this request for this information important? There are three reasons. They all relate to the validity of targeting Hamas but the invalidity—potential invalidity—of a strategy that also targets the Palestinian people living in Gaza and understanding this dimension, understanding it in terms of humanitarian aid, understanding it in terms of the huge toll on civilians that the bombing has taken, understanding it in terms of the dimension of displacement, where so many—so many—have been displaced, driven toward the south, crowded into Rafah, along the border with Egypt. So I am going to shortly address—briefly address—each of those.

I was one of the first Members of this Chamber to call for an immediate cease-fire and a massive influx of humanitarian aid because of the enormous calamity that is occurring in Gaza with the strategy that Israel is using of mass bombing and artillery shells. One aspect of this is: How does

one get humanitarian aid in to assist those innocent civilians who have been so profoundly impacted?

So, earlier this month, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I went to the Rafah crossing on the border between Egypt and Gaza. We talked to the governments. We talked to the international aid workers who work through the United Nations—an alphabet soup of organizations. We talked to the seasoned, seasoned individuals who have worked in war conflict zones around this globe, and they all said that getting humanitarian aid in is extraordinarily difficult for two reasons. And the first of those reasons was that it is very hard to get preclearance for the aid.

Trucks filled with food, water, and medical supplies were lined up for miles in the desert, waiting to be granted entry into Gaza. A truckdriver can wait more than a week, even when items are preapproved, to get through the inspection.

The inspection serves the purpose of stopping dual-use items. That is legitimate. But if it takes a week when aid is desperately needed, that means people are greatly short of food, clean water, and medical supplies.

And even when inspected and precleared, they could be rejected, and when an item is rejected, the entire truck is rejected. And we saw a warehouse filled with rejected items, including things like solar-powered refrigerators for medical uses and water decontamination supplies.

And then, if trucks are cleared to get in, it is very hard for them to get in unless there is deconfliction. If there isn't deconfliction, then the drivers risk driving and dying when a bomb or artillery shell drops in their path. And, in fact, so many aid workers have been killed and truckdrivers have been killed.

We know that, before the war, 500 trucks a day were able to get into Gaza. And now, just last week, it was less than an average of 150 trucks when people are absolutely desperate.

So there is the possibility and the hope of the United States working intensely with Israel to dramatically change this situation and to get those trucks into Gaza. But there is also the value of having a report from our government, understanding to which degree they have already worked with Israel.

Mr. President, I ask to complete the balance of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, could we just have an estimate of how much longer the Senator is going to be?

Mr. MERKLEY. An estimate of 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. I would not object to 5 minutes.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, so our government should work to solve this problem. We have been working to

solve it—so having a report announced by our government: to what degree these strategies of a dysfunctional inspection process and a dysfunctional deconfliction process are a part of a deliberate strategy to create and intensify the shortage of food and water and medical assistance.

The second concern I have is about the bombing and artillery shells which our President has described as an indiscriminate campaign of bombing. We all understand that this terrible attack from Hamas—and Hamas is the enemy. But the Palestinians who live in Gaza and are not part of Hamas, they did not attack Israel. They are not the enemy, and thus it is essential that Netanyahu's government's war strategy against Hamas actually targets Hamas and not innocent Palestinians.

It is estimated that two-thirds of the people killed—two-thirds killed—have been women and children. That is some 8,000 children and 8,000 women. It is a massive toll.

So a report under 502B(c) would be valuable in understanding this strategy. And we are closely tied to it, which is another reason we should want this information. We have supplied over 10,000 tons of military equipment since October 7. We have included 15,000 bombs and 57,000 artillery shells.

It would be useful to have our own government analyze this and understand why we are supplying the very weapons that our government has said Israel should quit using and do a more targeted campaign.

That is the goal of 502B(c): to get a report, to get answers.

My third concern is the displacement. The widespread bombing has produced some 85 percent of the people displaced in Gaza. A leaked Israeli Intelligence Ministry paper said that there are three options, and option C is the preferred option, involving an air campaign in the north, driving people to the south, hopefully displacing them into the Sinai. That has a spooky similarity to the facts on the ground.

And, of course, such a displacement strategy has been called out by some Ministers of the Israeli Government, one of them calling for exactly that strategy, saying: We want a Gazan Nakba, that people will not be able to return.

So we have a government paper. We have the testimony by Ministry officials that that was their goal.

Is that their goal? The Government of Israel has now adamantly said that is not their goal.

That is useful to have our government's best understanding because we should never be complicit in a displacement campaign, if that is, in fact, what is going on.

So, colleagues, we look at conditions around the world, and, normally, it is folks we have little relationship with—although sometimes we have a relationship with them, but it is an “on and off again,” like the situation we have with Saudi Arabia. In this situa-

tion, it is our friend and partner that we have worked so closely with, and it may feel awkward and difficult to say we need to take a close look.

But when there has been this level of casualties and we are this closely tied to it, it is the right thing to do to get the type of information that would come through this request. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise in opposition.

Israel is a long and close ally. And it remains the only democracy in the Middle East. This resolution is a blatant effort to undermine Israel's right to self defense. Let us not forget the facts. Israel has experienced the deadliest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust and the largest hostage crisis—including Americans—since 1979.

The Obama and Biden administrations' failed policies toward the Iranian regime have allowed billions in resources to flow to Iran's terror proxies, including Hamas. We cannot ignore bad U.S. policy that helped create this mess and then sideline our support for the ally who must deal with their consequences.

Instead, this resolution doubles down on those failed policies and represents a troubling Democrat trend: chide our closest allies and fail to confront our most dangerous adversaries. Hamas and Iran are our enemies, not Israel. It is Iran that provides Hamas with weapons, training, and intelligence. It is Hamas that chose to rampage across the border, killing over 1,200 Israelis and 13 Americans. It is Hamas that kidnapped over 240 innocent people for leverage.

It is Hamas that hides its warfighting capability under hospitals, mosques, and other protected sites. And it is Hamas that uses human shields, including women and children. Where is the outrage for this behavior? I find the silence deafening.

I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to focus on Iran, Hamas, and our adversaries and oppose this misguided resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, in the aftermath of the horrific October 7 terrorist attack, Israel not only has the right, but also a duty to its people, to defend itself and pursue the objectives of ending the military threat posed by Hamas and returning all the hostages unharmed. I support those goals and therefore do not and would not support a resolution to terminate all U.S. military assistance to Israel.

That is why I would like to begin by making clear what S. Res. 504 is not about. It is not about cutting off U.S. security assistance to Israel. Anyone who says otherwise has not read the resolution.

So what does this resolution do? The very first line of the resolution states that its purpose is “requesting information on Israel's human rights practices.” The resolution goes on to seek information on “alleged violations of internationally recognized human

rights,” including violations related to Israel’s military operations and the “denial of basic humanitarian needs” like food, water, medical care, fuel, and shelter.

While these are not simple questions, the resolution simply asks questions. And while I understand that some may be uncomfortable asking questions about the conduct of a close partner, we have a duty to the American taxpayers to get the facts. Israel is the largest annual recipient of U.S. security assistance, totaling more than \$39 billion over the past 10 years alone. The United States is not a bystander to this conflict, and the American people deserve honest answers about how our assistance is being used. The report should provide a full picture of what is happening, including how Hamas’s despicable tactic of hiding among the civilian population impacts the prosecution of the war and any other information that the administration deems important.

As I have repeatedly said, Israel’s war against Hamas is just, but it must be waged justly. President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and officials across the Biden administration have also made this point clear. For example, Secretary Blinken has repeatedly stated that the “daily toll on civilians in Gaza, particularly children, is far too high” and called upon the Netanyahu coalition to put a “clear plan in place that puts a premium on protecting civilians” and to get “more humanitarian assistance to people who so desperately need it in Gaza.”

These entreaties have been rebuffed time and time again by Prime Minister Netanyahu and his ultra-extremist coalition that includes the likes of Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir. Despite statements from the Israeli Defense Forces that their operations have shifted to a more “targeted phase,” there were still between 112 to 151 Palestinians reportedly killed in Gaza each day last week. This truth is only underscored by the Sunday Washington Post headline: “Despite U.S. pressure on Israel, casualty count in Gaza remains high.”

The death toll has now reached over 24,000, two-thirds of them women and children, with another 60,000 wounded. Meanwhile, the humanitarian catastrophe is getting worse, not better. The Netanyahu government initially declared a full siege of Gaza and then, for months, refused to open the main Kerem Shalom crossing. It still refuses to open the northern Erez crossing to get assistance to the desperate people trapped there. Indeed, the water pipeline to northern Gaza has been shut off since October 7.

I visited the Rafah crossing about 10 days ago and witnessed the many obstacles to getting more aid to over 2 million people in desperate need. People in Gaza are on the verge of starvation, children are having limbs amputated without anesthesia, sewage is piling up in the streets, and waterborne

diseases have broken out. International NGOs who have operated in conflict zones for decades have said they have never witnessed a humanitarian disaster as terrible as Gaza.

It is painfully evident that there is a big gap between what U.S. officials have requested of the Netanyahu government and the actions taken by his coalition. This further justifies why we need answers from the administration to the fundamental questions posed by this resolution. We owe it to American taxpayers to better understand how the support we have provided is being used. Some of the very questions raised in this resolution are those we have already sought answers to. While I appreciate the dialogue we have had with members of the administration about the situation in Gaza, to date, we have received no written responses to our letters on the conflict.

If this resolution were to be adopted, the process under section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 gives the Biden administration 30 days to answer the questions posed. That statute requires the report within 30 days and the only reason for the timetable set forth in statute is to ensure that the Senate gets those answers within a reasonable timeframe. It is simply not credible to say that the Biden administration would fail to meet that deadline and trigger a cut-off of assistance.

Concerns have been raised that, if passed, and once the administration submits the required report within 30 days, the underlying statute, 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act, allows any Senator to file a subsequent resolution to cut off security assistance provided to Israel under the Foreign Assistance Act. While it is worth noting that such a resolution would not apply to air defense systems authorized under the National Defense Authorization Act, like the Iron Dome systems, I would oppose such a blanket attempt to cut off assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act.

