United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 No. 19

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of New York).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 1, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRANDON WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Michael Cramer, New Life Church, Osceola, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Holy, Heavenly Father, creator and sustainer of this universe, You have given us the greatest Nation in the world to care for as stewards of Your people, Your resources, and Your land. Forgive us of our shortcomings.

You have assembled these specific Representatives here today to fulfill a precise purpose in Your sovereign, eternal plan.

You tell us that blessed is the Nation whose God is You. You tell us You give wisdom freely to all who ask.

So we call on You today for Your wisdom in the matters to be discussed and determined. We look to You today for unity. We draw on Your strength. We ask for Your grace and mercy to accomplish all things in a manner that is pleasing to You.

We yield all things to Your complete and sovereign will and pray this in the name of Your eternal Son, Jesus Christ.

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, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. HERN. 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, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING GUEST CHAPLAIN PASTOR MICHAEL CRAMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our guest chaplain, my dear friend, Dr. Michael Cramer, who serves as lead pastor at my home church, New Life Baptist Church, in Osceola, Indiana.

Dr. Cramer earned degrees from Word of Life Bible Institute, Moody Bible Institute, Liberty Theological Seminary, and Grace Theological Seminary.

My parents began attending the church when I was just 1 year old, and my earliest childhood memories are with the Cramer family.

My wife and I were there when he married the love of his life, Jaymie, and we celebrated the arrival of their three children, Bella, Mia, and Ethan. I also stood next to him as a pallbearer at the funeral of his 28-year-old brother, Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I and so many others in Indiana's Second District will forever be grateful for the impact that Dr. Michael Cramer has had on us as individuals, as well as the Kingdom of God.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TRIBUTE TO HOPE ALLISON DABNEY

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

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable American, Hope Allison Dabney.

To all who knew her, Hope's infectious smile and warm demeanor impacted the lives of so many.

Hope was a cherished daughter, sister, cousin, niece, granddaughter, and friend.

She was a dedicated gymnast, a talented singer, a skillful pole-vaulter, a fierce Auburn football fan, and hundreds of other things.

Printed on recycled paper.

As a testament to Hope's character, she volunteered at River Edge, a nonprofit organization in Georgia that provides mental health and substance use disorder treatment, as well as services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The news of her passing at just 26 years of age has left many hearts broken across the country. May we find solace in the knowledge that her spirit lives on in the hearts of those she touched. May Hope's legacy inspire acts of kindness and warmth, echoing the love and friendliness that defines her time with us for so many years.

My wife, Tammy, and I, along with the staff of Oklahoma's First Congressional District unite in prayer for the Dabney family and all those who were blessed to know Hope.

IN HONOR OF DR. FRED PRIMM

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. Fred Primm, who passed away on January 19, 2024, at the age of 57.

Dr. Primm was a true Renaissance man. He was an educator, Air Force Naval Reservist, pastor, teacher, coach, adjunct professor, consultant, a Kappa man, and the superintendent for Sumter County Schools and Bessemer City Schools.

Dr. Primm was truly a respected and beloved community leader. Educated at Alabama A&M, Auburn, and Nova Southeastern, Dr. Primm was a true servant leader, and he led in every aspect of his life. He made his commitment to serving others his life's top priority, and serve he did. Our community and the lives of his students are all the better because of him.

His life is a true testament to the transformational power of education.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional life and legacy of Dr. Fred Primm.

May his family find comfort in knowing that his legacy will live on in the many lives that he touched.

ISRAELI HOSTAGES

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

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Ziv and Gali Berman.

Ziv and Gali are 26-year-old twin brothers. Like many twin brothers with that special bond, they do everything together. They work as light technicians in the same sound and light company, root for the same soccer team, and have traveled the world together.

They were also, tragically, 2 of more than 240 men, women, children, and elderly who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

For 118 days now, Ziv and Gali have endured unspeakable horrors at the hands of their Hamas captors in Gaza. For 118 days, they have had to summon the incredible courage to hope, not sure if they will ever see their home and family again.