I do believe that the United States should require all recipients of U.S. military assistance to abide by certain principles and meet certain standards. That is why Senators Kaine, Schatz, Durbin, and I, together with ten of our Senate colleagues, have proposed an amendment to President Biden’s national security supplemental request that would apply equally to Ukraine, Israel, and any other recipient of such assistance and require that each recipient: No. 1, use any U.S. weapons provided with these funds in accordance with international humanitarian law; No. 2, cooperate with U.S. efforts to provide humanitarian assistance in conflict zones where U.S.-provided weapons are being used; and No. 3, submit a report to the Congress on the extent to which these standards are being met and the extent to which the recipients have adopted U.S. policies and mechanisms to reduce civilian casualties in conflict. These standards and simple accountability measures should

apply to all recipients of U.S. security assistance worldwide, and I will be pressing further on this issue when the Senate takes up President Biden’s supplemental request.

For now, the business before the Senate is S. Res. 504, and I see no reason to oppose a measure requiring a report seeking facts and information. We have a duty to the American people to get answers to the questions set forth in this resolution.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I support this resolution and appreciate the leadership of my good friend, the senior Senator from Vermont.

Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act is an important and long underutilized tool. It provides a practical mechanism to focus attention on serious human rights concerns around the world. These concerns should matter deeply to every Member of Congress and every American.

There are some who may not support asking the State Department to provide the information called for in this resolution. That is unfortunate. The Senate should be asking the hard questions, especially when fundamental rights and thousands of innocent lives are at stake. Though there are clauses in the resolution I believe could be more effective if drafted differently, that is the nature of the legislative process.

The people of Gaza are in the midst of a humanitarian catastrophe. The amount of death and destruction is staggering. An estimated 10,000 children have been killed and many more likely buried under rubble. The United Nations and other humanitarian relief organizations have warned of widespread starvation if the amount of food, potable water, medicines, and other necessities of life getting into Gaza is not drastically increased in the coming days.

Differences regarding this resolution and the conduct of the war aside, we have a shared responsibility to do whatever we can to save the lives of the 2 million men, women, and children who have been displaced in Gaza and are now completely dependent on international aid. That should be our immediate priority, and I look forward to working on this with other Members of Congress, the State Department, USAID, the United Nations, and other relief organizations in the coming days and weeks. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have a great deal of respect for my two colleagues. I think every one of us is concerned about what we see in regards to the crisis in Gaza, what we see in regards to the need for humanitarian assistance for innocent Gazans being caught in this battle. But the resolution that is being presented here today is the wrong vehicle to deal with this issue.

So let me start by saying that the resolution does a lot more than requesting information. For the information from those partners that get security assistance from the United States, the State Department today must provide the information of their compliance with our laws. That report is already required for all recipients of security aid.

What this resolution requires is a report within 30 days on specific issues concerning conduct in Gaza, and it is very specific as to what the State Department must provide. I will just give you one example, and there are many, many other examples here. They have to certify that no unit of Israel security forces that received U.S. assistance since January 1, 2018, has committed any gross violation of human rights. Now they have got to do that within 30 days or aid is suspended. And once they give a report, it triggers privileged resolutions on this floor to cut off aid to Israel.

I strongly disagree with my colleagues. 502B was never intended to be used against an ally during a war. It has never been used for that purpose. That is not the right vehicle to deal with this.

Mr. President, this is the 102nd day since Hamas's brutal attack against Israel; 102 days that hostages have been held. Our thoughts and prayers are with the hostages, and we all agree that Israel has the right to defend itself.

The challenges are made much more difficult because they are going against an enemy that has sworn to destroy the nation Israel and they still believe that and they are still conducting themselves with a threat to Israel's sovereignty and safety.

Missiles are still available to be shot into Israel. They are still there in Gaza.

We know what the Houthis are doing in the Red Sea. We know what Iran is doing in Iraq. We know the problems on Israel's northern border by Hezbollah. Over 80,000 Israelis have had to evacuate their homes in northern Israel; 100,000 in the southern part. There is a war going on, and it is made much more difficult because Hamas, sworn to destroy Israel, embeds its operations within the civilian population; has a tunneling network to try to protect its military assets, making it very difficult for Israel to be able to eliminate the threat.

At the same time, we know how much military might was in Gaza on October 7. We were supposed to have had border security to make sure that didn't get into Gaza. There was supposed to be inspections. It didn't work.

I understand why the Israelis are concerned by the way in which the supplies get into Gaza, because there is a concern of ill use and supplying the terrorists in their efforts to destroy Israel. These are all very challenging issues that we have to deal with.

Now, this resolution, as I said before, is much more than requesting informa-

tion. Its passage would be a gift to Hamas, a gift to Iran. It would show a division between Israel and the United States. It is an indictment against Israel, make no mistake about it. It makes it more challenging with sensitive negotiations taking place, as we are here, on additional hostages being released. It makes it more difficult for us to deal with preventing the escalation of the conflict.

If Iran believes that the United States is not with Israel, believe me, it makes it more likely we are going to see additional attacks in that region.

The Biden administration is seeking to contain this conflict and not to see it spread and grow out of control. It is pressing for a shift to a more targeted campaign against Hamas military infrastructure and the perpetrators of the October 7 attacks. It is pressing to get more humanitarian assistance into Gaza. And, yes, we can and should continue to position toward a targeted prosecution of the war against Hamas and Gaza. But passing this resolution does not do that. In fact, I would say, it is counterproductive to it.

Make no mistake, our passing the resolution triggers this. This is not a resolution that goes to the House and is signed by the President. If we pass this, the process is triggered to cut off aid to Israel during war.

#### MOTION TO TABLE

For those reasons, Mr. President, I move to table the motion to discharge S. Res. 504, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, 24,000 Palestinians are dead, 70 percent of whom are women and children, 70 percent of the housing stock has been damaged or destroyed, and almost 2 million people are trying to survive with inadequate supplies of food, water, medical supplies, or fuel. And, as we speak, hundreds of thousands of children face starvation.

The time is now for the U.S. Senate to act.

I ask for a "no" vote on the motion to table.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table.

The yeas and nays have previously been ordered.

The clerk will call roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) would have voted "yea," the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted "yea," and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 8 Leg.]

#### YEAS—72

Baldwin	Fetterman	Murray
Bennet	Fischer	Ossoff
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Padilla
Booker	Graham	Peters
Braun	Hassan	Reed
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Brown	Hickenlooper	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rosen
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lummis	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Vance
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Moran	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden
Ernst	Murphy	Young

#### NAYS—11

Butler	Markey	Van Hollen
Heinrich	Merkley	Warren
Hirono	Paul	Welch
Lujan	Sanders	

#### NOT VOTING—17

Barrasso	Hagerty	Schatz
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Boozman	Kennedy	Sullivan
Coons	Romney	Tuberville
Daines	Rounds	Wicker
Grassley	Rubio	

The motion to table was agreed to.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 243, H.R.

2872, a bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Peter Welch, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 243, H.R. 2872, a bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 9 Leg.]

#### YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Ricketts
Brown	Hoeven	Rosen
Butler	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Cassidy	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Lummis	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Thune
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Moran	Warren
Ernst	Mullin	Welch
Fetterman	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	Young
Graham	Ossoff	

NAYS—13		
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Britt	Lee	Scott (SC)
Budd	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	Paul	
Cruz	Risch	

#### NOT VOTING—19

Barrasso	Hagerty	Schatz
Blackburn	Hawley	Schmitt
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sullivan
Cardin	Kennedy	Tuberville
Coons	Romney	Wicker
Daines	Rounds	
Grassley	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 13.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD).

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as a result of multiple flight delays and cancellations due to the winter storm, I will miss today's votes.●

#### UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER AND GALLERIES REGULATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD updated United States Senate Chamber and Galleries Regulations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER AND GALLERIES REGULATIONS

ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON JANUARY 11, 2024, PURSUANT TO RULE XXXII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

1.0 Scope—These regulations are applicable only to the Senate Chamber and Galleries.

2.0 Definitions—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms have the meaning specified.

2.1 Cloakroom means the two spaces, one assigned to the majority party and one assigned to the minority party, adjacent to the Senate Chamber.

2.2 Galleries means the ten seating galleries located in the Senate Chamber.

2.3 Marble Room means the Senators' meeting room adjacent to the Senate Lobby.

2.4 Senate Chamber means the space that encompasses the Senate Floor and Galleries.

2.5 Senate Floor means the floor of the Senate Chamber.

2.6 Senate Lobby means the hallway space adjoining the Senate Chamber to the Marble Room.

2.7 Sergeant at Arms means the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate.

3.0 Sergeant at Arms Chamber and Galleries Duties—The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, under the direction of the Presiding Officer, shall be the Executive Officer of the body for the enforcement of all rules made by the Committee on Rules and Administration for the regulation of the Senate Chamber and Galleries.

3.1 The Senate Floor shall be at all times under the Sergeant at Arms' immediate supervision, and the Sergeant at Arms shall see that the various subordinate officers of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms perform the duties to which they are especially assigned.

3.2 The Sergeant at Arms shall see that the messengers assigned to the doors upon the Senate Floor are at their posts and that the Senate Floor, Cloakrooms, and Senate Lobby are cleared at least five minutes before the opening of daily sessions of all persons not entitled to remain there.

3.3 In the absence of the Sergeant at Arms the duties of the office, so far as they pertain to the enforcement of the rules, shall devolve upon the Deputy Sergeant at Arms.

4.0 Messengers Acting as Assistant Doorkeepers—The messengers acting as Assistant Doorkeepers shall be assigned to their duties by the Sergeant at Arms.

5.0 Assignment of Majority and Minority Secretaries—The secretary for the majority and the secretary for the minority shall be assigned, during the daily sessions of the Senate, to duty upon the Senate Floor.

6.0 Use of the Senate Chamber—When the Senate is not sitting in session or otherwise using the Chamber for some function of the Senate, no Senator shall seat any person or persons in chairs of Senators other than the chair assigned, no other persons shall seat anyone in a chair of a Senator; and lectures, talks, or speeches shall not be given at such times to groups on the Senate Floor by Senators or others except for the purpose of explaining the Chamber.