I rise today not only to share their story, but also to demand that Hamas release Ziv and Gali immediately, along with the more than 130 hostages remaining in Gaza.

Israel has acted in good faith during the ongoing negotiations. They have shown they are serious about a pause in fighting so hostages can be returned home. It is past time to bring Ziv and Gali home.

It is past time to bring them all home.

DRACONIAN LAWS IMPOSED ON THE STATE OF TEXAS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing the barbaric consequences of the draconian laws that extreme MAGA Republicans are imposing on the State of Texas.

Over 26,000 women have become pregnant after being raped since Texas outlawed abortion with no exceptions. Let me repeat that: 26,000 women. This could be your daughter, sister, cousin, niece, or mother.

Experiencing sexual assault is one of the hardest things that a woman can heal from.

Greg Abbott and Texas Republicans have made it a mission to trap women, destroy their plans and goals, and ultimately chain them to their trauma for the rest of their lives.

No woman should be shamed for what they have been through.

I will continue to fight for reproductive rights and make sure that no woman should be afraid to make the decisions that are right for her. I will always fight for people over politics.

HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since being sworn into office, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has failed in his duty to keep our Nation safe.

In December, more than 300,000 illegal immigrants crossed into our country.

By using so-called parole to allow millions of illegal immigrants into the United States and by ending the remain in Mexico policy, Secretary Mayorkas has manufactured a national security disaster.

This crisis isn't just contained to Texas and Arizona. The deadly drugs, like fentanyl, that have poured into our Nation on Secretary Mayorkas' watch have made each and every State a border State.

It is clear that Secretary Mayorkas is unfit to hold office, that his inaction has cost Americans dearly. It has cost American lives.

It is time for this Congress to impeach Secretary Mayorkas for his failure to uphold the law.

ONE YEAR SINCE DERAILMENT

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this weekend, my constituents in Beaver County and our East Palestine neighbors lived through Norfolk Southern's disastrous train derailment. They caused a massive toxic fireball. Frankly, we are lucky that no one died.

Since then, what has Congress done to protect our communities, to make freight rail safer?

Absolutely nothing.

Folks in western Pennsylvania are sick and tired of being treated like collateral damage in the way of corporate profits.

Those railroad profits have not been shabby. From 2018 to last year, Norfolk Southern enriched their shareholders with $18 billion.

My bill, the Railway Safety Act, is supported by the Biden administration and former President Trump and will make rail safer. This shouldn't be partisan. Along with my Democratic colleagues, I am joined by nine Republican cosponsors, and, yet, nothing has changed.

The railroads are running the show here like it is the 19th century. It is time for politicians to stop carrying their water, to stop treating my constituents and our neighbors like fodder.

We need action. It is time to pass the Railway Safety Act.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

(Mr. GOOD of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the winners of this year's Virginia's Fifth District Congressional App Challenge.

Every year, middle and high school students submit their applications to participate in the Congressional App Challenge, a complex competition where students interested in STEM code an application of their preference.

Adrian Park, Sean Fu, and Emmet Lach from Albemarle High School produced an extraordinary app, called Illness IQ, to help individuals detect and diagnose medical symptoms without having to see a doctor.

After tragically losing a close friend to heart disease, Adrian and his classmates were inspired to develop a tool to access critical medical information in a user-friendly app. The app meets a significant need in the healthcare marketplace, using intricate technology, pre-gathered scientific data, and user input to diagnose individual symptoms with a 97 percent success rate.

I commend Adrian, Sean, and Emmet for their hard work in creating this innovative app, and I encourage them to continue excelling in their academic and professional pursuits.

I am honored to represent these outstanding students in the Fifth District of Virginia.

□ 0915

SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's southern border and immigration systems are dysfunctional, and it has been this way for decades under multiple Presidents and under multiple Houses and Senates under both parties.

Hundreds of thousands of people cross our border every month. Our immigration courts are understaffed with an immense backlog of cases. Much of the fentanyl crossing the border comes through legal points of entry, 95 percent of which is brought by legal residents.

Mr. Speaker, where do we go from here?

We have to find real, bipartisan solutions for a secure border and a healthy, humane immigration process.

While our colleagues in the Senate seek solutions to both, our Republican majority seeks solutions to neither. They would rather keep this issue alive, scare their supporters, and serve the shadow government of the former President.

In the face of progress, they are stalling, orchestrating a sham impeachment, rather than making real policy; policies that could ensure a better funded Border Patrol, up-to-date fentanyl detection technology, well-staffed courts, and an immigration system that supports those seeking asylum, refuge, and opportunity, which is the very story and value of our Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RITCHIE VALENS

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of one of San Fernando Valley's great sons, Ritchie Valens, on the 65th anniversary of his tragic death known as the day the music died.

Richard Steven Valenzuela, better known as Ritchie Valens, was born in my hometown of Pacoima, California, in 1941. Ritchie was only 17 when songs like ''Come on, Let's Go,'' ''Donna,'' and ''La Bamba'' topped the charts, they defined an era of rock and roll music, and opened the doors for future Latino artists all across our country.

On February 3, 1959, Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly, and the Big Bopper tragically lost their lives in a plane crash.

Ritchie Valens' legacy lives on in his music, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and public spaces like the Pacoima Post Office. A Member of Congress' name was inspired by Ritchie.

Ritchie Valens is an example of the amazing talent that exists in our community, and his legacy will continue to be a source of pride for the entire San Fernando Valley for generations to come.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM DUIs ACT

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 980, I call up the bill (H.R. 6976) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 980, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–22 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 6976

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 Our Communities from DUIs Act''.

SEC. 2. INADMISSIBILITY AND DEPORTABILITY RELATED TO DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED.

(a) INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(J) DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction, offense, or acts constituting the essential elements of the offense occurred (including an offense for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction or offense is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law, is inadmissible.''.

(b) DEPORTABILITY.—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED.—Any alien who has been convicted of an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law, is deportable.''.

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

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part D of House Report 118–362, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 6976.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every 45 minutes: that is how often someone in the United States dies in a crash involving an alcohol-impaired driver.

In 2021 alone, there were 13,384 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities. In the same year, drunk driving crashes led to 400,000 injuries. Those crashes don't discriminate. The victim could be me, it could be you, or it could be one of our family members.

This issue hits close to home for me. There was a newlywed couple from my hometown of Enterprise, Alabama, named Angel and Jeremy Seay. I knew them personally.

Angel and Jeremy were riding a motorcycle together when, out of nowhere, an illegal alien under the influence of alcohol collided into the newlyweds with his pickup. Their lives were cut dramatically short.

Sadly, tragedies like this are not uncommon across our country.

Consider this case from Missouri. Just 2 months ago, an illegal alien from Honduras was sentenced for driving drunk at 100 miles per hour and killing a man.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you listen to my Democratic colleagues, you may think

that drunk driving is no big deal. In fact, at a Judiciary Committee markup in 2021, my Democratic colleagues voted down three Republican amendments that would have made certain aliens ineligible for green cards if they had 1, 2, or even 10 DUI convictions.

Despite that, that should come as no surprise.

In 2020, then-candidate Joe Biden said that illegal aliens with DUI convictions should be allowed to stay in the United States. Biden asserted that ICE should not arrest aliens with drunk driving convictions because: You only arrest for the purpose of dealing with a felony that is committed, and I don't count drunk driving as a felony.

Candidate Biden even called for ICE officers to be fired if they arrested aliens without felony convictions.

To President Biden and my Democratic colleagues, today we say: Absolutely not. If you are a guest in this country and you drive drunk, you should be removed from our country, period.