7.0 Use of the Marble Room—No persons shall be admitted to the Marble Room except Senators.

8.0 Use of the Cloakrooms—No persons shall be admitted to the Cloakrooms except those entitled to the privileges of the Senate Floor under the Rule XXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

9.0 Use of the Senate Lobby—No persons shall be admitted to the Senate Lobby except those entitled to the privileges of the Senate Floor under the Rule XXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

10.0 Use of Display Materials in the Senate Chamber—Graphic displays in the Senate Chamber are limited to charts, photographs, or renderings:

10.1 Size—No larger than 36 inches by 48 inches.

10.2 Where—On an easel stand next to the Senator's desk or at the rear of the Chamber.

10.3 When—Only at the time the Senator is engaged in debate.

10.4 Number—No more than two may be displayed at a time.

11.0 Display of Flowers in the Senate Chamber—Flowers are not permitted in the Senate Chamber, except that upon receiving notice of the death of a sitting Senator, the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate may jointly permit a display of flowers to be placed upon the desk of the deceased Senator.

12.0 Solicitation and Commercial Activities Prohibited—No persons shall carry out any of the following activities in the Senate Chamber and Galleries: offer or expose any article for sale; display a sign, placard, or other form of advertisement; or solicit fares, alms, subscriptions, or contributions.

13.0 Legislative Buzzers and Signal Lights—The system of legislative buzzers and signal lights, which correspond with rings if available, shall be as follows:

13.1 Pre-session signals:

13.1.1 One long ring at hour of convening.

13.1.2 One red light to remain lighted at all times while Senate is in actual session.

13.2 Session signals:

13.2.1 One ring—Yea and nays.

13.2.2 Two rings—Quorum call.

13.2.3 Three rings—Call of absentees.

13.2.4 Four rings—Adjournment or recess.

(End of daily session.)

13.2.5 Five rings—Seven and a half minutes remaining on yea and nay vote.

13.2.6 Morning business concluded—Six rings. Lights cut off immediately.

13.2.7 Recess during daily session—Six rings. Lights stay on during period of recess.

14.0 Taking of Pictures Prohibited; Use of Mechanical Equipment in Chamber—

14.1 The taking of pictures of any kind is prohibited in the Senate Chamber, the Marble Room, the Senate Lobby, and the Senate Cloakrooms.

14.2 The majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate may suspend 14.1 temporarily for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the Senate in session, at a date and time jointly agreed upon by the majority leader and the minority leader.

14.3 The Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may suspend 14.1 temporarily, for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Curator to take photographs in the Senate Chamber, Marble Room, and Senate Lobby, as required to complete the archival and administrative responsibilities of the Senate Curator, at a date and time jointly agreed upon by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

14.3.1 Photographs taken pursuant to 14.3 may be released upon written request to, and the approval of, the Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

14.4 The Sergeant at Arms shall be authorized to admit into the spaces defined in 14.1 such mechanical equipment and/or devices which, in the judgment of the Sergeant at Arms, are necessary and proper in the conduct of official Senate business and which by their presence shall not in any way distract, interrupt, or inconvenience the business or Members of the Senate.

15.0 Galleries—The Sergeant at Arms shall keep the aisles of the galleries clear, and shall not allow admittance into the galleries of more than their seating capacity. The Sergeant at Arms shall not permit any person to enter a gallery with or carrying any firearms or dangerous weapons except for law enforcement and other personnel performing duties under the direction of the Senate, or any package, bundle, suitcase, briefcase, or camera; the Sergeant at Arms shall not permit any person in any gallery to smoke, applaud, or commit any other type of demonstration either by sound or sign; except in the press, radio, television, and correspondents' galleries the Sergeant at Arms shall not permit any person to read (except the Senate seating diagram) or to write or take notes (except credentialed employees of the Senate when taking notes in the course of their employment); the Sergeant at Arms shall not permit any person to take any picture or photograph or to sketch or draw; the Sergeant at Arms shall not permit any person to place any object whatsoever—including hats, coats, or other personal apparel—or portion of a person on any railing, or any person to wear a hat, except that where a person's religious beliefs require that person

wear a head-cover in such public places as the Senate Gallery, then such head-cover shall be permitted; and the Sergeant at Arms shall not allow any person to lean forward over the railings or to place hands thereon.

15.1 The galleries of the Senate shall be set apart and occupied as follows:

15.1.1 Gallery 1—The gallery above the northeastern corner of the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as the Staff Gallery, is reserved for the use of credentialed employees of the Senate.

15.1.2 Gallery 2—The gallery above the eastern entrance to the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as the Family Gallery, is reserved for the exclusive use of the families of Senators, former Presidents of the United States, and incumbent Secretary and Sergeant at Arms of the Senate.

15.1.2.1 The first two rows of the gallery are reserved for the spouses and other members of the immediate families of Senators.

15.1.2.2 The remainder of the gallery is reserved for the families of Senators and guests visiting their families who shall be designated by some member of the Senator's family, and for the families of former Presidents of the United States, as well as families of incumbent Secretary and Sergeant at Arms of the Senate.

15.1.3 Gallery 3—The gallery over the southeastern corner of the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as a Public Gallery, is reserved for the use of persons holding a card issued by a Senator.

15.1.3.1 The period to which such card of admission shall be limited rests entirely in the discretion of the Senator issuing it, except that such cards shall expire at the end of each session and cards of a different color shall be furnished by the Sergeant at Arms for the following session.

15.1.3.2 The Sergeant at Arms shall in the Sergeant at Arms' discretion limit occupancy of the public galleries to such periods as may be required to accommodate with reasonable expediency all card bearers who are seeking admission.

15.1.4 Gallery 4—The gallery between Gallery 3 and Gallery 5 on the south side of the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as the Representatives' Gallery, is reserved for the use of Members of Congress of the House of Representatives and their guests.

15.1.5 Gallery 5—The gallery over the southern main entrance to the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as the Presidential and Diplomatic Gallery, is reserved for the use of the Diplomatic Corps, and no person shall be admitted to it excepting the Secretary of State, foreign ministers, their families and Senators.

15.1.5.1 The first row on the eastern side of this gallery shall be set apart for the use of the President of the United States.

15.1.5.2 The second row on the eastern side of this gallery shall be set apart for the use of the Vice President of the United States.

15.1.5.3 The third row on the eastern side of this gallery shall be set apart for the use of the President pro tempore of the Senate.

15.1.6 Gallery 6—The gallery between Gallery 5 and Gallery 7 on the south side of the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as a Public Gallery, is reserved for the use of large guided tours and other special parties.

15.1.7 Gallery 7—The gallery over the southwest corner of the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as the Accessible Gallery, is reserved for the use of any guest, especially those who wish to avoid stairs, and those who would like to view closed captioning television, or use an assisted listening device.

15.1.8 Gallery 8—The gallery over the west entrance to the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as a Public Gallery, is reserved for the use of persons holding a card issued by a Senator.

15.1.8.1 The period to which such card of admission shall be limited rests entirely in the discretion of the Senator issuing it, except that such cards shall expire at the end of each session and cards of a different color shall be furnished by the Sergeant at Arms for the following session.

15.1.8.2 The Sergeant at Arms shall in the Sergeant at Arms' discretion limit occupancy of the public galleries to such periods as may be required to accommodate with reasonable expediency all card bearers who are seeking admission.

15.1.9 Gallery 9—The gallery over the northwest corner of the Senate Chamber, commonly referred to as a Public Gallery, is reserved for the use of persons holding a card issued by a Senator.

15.1.9.1 The period to which such card of admission shall be limited rests entirely in the discretion of the Senator issuing it, except that such cards shall expire at the end of each session and cards of a different color shall be furnished by the Sergeant at Arms for the following session.

15.1.9.2 The Sergeant at Arms shall in the Sergeant at Arms' discretion limit occupancy of the public galleries to such periods as may be required to accommodate with reasonable expediency all card bearers who are seeking admission.

15.1.10 Gallery 10—The gallery above the Senate Floor dais on the north side of the Senate Chamber including the front row of Gallery 1 and the front row of Gallery 9, commonly referred to as the Media Gallery, is reserved for the exclusive use of the Press Gallery, Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery, Periodical Press Gallery, and Press Photographers' Gallery.

16.0 Use of the Media Gallery—Gallery 10, the Media Gallery shall be further set apart and occupied as follows:

16.1 Press Gallery—The gallery in the rear of the Vice President's chair shall be set apart for reporters of daily newspapers.

16.1.1 The administration of the Press Gallery shall be vested in a Standing Committee of Correspondents elected by accredited members of the gallery. The committee shall consist of five persons elected to serve for terms of two years: Provided, however, that at the election in January 1951, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for two years and the remaining two for one year. Thereafter, three members shall be elected in odd-numbered years and two in even-numbered years. Elections shall be held in January. The committee shall elect its own chair and secretary. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by special election to be called by the Standing Committee.

16.1.2 Persons desiring admission to the Press Gallery in the Senate wing shall make application in accordance with Rule XXXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, which rule shall be interpreted and administered by the Standing Committee of Correspondents, subject to the review and approval by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

16.1.3 The Standing Committee of Correspondents shall limit membership in the Press Gallery to bona fide correspondents of repute in their profession, under such rules as the Standing Committee of Correspondents shall prescribe: Provided, however, that the Standing Committee of Correspondents shall admit to the Press Gallery no person who does not establish to the satisfaction of the Standing Committee all of the following:

16.1.3.1 That the person's principal income is obtained from news correspondence intended for publication in newspapers entitled to second-class mailing privileges.

16.1.3.2 That the person is not engaged in paid publicity or promotion work or in prosecuting any claim before Congress or before

any department of the Government, and will not become so engaged while a member of the Press Gallery.

16.1.3 That the person is not engaged in any lobbying activity and will not become so engaged while a member of the Press Gallery.

16.1.4 Members of the families of correspondents are not entitled to the privileges of the Press Gallery.

16.1.5 The Standing Committee of Correspondents shall propose no change or changes in these rules except upon petition in writing signed by not less than 100 accredited members of the Press Gallery.

16.2 Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery—The front row of Gallery 1 shall be set apart for the use of the radio-television correspondents.