Instead of hearing agreement on this from Democrats, today we will hear these farfetched hypotheticals and accusations that this bill is cruel and too broad.

Instead of engaging in hypotheticals, let's again revisit the facts: Drunk drivers are involved in 31 percent of all crash deaths in the country.

On average, drunk driving has killed nearly 11,000 people in the United States every year from 2012 to 2021. Yet, immigration laws do not explicitly make aliens inadmissible or removable if they drive drunk and recklessly break our laws.

H.R. 6976 changes that, and it creates safer streets and safer communities for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Protect Our Communities From DUIs Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill is just another page from the majority's tired old playbook of inventing perceived gaps in the law and providing overly broad legislation to fix them.

DUIs are a serious problem. Over 13,000 people died in alcohol impaired driving traffic deaths in 2021, and all of those deaths were preventable. However, instead of working on proven solutions like improving access to public transportation and ride-sharing programs so that people have an alternative to driving drunk, Republicans are laying the blame for this problem at the feet of immigrants.

Let me be clear. No one here wants to see individuals who are true threats to public safety eligible for immigration benefits. However, our immigration laws already exclude public safety threats from being able to get visas or legally remain in the country. Under our current laws, this includes those who have committed serious DUI offenses.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, a noncitizen who is convicted of or admits to committing a crime involving moral turpitude, or a CIMT, is generally inadmissible. Likewise, a noncitizen who is convicted of a CIMT, where a sentence of 1 year or longer may be imposed, is deportable.

There is substantial case law demonstrating that serious DUI offenses are considered CIMTs under current law. DUI where the maximum possible penalty is a year or more and where there is serious bodily harm; hit-and-runs; an aggravated DUI; and a DUI involving driving with knowledge of an invalid, suspended, or revoked license are all CIMTs and are, therefore, already deportable offenses.

This means that under current law, the people who are drinking and driving and putting people at risk of harm are already removable. Nonetheless, the majority is not satisfied with this. They want to deport everyone who has ever received any conviction for any DUI offense. Here is the problem with this approach: every State has a different standard for how they define and prosecute DUIs. Some States will charge people with a DUI even if they are not actually driving a car.

For example, prosecutors in Virginia convicted a man of DUI who was inebriated and asleep in the driver's seat of his car with the keys in the ignition so he could listen to music in his driveway. This case, in which the driver never even left his driveway or even turned his car all the way on, went all the way to the Virginia Supreme Court. We cannot rely on prosecutorial discretion in this type of case.

Under case law, the man in this case would not ultimately be subject to removal based on this conviction if he was a noncitizen. Nevertheless, if this bill were to be enacted, such a conviction would lead to the deportation of even a longstanding green card holder.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, we are talking here about longstanding green card holders, not illegal aliens. These are people who entered the country legally, who may have been here for 20 or 30 years, who have American citizen spouses and children.

If this bill were enacted, such a conviction of sleeping in your own car inebriated in your own driveway going nowhere would get you deported.

If this bill fixed a serious gap in the law, I would be supportive. Nevertheless, this bill doesn't do that. It puts people who are here legally at risk of removal for making even a minor mistake that harmed no one, all at a time when immigration courts have historic backlogs and the Republicans are refusing to provide DHS with the resources it needs to enforce the laws currently on the books.

This is purely for show, but I would expect nothing less from a party that has admitted they would rather wait to fix the problems in our immigration system so that President Trump can preserve the issue for his campaign than actually work toward meaningful reform now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Democrats want to pretend that this bill is extreme, cruel, and harsh, as if imposing consequences on aliens for breaking our laws is somehow unheard of.

Yet, guess who also bar drunk drivers entry into ports?

Canada. That is correct.

In at least this one particular area, our liberal friends to the north get it right. Of course they do because it just makes sense. Mr. Speaker, if you are a guest in our country, and you drive drunk or impaired, you shouldn't be allowed to stay here as we wait for you to do it again or to kill or seriously injure someone.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass H.R. 6976 today and make these sensible changes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding and for bringing forth this great bill to protect Americans.