16.2.1 Persons desiring admission to the Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery of the Senate shall make application to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as required by Rule XXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate; and shall also state, in writing, the names of all radio stations, television stations, systems, or newsgathering organizations by which they are employed; and what other occupation or employment they may have, if any; and shall further declare that they are not engaged in the prosecution of claims or promotion of legislation pending before Congress, the departments, or the independent agencies, and that they will not become so employed without resigning from the gallery. They shall further declare that they are not employed in any legislative or executive department or independent agency of the Government, or by any foreign government or representative thereof; that they are not engaged in any lobbying activities; that they do not and will not, directly or indirectly, furnish special information to any organization, individual, or group of individuals, for the influencing of prices on any commodity or stock exchange; that they will not do so during the time they retain membership in the gallery. Holders of visitors' cards who may be allowed temporary admission to the gallery must conform to all the restrictions of this paragraph.

16.2.2 It shall be prerequisite to membership that the radio station, television station, system, or newsgathering agencies which the applicants represent shall certify, in writing, to the Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery that the applicants conform to the foregoing regulations.

16.2.3 The applications required by the above rule shall be authenticated in a manner that shall be satisfactory to the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery, which shall see that the occupation of the gallery is confined to bona fide news gatherers and/or reporters of reputable standing in their business who represent radio stations, television stations, systems, or newsgathering agencies engaged primarily in serving radio stations, television stations, or systems. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery to report, at its discretion, violation of privileges of the gallery to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and, pending action thereon, the offending individual may be suspended.

16.2.4 Persons engaged in other occupations, whose chief attention is not given to—or more than one-half of their earned income is not derived from—the gathering or reporting of news for radio stations, television stations, systems, or newsgathering agencies primarily serving radio stations, television stations, or systems, shall not be entitled to admission to the Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery. The Radio and Tele-

vision Correspondents list in the Congressional Directory shall be a list only of persons whose chief attention is given to the gathering and reporting of news for radio stations, television stations, and systems engaged in the daily dissemination of news, and of representatives of newsgathering agencies engaged in the daily service of news to such radio stations, television stations, or systems.

16.2.5 Members of the families of correspondents are not entitled to the privileges of the gallery.

16.2.6 The Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery shall be under the control of the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents Gallery, subject to the approval and supervision of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

16.3 Periodical Press Gallery—The front row of Gallery 9 shall be set aside for the use of the periodical press.

16.3.1 Persons eligible for admission to the Periodical Press Gallery of the Senate must be bona fide resident correspondents of reputable standing, giving their chief attention to the gathering and reporting of news. They shall state in writing the names of their employers and their additional sources of earned income; and they shall declare that, while a member of the Gallery, they will not act as an agent in the prosecution of claims, and will not become engaged or assist, directly or indirectly, in any lobbying, promotion, advertising, or publicity activity intended to influence legislation or any other action of the Congress, nor any matter before any independent agency, or any department or other instrumentality of the Executive Branch; and that they will not act as an agent for, or be employed by the federal, or any state, local or foreign government or representatives thereof; and that they will not, directly or indirectly, furnish special or "insider" information intended to influence prices or for the purpose of trading on any commodity or stock exchange; and that they will not become employed, directly or indirectly, by any stock exchange, board of trade or other organization or member thereof, or brokerage house or broker engaged in the buying and selling of any security or commodity. Applications shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Periodical Correspondents' Association and shall be authenticated in a manner satisfactory to the Executive Committee.

16.3.2 Applicants must be employed by periodicals that regularly publish a substantial volume of news material of either general, economic, industrial, technical, cultural or trade character. The periodical must require such Washington coverage on a continuing basis and must be owned and operated independently of any government, industry, institution, association, or lobbying organization. Applicants must also be employed by a periodical that is published for profit and is supported chiefly by advertising or by subscription, or by a periodical meeting the conditions in this paragraph but published by a non-profit organization that, first, operates independently of any government, industry, or institution and, second, does not engage, directly or indirectly, in any lobbying or other activity intended to influence any matter before Congress or before any independent agency or any department or other instrumentality of the Executive Branch.

House organs are not eligible.

16.3.3 Members of the families of correspondents are not entitled to the privileges of the gallery.

16.3.4 The Executive Committee may issue temporary credentials permitting the privileges of the Gallery to individuals who meet the rules of eligibility but who may be on

short-term assignment or temporarily resident in Washington.

16.3.5 Under the authority of Rule XXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Periodical Press Gallery of the Senate shall be under the control of the Executive Committee, subject to the approval and supervision of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee, at its discretion, to report violations of the privileges of the Gallery to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and pending action thereon, the offending correspondent may be suspended. The Committee shall be elected at the start of each Congress by members of the Periodical Correspondents' Association, and shall consist of seven members with no more than one member from any one publishing organization. The Committee shall elect its own officers, and a majority of the Committee may fill vacancies on the Committee. The list in the Congressional Directory shall be a list only of members of the Periodical Correspondents' Association.

16.4 Press Photographer's Gallery—

16.4.1 Administration of the Press Photographers' Gallery is vested in a Standing Committee of Press Photographers consisting of six persons elected by accredited members of the gallery. The Committee shall be composed of one member each from Associated Press Photos, Reuters News Pictures or AFP Photos, magazine media, local newspapers, agency or freelance member, and one at-large member. The at-large member may be, but need not be, selected from a media otherwise represented on the Committee, however no organization may have more than one representative on the Committee.

16.4.2 The term of office of a member of the Committee elected as the Associated Press Photos member, the local newspaper member, and the Reuters News Pictures or AFP Photos member shall expire on the day of the election held in the first odd-numbered year following the year in which the person was elected, and the term of office of a member of the Committee elected as the magazine media member, the agency or freelance member and the at-large member shall expire on the day of the election held in the first even-numbered year following the year in which the person was elected. A member elected to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of a term shall serve only for the unexpired portion of such term.

16.4.2.1 Election for the Reuters News Picture or AFP photos seat was held in 1999.

16.4.2.2 Election for the agency or freelance seat was held in 2000.

16.4.3 Elections shall be held as early as practicable in each year and in no case later than March 31. A vacancy in the membership of the Committee occurring prior to the expiration of a term shall be filled by special election called for that purpose by the Committee.

16.4.4 The Standing Committee of the Press Photographers' Gallery shall propose no change or changes in these rules except upon petition in writing signed by not less than 25 accredited members of the gallery.

16.4.5 Persons desiring admission to the Press Photographers' Gallery of the Senate shall make application in accordance with rule XXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, which rule shall be interpreted and administered by the Standing Committee of Press Photographers subject to the review and approval of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

16.4.6 The Standing Committee of Press Photographers shall limit membership in the photographers' gallery to bona fide news photographers of repute in their profession and to heads of Photographic Bureaus under such rules as the Standing Committee of Press Photographers shall prescribe.

16.4.7 Provided, however, That the Standing Committee of Press Photographers shall admit to the gallery no person who does not establish to the satisfaction of the Committee all of the following:

16.4.7.1 That any member is not engaged in paid publicity or promotion work or in prosecuting any claim before Congress or before any department of the Government, and will not become so engaged while a member of the gallery.

16.4.7.2 That the person is not engaged in any lobbying activity and will not become so engaged while a member of the gallery.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNIZING THE WARREN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Warren Symphony Orchestra located in Macomb County, MI. Founded in 1972, the Warren Symphony Orchestra and its musicians have worked to provide cultural enrichment, entertainment, and youth education to the Macomb community by supporting and advancing a local orchestra of professional quality. What began as a small project aimed at replacing the Warren Consolidates Schools string program has grown over the past 50 years into thriving arts and culture destination for residents of Warren and Macomb County.

The Warren Symphony Orchestra—WSO—opened its first season in 1973–1974, playing their first concert on May 5, 1974. Over the next decade, the WSO benefited from growing community support, hosting concerts such as “Music of the 20s” and “A Salute to Poland in April,” the latter of which celebrated the history of the Polish community in the city of Warren. In this period, the WSO also began to form traditions, including a series of concerts performed by the WSO at the St. Dorothy Church in Warren, the beginning of yearly youth concerts, and General Motors sponsoring the WSO’s opening night. By 1979, subscriptions to the Warren Symphony Orchestra had increased by over 143 percent and the WSO began to gain acclaim. The spring performance was chosen by the Detroit Free Press as one of the 10 best performances of the 1979–1980 season in metro Detroit. The WSO has been chosen seven times—2000, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2014, 2015, and 2017—as Outstanding Community Orchestra at the Detroit Music Awards. Over the years, the WSO has engaged and inspired the Warren community through the delivery of unique concert experiences and themes. Memorable among them was the All-American concert in the spring season of 1982, which features 2 choruses and 2 orchestras: 198 singers, 116 orchestra players, and 1 conducting, accounting for a total of 315 musicians, and a fully staged opera performed in accompaniment with Oakland University in the 2000–2001 season, to name a few.

In line with their mission of youth education, the Warren Symphony Orchestra has a long history of performing with local youth choirs, bands, and artists. This is in addition to the free music education materials that the WSO provides to the youth in the Macomb community, as well the reoccurring youth concert series that reaches as many as 2,000 elementary students annually.

The Warren Symphony Orchestra has been enriching the lives of Warren and Macomb residents since 1972. As they celebrate their 50th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the cultural and educational contributions that the Warren Symphony Orchestra has made over the past five decades. I wish the Warren Symphony Orchestra continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution 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”.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 540. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to pursue more equitable treatment of Taiwan at the international financial institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 788. An act to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

H.R. 803. An act to direct certain financial regulators to exclude representatives of the People’s Republic of China from certain banking organizations upon notice of certain threats or danger, and for other purposes.

H.R. 839. An act to require the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate for increased transparency with respect to exchange rate policies of the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4768. An act 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; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6370. An act to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms’ investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.J. Res. 98. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to “Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status”.

The message further announced that 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, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Public Interest Declassification Board for a term of 3 years: Mr. Ezra Cohen of Chevy Chase, MD.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 540. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to pursue more equitable treatment of Taiwan at the international financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 788. An act to limit donations made pursuant to settlement agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 803. An act to direct certain financial regulators to exclude representatives of the Peoples Republic of China from certain banking organizations upon notice of certain threats or danger, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 839. An act to require the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate for increased transparency with respect to exchange rate policies of the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4768. An act 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; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6370. An act to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms’ investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator GARY C. PETERS, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3290. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Antideficiency Act Reports Compilations, Fiscal Years 2019–2023”; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3291. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “DoD Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Program; Amendment” (RIN0790-

AL54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 26, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3292. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14064 with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3293. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974; Exemptions" (RIN1506-AB63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 26, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3294. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Pub. L. 113-291) to remove the requirement for public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3295. A communication from the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Good Neighbor Environmental Boards' advice letter on drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure in the U.S.-Mexico border region, and the Council's response to the advice letter; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3296. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Louisiana Underground Injection Control Program; Class VI Primacy" (FRL No. 9916-02-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3297. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for Maryland" (FRL No. 10292-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3298. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mississippi: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 11400-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3299. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Revisions to Jefferson County Emissions Monitoring and Reporting" (FRL No. 11564-04-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3589. 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 Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 3590. A bill to prohibit the importation of garlic from the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3591. A bill making appropriations to improve border security, imposing new reporting requirements relating to border security, and enhancing criminal penalties for destroying or evading border controls; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3592. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. ROSEN:

S. 3593. A bill to provide for economic development and conservation in Washoe County, Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3594. A bill to require Governmentwide source code sharing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 135, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 163

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 163, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

S. 273

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the

Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service.

S. 340

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 340, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee, and for other purposes.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services for eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 2384

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2384, a bill to provide lawful permanent resident status for certain advanced STEM degree holders, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 3211

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3211, a bill to enhance our Nation's nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas.

S. 3356

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3356, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify the role and duties of United States Postal Service police officers, and for other purposes.

S. 3381

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3381, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 3390

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 3390, a bill to improve purchasing of food by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 3422

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3422, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes.

S. 3549

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3549, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1381. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2872, of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1381.** Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2872 of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024”.

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

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short Title.
- Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
- Sec. 3. References.

#### DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

##### DIVISION B—OTHER MATTERS

Title I—Health and Human Services

Title II—Compacts

Title III—Counter-UAS Authorities

Title IV—Budgetary Effects

#### SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

#### DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

**SEC. 101.** The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118–15) is further amended—

- (1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting “March 8, 2024”;
- (2) by striking the date specified in section 106(4) and inserting “March 1, 2024”;
- (3) in section 123, by striking “94 days” and inserting “129 days” and by striking “94-day” and inserting “129-day”;
- (4) in section 124, by striking “\$663,070,000” and inserting “\$2,199,260,000”; and
- (5) by adding after section 146 the following new sections:

“SEC. 147. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to mitigate issuing WARN notices for ‘06-D-141 Uranium Processing Facility, Y-12’ in an amount not to exceed \$760,000,000.

“(b) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in this section, and the Secretary of Energy shall provide a weekly report to the Committees specifying the obligations incurred for the purposes specified in subsection (a) with amounts made available in this Act.

“SEC. 148. Amounts made available by section 101 for ‘Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Operations’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to fund mandatory pay increases and other inflationary adjustments, to maintain and improve air traffic services, to hire and train air traffic controllers, and to continue aviation safety oversight, while avoiding service reductions.”.

This division may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024”.

#### DIVISION B—OTHER MATTERS

##### TITLE I—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

###### Subtitle A—Public Health Extenders

#### SEC. 101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.

(a) **TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—Section 340H(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256(h)) is amended by striking “and \$21,834,247 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024” and inserting “\$21,834,247 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, and \$16,982,192 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024”.

(b) **EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.**—Section 10503(b)(1)(F) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(F)) is amended by striking “and \$690,410,959 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024” and inserting “\$690,410,959 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, and \$536,986,301 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024”.

(c) **EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.**—Section 10503(b)(2)(I) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)(I)) is amended by striking “and \$53,506,849 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024” and inserting “\$53,506,849 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, and \$41,616,438 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024”.

(d) **APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments

made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 117–328 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.).

(e) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 3014(h)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 201(d) of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024” and inserting “section 201(d) of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024, and section 101(d) of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024”.

#### SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) **EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.**—Section 330B(b)(2)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-2(b)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “and \$25,890,411 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024” and inserting “\$25,890,411 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, and \$20,136,986 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024”.

(b) **EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.**—Section 330C(c)(2)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(c)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “and \$25,890,411 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024” and inserting “\$25,890,411 for the period beginning on November 18, 2023, and ending on January 19, 2024, and \$20,136,986 for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024”.

#### SEC. 103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)(D)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(c) Section 319L-1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7f(b)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(d) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10b(g)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “January 19, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

##### Subtitle B—Medicaid

#### SEC. 121. DELAYING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE PAYMENT CUTS.

Section 1923(f)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(7)(A)) is amended by striking “January 20, 2024” each place it appears and inserting “March 9, 2024”.

#### SEC. 122. MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND REDUCTION.

Section 1941(b)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w-1(b)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “\$5,796,117,810” and inserting “\$5,140,428,729”.

##### Subtitle C—Medicare

#### SEC. 131. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by

striking “January 20, 2024” and inserting “March 9, 2024”.

**SEC. 132. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$2,250,795,056” and inserting “\$2,197,795,056”.

**Subtitle D—Human Services**

**SEC. 141. EXTENSION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS.**

Activities authorized by part B of title IV of the Social Security Act shall continue through March 8, 2024, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2023, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

**SEC. 142. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.**

Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “and” after “November 17, 2023”; and

(B) by inserting “and for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024,” after “January 19, 2024”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) by striking “and” before “for the period beginning on November 18, 2023”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023.”.

**SEC. 143. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.**

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(i) by striking “and” after “November 17, 2023”; and

(ii) by inserting “and for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024,” after “January 19, 2024”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by striking “and” after “November 17, 2023”; and

(ii) by inserting “, and for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on March 8, 2024” after “January 19, 2024”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “and” before “for the period beginning on November 18, 2023”; and

(B) by striking “fiscal year 2023,” and inserting “fiscal year 2023, and for the period beginning on January 20, 2024, and ending on

March 8, 2024, an amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for the corresponding period for fiscal year 2023.”.

**TITLE II—COMPACTS**

**SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.**

Section 2101(a)(1) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 118-15; 137 Stat. 81; 137 Stat. 114) is amended by striking “February 2, 2024” and inserting “March 8, 2024”.

**TITLE III—COUNTER-UAS AUTHORITIES**

**SEC. 301. COUNTER-UAS AUTHORITIES.**

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking “February 3, 2024” and inserting “March 9, 2024”.

**TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

**SEC. 401. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

(a) **STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) **CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

**NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS**

The filing date for the 2023 fourth quarter Mass Mailing report is Thursday, January 25, 2024. An electronic op-

tion is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at [http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass\\_mailing\\_form.htm](http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm) or e-mailed to [OPR\\_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov](mailto:OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov).

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 17, 2024**

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2872 postcloture; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:10 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 11 a.m.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF UNDERSHERIFF  
LARRY KOREN

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Undersheriff Larry Koren for his service and sacrifice to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire on July 16, 2022.

Bernalillo County Undersheriff Larry Koren, Lieutenant Fred Beers, and Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Lieutenant Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Bernalillo County Undersheriff Koren was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he lived his life, attended school, and met the love of his life Maria who he married in 1999.

Larry will be remembered as someone who loved to learn but also someone who loved to share his knowledge. He was a distinguished leader as a law enforcement officer with the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office as well as a qualified aircraft mechanic and helicopter rescue pilot. His love of aviation started in childhood and he pursued his passion and became a renowned pilot and pioneer for the air support unit for Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. His contributions to aviation have provided an invaluable resource to the State of New Mexico, saving countless lives, fighting fires, and conducting thousands of law enforcement air support missions.

Larry was also qualified to teach as a licensed elementary school teacher and college instructor. So deep was the breadth of his giving he learned to save people and to teach them.

Larry was a devoted husband and father. The family enjoyed flights in their personal Cessna, camping, hiking, kayaking, and spending time together. Maria was thrilled to walk alongside Larry on their daily walks. Love surrounded them, joy embraced them, and these peaceful memories will rest within her and their sons. Larry is survived by his wife Maria Koren and their sons Justice and Carson Koren.

I didn't know Larry personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Counties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Larry and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from

their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Larry's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action for us all to remember.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Undersheriff Koren's will never be forgotten.

### RECOGNIZING DAVID KRAUSE

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Krause for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association and Wheat Ridge LocalWorks' 2023 Connected Citizen Award.

LocalWorks' mission is to make Wheat Ridge a more vibrant and sustainable place to live and work. David Krause was nominated by the community for this award because of his dedication to creating a welcoming environment for everyone in Wheat Ridge. He is always giving back, volunteering for events to help local businesses and his neighbors. A dad of two, Mr. Krause always takes the time out of his busy schedule to try and better his community. He is a great example of what makes Wheat Ridge such a wonderful place to live.

Congratulations to David Krause on his many accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for his continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD “DICK” VAN WYCK BUEL, JR.

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Dr. Richard “Dick” Van Wyck Buel, Jr. of Essex, Connecticut. Richard passed peacefully at the age of 90. Throughout his life, Richard embraced a love for education and dedicated himself to spreading knowledge all around his community.

Born in 1933 to Richard Van Wyck Buel and Frances Worthington Thompson Buel, Richard learned early on the value of history, a passion he held throughout his life. Richard at-

tended the Groton School and later Amherst College, from which he graduated in 1955. He followed up this astounding educational background by attending Harvard University to earn a doctorate in history.

Richard made a career of his love of history and learning at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, teaching American history for 40 years. Here, Richard chaired the history department from 1977 until 1980. He also served as associate editor at History and Theory for 22 years and received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation for his impressive research. Upon his retirement in 2002, Richard maintained an office at Wesleyan for another ten years, staying involved in the Wasch Center for Retired Faculty and teaching an American intellectual history course for Wesleyan's Prison Education Program.

In addition to his impressive career at Wesleyan, Richard published six books about different historical topics. One of these books, *The Way of Duty*, which he wrote with his wife Joy Day Buel, was modified into the film “Mary Sillman’s Way,” airing on national television in 1994.

He also edited three books for the Acorn Club, which is focused on producing materials with primary sources that reveal more about Connecticut's history to educate people about the place they call home.

Bringing his passion for history to public service, Richard was President of the New England Historical Association and served on the Connecticut Humanities Council and Connecticut Historical Commission, which later became the Connecticut Historical Preservation Council. Richard also served as an active member of the Connecticut Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

Later in his life, Richard focused on serving his local community. Here, he worked with the campaign to finance the expansion of the Essex Library and helped restore the library's endowment after the recession in 2008. Richard kept himself involved in numerous organizations, serving a four-year term on the library board on top of his service on the Chestnut Hill Concerts and Musical Masterworks boards. He was also president of the Essex Meadows Foundation and volunteered for Middlesex Hospice.

In his free time, Richard embraced his proximity to the shoreline and enjoyed sailing, racing a Blue Jay at the Pettipaug Yacht Club and in a fleet of Ideal 18s at the Essex Yacht Club.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent constituents like Richard. Richard spent his entire life dedicating himself to learning, contributing immensely to our understanding of Connecticut's early history and spreading his passion for knowledge as a beloved teacher and community leader. I had the honor to know him and his wife Marilyn who predeceased him as dear friends and ardent supporters, going back to 2002. His perspective

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

on current affairs, both foreign and domestic, which he shared with me from time to time, was always thoughtful and well informed, which I deeply valued. I ask my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Richard's work and life and send our deepest condolences to his family. Richard is survived by his daughter, Margaret and her husband John Cappens, his stepdaughter Elizabeth Frankel and her husband Donald T. Rave III, and his grandchildren Alexandra, Riley, and Haskel. As we memorialize Richard's faithful service to his community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his memory.

**CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY JACK-RABBITS FOOTBALL TEAM**

**HON. DUSTY JOHNSON**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits football team on their second straight win in the Division I Football Championship Subdivision title. SDSU recently defeated the University of Montana Grizzlies 23–3 to secure the national title win.

This season, the Jackrabbits finished undefeated, winning all 15 of their games. Their undefeated season and ability to reach the playoffs for the last 12 seasons shows the players and coaching staff's dedication to success in the sport.

Under the leadership of first-year head coach Jimmy Rogers, the team finished with one of the best FCS defenses of the season and an offense that often outscored opponents by over 28 points on average. I congratulate the team for all their hard work this season and wish them luck as they prepare for another exceptional season this year.

**IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL LEVISON**

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison for his service and sacrifice to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire on July 16, 2022.

Bernalillo County Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Lieutenant Fred Beers were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison earned his bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of New Mexico while a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard. He continuously served for over ten years with the New Mexico National Guard, in the 210th Red Horse squadron, as a combat engineer. He joined the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office as a deputy in 2017. In addition to his daily duties, he served on many other assignments:

the Emergency Response Team, Gang Recognition & Intelligence Patrol, Field Investigator, Crisis Negotiation Team, Field Training Officer, and the Metropolitan Air Support Unit. Michael lived his life serving his community, country, and family.

I didn't know Michael personally. But his life had a profound impact on me and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District of New Mexico, which includes San Miguel and Mora Counties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen these communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Michael and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by their loss but inspired by their service and their sacrifice. In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Michael's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action for us all to remember.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Deputy Sheriff Levison's will never be forgotten.

**RECOGNIZING DAVIS SCHILKEN**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Davis Schilken, PC Law Offices for receiving the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Business of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year Award is given to businesses within our community who exemplify outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community.

Davis Schilken, PC Law Offices has been serving the community for many years. They work with residents in Wheat Ridge by providing information and resources to help people understand and navigate the legal process. Whether these individuals are planning for the future for their family or business, or if they have lost a loved one, the Schilken firm is dedicated to helping people in the Wheat Ridge community understand complex legal matters with creative, cutting-edge resources.

Congratulations to Davis Schilken, PC Law Offices for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I missed these votes due to a personal matter.

Had I been present, I would have voted PRES on Roll Call No. 1-Quorum; NAY on Roll Call No. 2-H. Res. 947; NAY on Roll Call No. 3-H. Res. 947; NAY on Roll Call No. 4-H. Res. 947; NAY on Roll Call No. 5-H. Res. 937; YEA on Roll Call No. 6-H.R. 788; NAY on Roll Call No. 7-H.R. 788; NAY on Roll Call No. 8-S.J. Res. 38; YEA on Roll Call No. 9-H.R. 839; and NAY on Roll Call No. 10-H.J. Res. 98.

**CONGRATULATING MADONNA BARNES ON WINNING COMMUNITY LIVING, INC.'S 24TH ANNUAL LEGACY BALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MaDonna Barnes on winning Community Living, Inc.'s 24th Annual Legacy Ball Volunteer of the Year Award.

A resident of O'Fallon, Missouri for over twenty years, MaDonna has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to serving her community. In just six years, MaDonna has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to Community Living in order to improve the lives of those she serves. People like MaDonna remind us that there are many Americans working every day to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing MaDonna Barnes for her achievement.

**RECOGNIZING BERKELEY PARK RUNNING COMPANY**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Berkeley Park Running Company for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Berkeley Park Running Company for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 12, 2024, during Roll Call Vote Number 10 on H.J. Res 98, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status", I mistakenly recorded my vote as YEA when I should have voted NO.

I strongly opposed this resolution when it was considered in the Education and Workforce Committee on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, and I signed the minority views opposing the Resolution. I oppose the Congressional Review Act resolution in its entirety and intended to vote NO.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. SANDRA GIOIA TREADWAY, THE 9TH LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA**

**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of the Librarian of Virginia, Dr. Sandra Gioia Treadway, who is retiring after serving in the capacity for the past sixteen years.

The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest government institutions in Virginia and will celebrate its 200th anniversary this year. The Library plays a vital role in the preservation of our Commonwealth's historical documents and manuscripts. Dr. Treadway devoted a total of 45 years to the agency and led it with commitment, poise, and tenacity over the past decade and a half.

Throughout her time as the Librarian of Virginia, Dr. Treadway expertly navigated various challenges and societal transitions that arose, including managing the devastating effects of the 2008 recession and significantly improving access to the Library's resources in our increasingly digital world. She adeptly built and strengthened relationships with the state government and broader library community and spearheaded efforts to ensure the Library meaningfully engaged in statewide commemorations of historical events in our Commonwealth's history. She also played a monumental role in the digitization of countless important historical documents and manuscripts, which will preserve these invaluable pieces for generations to come.

Undoubtedly, Dr. Treadway made a profound impact in the lives of Virginians, bolstering outreach to communities, strengthening our historical research, and promoting the Library's mission and services. She has served our community, Commonwealth, and country with distinction. I commend her on her many accomplishments and wish her happiness in her retirement and best wishes in her next endeavor.

**RECOGNIZING COSMO'S DOG BAKERY**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cosmo's Dog Bakery for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Cosmo's Dog Bakery for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DENZEL BIMPEY**

**HON. RITCHIE TORRES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, Denzel Bimpey was a beacon of joy and positivity in the lives of those around him. His contagious smile, warm spirit, and unwavering kindness touched everyone he encountered. He was a devoted brother, a cherished son, a beloved cousin, and a dear friend to many. His laughter filled rooms and his presence brought light to the darkest of days.

Denzel's brothers referred to him as the star of the family. He was filled with charisma and this personality went perfectly with his wonderful sense of humor, making him an absolute joy to be around. He loved his family just as much as they loved him.

His sister's words encapsulate how important Denzel was to those around him,

"Denzel's light in my life was an emotional masterpiece. He, among my four protectors, stood as a pure-headed soldier, radiating affection in a beautifully unique way. Denzel's sensitivity to emotions, his lack of grudges, and absence of envy made him profoundly special. He was the luminous star in my life, my baby brother, my best friend, my love—the very pulse of my being. May your journey lead you to our ancestors and the heavenly embrace."

His spirit will live on through the love of his family and his community.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I returned home to Green Bay, WI to avoid dangerous travel ahead of the powerful snowstorm affecting the Midwest.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 9, and YEA on Roll Call No. 10.

**RECOGNIZING EM'S ICE CREAM**

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Em's Ice Cream for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Em's Ice Cream for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

**CELEBRATING ERWINA WRIGHT'S ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Erwina Wright on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday.

Erwina "Winnie" Wright was born in Lucas Grove, Mason County, Kentucky, on January 13, 1924. The daughter of Richard and Margaret Soward, Winnie grew up on a farm during the challenging years of the Great Depression.

An ardent believer in the value of education both for herself and others, Winnie graduated from Lewisburg High School in Lewisburg, Kentucky, and at a formidable time for women aspiring to a college education, she went on to enroll at the University of Kentucky where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and organic chemistry.

During the period of World War II, Winnie joined the Civil Quartermaster Corps. This led her to work in the laboratories of Procter and Gamble in Averdale, Kentucky, where her work advanced our country's defense and war efforts.

As World War II neared its end, Erwina Soward married Goebel James Wright, who at the time was a naval aviator involved in submarine reconnaissance completing his advanced flight training in Lake City, Florida. After the war, Winnie moved back to Kentucky where she and her husband established their home for over half a century in the town of Flemingsburg. It was there that they brought up their children, James Wright and Tevis Ann Keating.

While bringing along her family, Winnie pursued a master's certificate in library science. She employed this in her position at the Flemingsburg Library where she encouraged learning, particularly in children's literacy, for over a quarter century.

After her retirement, Winnie and her husband, first as snowbirds and then as residents, adopted the welcoming community of Sun City Center, Florida, as home. There they established new roots and long-lasting friendships. Since the passing of her husband Goebel, Winnie continues to vibrantly engage in civic and social activities and has enjoyed watching her two grandchildren, Kristen Ann and Patrick Wright Keating, grow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Winnie, and as her friends and family gathered to celebrate her one hundredth birthday on January 13, 2024, at the Plaza Club in Sun City Center, the U.S. House of Representatives joins in commemorating and congratulating Erwina "Winnie" Wright on the extraordinary achievements of her century long life.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. DONALD NORCROSS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend the vote on January 12, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 10.

## RECOGNIZING GETRIGHT'S BAKERY

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize GetRight's Bakery for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to GetRight's Bakery for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

IN MEMORY OF RESCUE SPECIALIST LIEUTENANT MATTHEW KING

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rescue Specialist Lieutenant Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department for his service and sacrifice to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire on July 16, 2022.

Rescue Specialist Lt. Matthew King, Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Lieutenant Fred Beers of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office were killed when their helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico.

I didn't know Matt personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Counties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Matt and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Matt's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action for us all to remember.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Rescue Specialist Lt. Matthew King's will never be forgotten.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call No. 9, and "YEA" on Roll Call No. 10.

## RECOGNIZING SHYLOW ATZENBECK

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shylow Atzenbeck for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Shylow has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Shylow, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Shylow's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Shylow Atzenbeck on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

## HONORING THE 39TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL CONTEST

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 39th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Each year, the members of the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated invite community members to gather on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to celebrate and reflect upon his life and his legacy. The pinnacle of this event has become the Youth Oratorical Contest, which brings together students in grades six through twelve for a public speaking competition to honor and celebrate Dr. King's spirit of optimism, public service, racial harmony, and his work to advance human rights through the voices of our youth.

Dr. King had a vision for what our United States of America should be and worked tirelessly toward making it a reality. Our country still faces obstacles that Dr. King fought to remove, and we must recommit ourselves to realizing his vision: "the creation of the Beloved Community."

Dr. King's words continue to inspire our youth, who carry on his legacy and prepare to become the future leaders of our country. Participants in the MLK Youth Oratorical Contest

pay tribute to Dr. King with their ability to communicate with passion and clarity, just as he did. This year, the competition challenged students to deliver speeches addressing the theme, "If America is to remain a great nation, we must..."—inspired by Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech that he delivered on August 28, 1963—on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Six Virginia students presented their reflections on Dr. King's legacy, and they eloquently demonstrated how his words empower them. I congratulate the following finalists and commend them for their participation in the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest: Ashley Gutierrez Garcia—Graham Park Middle School, Rabab Raza—Rippon Middle School, Ebenezer Samuel—Ronald Reagan Middle School, Alyssa Godfrey—Colgan High School, Myles Lanier—Manassas Park High School, and Brooklyn Saunders—Gar-Field High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commanding the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for showcasing the power of Dr. King's tireless commitment to equality and in congratulating the talented youth of the 2024 MLK Youth Oratorical Contest. Let us learn from our young people and consider how we might honor Dr. King's legacy by seeking justice and leading with light in our own communities.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND GREGORY PERRY

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and career of Reverend Gregory Perry of Norwich, Connecticut, who suddenly and sadly passed away this past week. His loss is deeply felt all across the state of Connecticut, because of the enormous, inspirational impact that he made on our community throughout his life. As the pastor of the Greenville Congregational Church, longtime chaplain of Norwich Hospital, chairman of the NAACP's Religious Affairs Committee, and president of the Norwich Area Interfaith Association, Rev. Perry's legacy will be long remembered.

Born in Norwalk, Connecticut in 1952, Reverend Perry's profound spiritualism would manifest early through his involvement at the Grace Baptist Church of Norwalk. He attended Wagner College in Staten Island. While committed to his studies, Rev. Perry met his future wife, Jayne, and they married in 1977. Together, the pair raised three children: Janine, Greg, and Jade. In 1979, Rev. Perry graduated from the Yale Divinity School where he earned two master's degrees.

Rev. Perry was raised as one of four children by a single mother and proved early on to have a tenacious spirit overcoming life's barriers, by teaching himself many basic life skills. Most notably, he taught himself how to put together computers. He combined this skill, with his passion to uplift disadvantaged members of the community, to spearhead a new initiative, "Building Computers for Humanity". Through this program, he provided computers to students of low-income households, who were at that point on the wrong side of

the “digital divide.” Today, access to laptops and the internet are well understood as necessary tools for young people to succeed, by school systems and job training programs. Greg saw this basic need long before; it became commonplace because of his empathy and brilliant intellect. This project typifies just one aspect of the Reverend’s giving spirit.

After entering the ministry, Rev. Perry dedicated his life to providing for his community. At the Greenville Congregational Church, he coordinated impressive community efforts—especially for the annual Martin Luther King Birthday march. He considered the march his “baby,” and invariably looked forward to bringing this event to his community annually. Concluding each march, Rev. Perry would give a speech focused on a common theme: “Different American Realities, Shared American Dreams.” He actively supported interfaith events within the city, such as his participation in the “Way of the Cross” procession, which was an event held along leaders of the Baha’i faith. As president of the Norwich Area Interfaith Association, he and his group met with public officials to advocate for community concerns and conducted public vigils. The Clergy Association is known within the community for its success in carrying out its motto: “Fostering Unity in Diversity in Norwich”.

Moreover, Rev. Perry’s empathetic nature guided him to provide resources for and to connect with those in need. At the Greenville Congregational Church, he opened his services to churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike and spoke with anyone after service. He was known to give money to those who could not afford meals and to offer his home to people without houses of their own.

Working for the equality of all was a tireless pursuit of Rev. Perry, but he also enjoyed his leisure time. He was known for his affinity for motorcycles. He was reported to say that if he had so pleased, he would spend his days riding his motorcycle. Instead, he incorporated the motorcycle into his daily travels. When he arrived at the New London County Bar Association’s Law Day Luncheon to accept the Law Day award, bestowed upon him for his endless efforts to bring unity to his community, he arrived on his beloved motorcycle, winning the prize for the coolest Law Day awardee ever.

The absence of Rev. Perry has been felt by many individuals and groups within and beyond Southeastern Connecticut, in addition to the many members of his family who survive him. I had the distinct privilege to know him as a friend, and joined him at ecumenical vigils, MLK marches, and youth programs year in and year out. No matter how sad the services or challenging the state of the world was, Reverend Perry always had a positive hopeful perspective, grounded I believe in his deep belief in the goodness in people. He was a beautiful soul, who will be sorely missed by his family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gregory Perry now joins the pantheon of great American spiritual leaders who have advocated staunchly for the life, liberty, and happiness of their fellow citizens. He stands shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Isaac Backus, a fellow reverend from Norwich who fought for independence in 1776 and later the codification of civil rights in the newly formed United States. I consider myself immensely fortunate to have represented Rev. Perry as a constituent. His leadership, inclusiveness, and thoughtfulness will be greatly

missed by Connecticut residents, especially those of Norwich. We join in mourning the immeasurable loss of Rev. Perry with his surviving family: his wife, Jayne, and their three children, Janine, Greg, and Jade, their respective spouses and descendants. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Rev. Perry’s example.

#### RECOGNIZING ESTERS PUB

##### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Esters Pub for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association’s 2023 Re-investment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Esters Pub for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD “DICK” OVERHEIM

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard “Dick” Overheim. Dick worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Agricultural Marketing Service for 38 years. He passed away peacefully of natural causes on September 24, 2023, at his residence in the District of Columbia.

During the Korean War, Dick served with the 14th Regiment (Golden Dragons) and the 25th Infantry (Tropic Lightning) from 1953 through 1955. He earned the National Defense Service, Good Conduct, United Nations Service and Korean Service Medals.

After his military service, Dick used the GI Bill to attend Gannon College (now Gannon University) in Erie, Pennsylvania. Earning his degree in Business and minoring in Marketing, he later earned his master’s degree in public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. While at Gannon, he was a member of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity and Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, co-editor of the yearbook and recipient of the Wall Street Journal Award for his work in finance.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dick was an agricultural marketing specialist at the Agricultural Marketing Service. Dick’s research focused on wholesale marketing facilities and farmers markets. One of Dick’s earliest research projects was in Honolulu, Hawaii. His report on the project, “Wholesale Food Distribution Facilities for Honolulu Hawaii,” was published in 1968.

Dick’s report found that Honolulu’s wholesale food marketing facilities were “unsuitable, outdated and inefficient” for the city’s growing population. Dick found these marketing inadequacies affected not only food wholesalers, but also producers, shippers and consumers,

Dick’s team interviewed food marketers to assess their needs in meeting the demand of Hawaii’s growing population for fresh fruits and vegetables, groceries and other food products.

Dick was essential in the development of the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market in Jessup, Maryland. Dick kept abreast of the rapid technological improvements in the production, transportation and distribution of food products and the changing food marketing system. Dick’s research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture helped keep America’s food marketing system operating efficiently. Dick’s published reports are important historical documents for researchers studying the changing U.S. food marketing system, city planning and the growth of state and local food marketing authorities. For 38 years, Dick played a key role in our ever-changing agricultural marketing system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Richard “Dick” Overheim.

#### RECOGNIZING PASTOR SAMUEL LEE PEPPERS LIFE AND SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY

##### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Pastor Samuel Lee Peppers and to grieve his passing. A dedicated public servant, his devotion to his community, state, and nation is worthy of remembrance and commendation.

Pastor Samuel was born on October 16, 1949 in Itta Bena, Mississippi as the 2nd of 11 children in the Peppers family. He graduated from Valley State University before furthering his education at the University of Kentucky. After graduating from UK, he was recruited to the University of Michigan to continue his studies, where he eventually was employed in the Printing Department for over 30 years.

Pastor Samuel came to faith at an early age, and when he moved up to the University of Michigan, he found a new home in the Greater Fountain Church of God in Christ in Ann Arbor.

He served there for over 50 years, having been their Pastor since 1995. His motto was “You have to be ‘FAT’: Faithful, Available, and Teachable to Serve the Lord!” Known by many in his community as a “living embodiment of the Word of God”, he was a man of great integrity and wisdom whose influence will be felt long after his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating and honoring the life and service of Pastor Samuel Lee Peppers. A spiritual leader to many, his presence will be greatly missed but his memory will live on in his three brothers, six sisters, and a host of nieces and nephews. An avid Michigan sports fan and a long-time season ticket holder, he was certainly smiling down on us as our Wolverines finally won the National Championship in Houston this past Monday. Go Blue.

## RECOGNIZING ONYX SVOBODA

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Onyx Svoboda for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Onyx has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Onyx, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Onyx's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School, and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Onyx Svoboda on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

## CONGRATULATING BARBARA GRIFFITH ON WINNING COMMUNITY LIVING, INC.'S 24TH ANNUAL LEGACY BALL LEGACY AWARD

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barbara Griffith on winning Community Living, Inc.'s 24th Annual Legacy Ball Legacy Award.

A resident of Saint Charles, Missouri, Barbara began working in the disabilities field in 1978 and has been involved in various capacities with numerous disability service organizations ever since. Serving as Executive Director and then President and CEO of Community Living from 1998 to 2022, her passion has always been to build awareness and bring about positive changes for people with disabilities. People like Barbara remind us that there are many Americans working every day to improve the lives of their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Barbara Griffith for her achievement.

## IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT FRED BEERS

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Fred Beers for his service to the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties during the East Mesa Fire.

Bernalillo County Sheriffs Department Lieutenant Fred Beers, Undersheriff Larry Koren, and Deputy Sheriff Michael Levison were killed when the agency's helicopter, Metro 2, crashed near Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rescue Specialist Matthew King of the Bernalillo County Fire Department was also killed in the crash.

Lt. Beers joined the Bernalillo County Sheriffs office in 2009. During his time there, he served in many roles, including in the metropolitan air support unit, field services, CSI, SVU, violent crimes, the honor guard, and several other units within the Sheriffs Office.

Lt. Beers passionately believed in the importance of the honor guard. Fred visited all over the state to ensure that every fallen officer was recognized and given proper honors. Often, on his own time, he would travel all over the country to honor fallen officers in other states. Every June, for over the last 10 years, Lt. Beers and other law enforcement officers hiked to the summit of the tallest peak in New Mexico in honor of fallen first responders.

Fred was an avid marathoner and even ran the Boston Marathon. He would run over 100 miles a week to keep both physically fit and mentally clear. Lt. Beers was passionate about living a life of service. He served in the United States Air Force as well as in his community as a track and cross-country coach, a Boy Scout leader, a civil air patrol officer, and a volunteer for the Special Olympics.

Fred believed in the importance of family. He had many roles in life, but the ones most important to him were husband, father, son, and big brother.

I didn't know Fred personally. But his life has had a profound impact on mine and the communities I serve.

I represent the Third Congressional District, which includes San Miguel and Mora Coun-

ties. I grew up on the east side of the Sangre De Cristos. Las Vegas and the surrounding area are where I spent my youth. Over the last year, I have seen my communities devastated by fire and the landscapes washed away by flood.

These once beautiful lands are where we lost Fred and his colleagues. Each of these men selflessly answered the call to protect the land, the people, and the homes so far from their own. I am devastated by the loss of these men but inspired by their service and their sacrifice.

In this sea of grief where we now find ourselves, let's remember they will not be forgotten up north where they breathed their last breath.

The places they protected will hold their love and whisper it in our ears as breezes flow through the plains and mountain valleys. May Fred's memory be a blessing. May his service be an inspiration of love in action.

Sacrifice and heroism are cornerstones of America's history, and Lt. Beers' will never be forgotten.

## RECOGNIZING ZACH SIMS

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 16, 2024*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Sims for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Zach has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Zach, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Zach's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Zach Sims on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

#### Routine Proceedings, pages S105–S124

**Measures Introduced:** Six bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3589–3594 **Page S122**

#### Measures Considered:

**Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2872, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act. **Pages S117–118**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 68 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 9), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S118**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 17, 2024; and that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S124**

**Israel's Human Rights Practices:** By 72 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 8), Senate agreed to the motion to table the motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S. Res. 504, requesting information on Israel's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. **Pages S113–117**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S121**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S121**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S121–122**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S122–123**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S121**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Page S123**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—9) **Pages S117–118**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 9:10 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S124.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 8 public bills, H.R. 6994–7001; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 965–968, were introduced. **Pages H147–148**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H148**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3058, to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and

adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–347);

H.R. 5863, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–348); and

H.R. 6918, to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–349).  
**Page H147**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.  
**Page H135**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.  
**Page H137**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:04 p.m. and reconvened at 4:37 p.m.  
**Page H137**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

**Moving Americans Privacy Protection Act:** H.R. 1568, amended, to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information;

**Pages H137–139**

**Social Security Child Protection Act of 2023:** H.R. 3667, amended, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised;

**Pages H139–141**

**Amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorganize Customs revenue functions:** H.R. 5862, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorganize Customs revenue functions;  
**Pages H141–143**

**Protect Reporters from Exploitative State Spying Act:** H.R. 4250, to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism;  
**Pages H143–145**

**Providing remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland:** S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.  
**Pages H145–146**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### PREGNANT STUDENTS' RIGHTS ACT; SUPPORTING PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES ACT; 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

**Committee on Rules:** Full Committee held a hearing H.R. 6914, the “Pregnant Students’ Rights Act”; H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act”; and H. Res. 957, 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. The Committee granted, by record vote of 5–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6914, the “Pregnant Students’ Rights Act”, H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act”, and H. Res. 957, 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. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 6914, the “Pregnant Students’ Rights Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 6918, the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–20 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as

amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 957, 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, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 957. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. Testimony was heard from Chairman Foxx, and Representatives Scott of Virginia, Moran, Nadler, and Fischbach.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on the Budget:* to hold hearings to examine closing corporate loopholes that reward offshoring jobs and profits, 10 a.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to receive a closed briefing on strategic implications for cross-straits relations of the 2024 Taiwan elections, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member, both of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine five years of the First Step Act, focusing on reimagining rehabilitation and protecting public safety, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

#### House

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Strengthening American Communications Leadership with Open Radio Access Networks", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "A Threat to Every Community: Assessing the Safety, Health, and Economic Consequences of President Biden's Border Policies", 2:30 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled "International Financing of Nuclear Energy", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Flow of U.S. Money into China's Military Might", 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific, hearing entitled "Protecting Emerging Technologies for Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific", 2 p.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, hearing entitled "Safeguarding Dissident Voices: Addressing Transnational Repression Threats to Homeland Security", 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1246, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes; H.R. 2950, the "Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023"; H.R. 5482, the "Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023"; H.R. 5770, the "Water Data Improvement Act"; H.R. 5874, to amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program; H.R. 6443, the "Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act"; H.R. 6474, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; and H.R. 6492, the "EXPLORE Act", 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Biden Administration's Regulatory and Policymaking Efforts to Undermine U.S. Immigration Law", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled "Toward an AI-Ready Workforce", 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled "Returning to the Moon: Keeping Artemis on Track", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The State of Transportation", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "VA Revolving Funds: Are Veterans Being Shortchanged", 2 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, hearing entitled “Pathways to Independence: Supporting Youth Aging Out of Foster Care”, 2 p.m., 2020 Rayburn.

### Joint Meeting

*Joint Economic Committee*: to hold hearings to examine policy approaches to increasing the supply of affordable housing, focusing on rebuilding the American Dream, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 17 through January 19, 2024

### Senate Chamber

On Wednesday, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2872, Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act (the legislative vehicle for the Continuing Resolution), post-cloture.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

### Senate Committees

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*: January 18, to hold hearings to examine national security challenges, focusing on outpacing China in emerging technology, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on the Budget*: January 17, to hold hearings to examine closing corporate loopholes that reward offshoring jobs and profits, 10 a.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: January 18, business meeting to consider S. 1863, to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, S. 2781, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, S. 3412, to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the “Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building”, S. 3570, 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 S. 3577, to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the “Virginia Smith Federal Building”, 10:30 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations*: January 17, to receive a closed briefing on strategic implications for cross-straits relations of the 2024 Taiwan elections, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

January 18, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing from the Secretary of State, 1:45 p.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*: January 18, to hold hearings to examine addressing long COVID, focusing on advancing research and improving patient care, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*: January 17, business meeting to consider the nominations of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member, both of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

January 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on the Judiciary*: January 17, to hold hearings to examine five years of the First Step Act, focusing on reimagining rehabilitation and protecting public safety, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

January 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Adeel Abdullah Mangi, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Jacquelyn D. Austin, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Amy M. Baggio, and Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Jacqueline Becerra, Melissa Damian, and David Seymour Leibowitz, each to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Cristal C. Brisco, and Gretchen S. Lund, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, Edward Sunyol Kiel, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Sarah French Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Kirk Edward Sherriff, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Julie Simone Sneed, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, and Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

### House Committees

*Committee on the Budget*, January 18, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5779, the “Fiscal Commission Act of 2023”; H.R. 6952, the “Fiscal State of the Nation Act”; and H.R. 6957, the “Debt-to-GDP Transparency and Stabilization Act”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, January 18, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Preparing Students for Success in the Skills-Based Economy”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, January 18, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “Fueling America’s Economy: Legislation to Improve Safety and Expand U.S. Pipeline Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

January 18, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled “NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes’ Dealmaking Rights”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, January 18, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC’s Proposed Climate Disclosure Rule: A Future of Legal Hurdles”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, January 18, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “The Myth of the New Cuban Entrepreneurs: An Analysis of the Biden Administration’s Cuba Policy”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, January 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Voices for the Victims: The Heartbreaking Reality of the Mayorkas Border Crisis”, 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, January 18, Full Committee, markup on Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments; H.R. 5736, the “Federal Accountability in Interviews Reform Act”; H.R. 1508, the “Traveler’s Gun Rights Act”; H.R. 1709, the “Tribal Firearm Access Act”; H.R. 5585, the “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act”; H.R. 6976, the “Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act”; H.R. 6678, the “Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act”; and H.R. 6679, the “No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, January 18, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Reporting for Duty: Examining the Impacts of the Department of the Interior’s Remote and Telework Policies”, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

January 18, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 897, the “Alabama Under-

water Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act”; H.R. 3925, the “Youth Coastal Fishing Program Act of 2023”; H.R. 5441, the “Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023”; and H.R. 6235, the “Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

January 18, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; and H.R. 6273, the “Guam Host Community Compensation Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, January 18, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “The Next Generation: Empowering American Nuclear Energy”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, January 18, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing Main Street’s Potential: Examining Avenues to Capital Access”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, January 18, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “Oversight and Examination of Railroad Grade Crossing Elimination and Safety”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

### Joint Meeting

*Joint Economic Committee*: January 17, to hold hearings to examine policy approaches to increasing the supply of affordable housing, focusing on rebuilding the American Dream, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

11 a.m., Wednesday, January 17

**Senate Chamber**

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2872, Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act (the legislative vehicle for the Continuing Resolution), post-closure.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 17

**House Chamber**

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H. Res. 957—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 (Pursuant to a Rule). Consideration of the following measure under suspension of the Rules: H.R. 3058—Recruiting Families Using Data Act.

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