Over the last few days, I have heard more lies about the immigration crisis at our southern border than any other issue since ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, you remember ObamaCare. We promised that you could keep your own insurance company, promised you can keep your own doctor, and promised it would cost less. These were all lies, but the lies about immigration are even greater this year.

This week I heard a Member across the aisle in an apparent theatric and disingenuous gesture of good will falsely refer to me as being his friend as he hurled lie after lie denigrating my colleagues and me. Although I do have friends on the other side of the aisle, this is not my kind of friend.

He hurled lie after lie and insult after insult as he theatrically appealed to those listening or watching on this House floor—which incidentally is against the rules of the House, and I am surprised the Speaker did not call him out of order—as he referred to my colleagues and me as MAGA Republican extremists.

Some people are called Trump phobic. They can't say Trump's name without Republican extremist attached to it.

He claimed that we didn't want to solve the crisis at the border. Calling anyone who wants our country to have a secure border a MAGA Republican extremist is not only a clear sign of acute Trump phobia, but it is clear evidence of just how out of touch some people are with the overwhelming majority of Americans and reality for that matter.

□ 0930

There may be some—however, I don't know them—Republicans, Democrats, or Independents who actually believe

that when somebody breaks into your home, that they are entitled to become a member of your family.

How about being honest here for a change?

He knew, I know, everyone knows, even the most challenged Trumphobics know that, despite President Biden's and Secretary Mayorkas' numerous fantasy denials, there has, in fact, been a crisis at our southern border, and it began when the President took office.

Now, our President finally acknowledges that we have a border crisis and said he will fix it, but only if we give him more money to more quickly process more illegals. That will not fix the crisis at the border.

The bizarre proposal that the border can be secured while still allowing 5,000 illegals a day to invade our country is like claiming it is possible to be half pregnant.

You have a right to stand with the drug cartels, but I and the rest of the MAGA Republicans stand with Texas and the United States of America.

The sovereignty of our Nation, the safety and security of American communities is not up for negotiation. It can only be fixed by the President reversing his executive orders that created the invasion in the first place, or the adoption of H.R. 2.

In the meantime, I am more than happy to support Congressman MOORE's H.R. 6976 to save American lives.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the ranking Democrat on the Immigration Subcommittee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6976.

Once again, the majority is wasting our time by putting forward a piece of legislation that has zero chance of becoming law and that is extraordinarily broad. No one condones driving under the influence. We should do everything we can to prevent people from getting behind the wheel while intoxicated, but this bill, designed to scapegoat and denigrate immigrants, will not solve the serious problem of DUIs.

Public safety threats, including those who have been convicted of serious DUI offenses, are already inadmissible and removable under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and this bill would not change or enhance that.

Under the INA, a conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude where the punishment can be for a year or longer makes an individual deportable. Courts have ruled over and over again that serious DUI offenses that put others at risk are CIMTs and make the perpetrators deportable.

But this bill isn't about serious offenses, Mr. Speaker. Far from it.

The bill says that a conviction for a single DUI offense, misdemeanor, or felony makes you instantly deportable and an admission to such a offense makes you instantly inadmissible. No questions asked.

I can understand, maybe, the appeal of something that sounds like a zero-tolerance policy, but let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, if we had that kind of policy here in the House of Representatives, there would be several Members that would not be Members of this Chamber.

Moreover, by including every single type of DUI offense, this bill would make someone deportable for not driving under the influence. That is because States have a wide variety of opinions on what is a DUI. For example, Arizona's DUI statute allows people to be charged with a DUI if they are intoxicated and have ''physical control'' of their vehicle.

The Ninth Circuit found that the breadth of this statute means—and I am quoting here, ''One may be convicted under it for sitting in one's own car in one's own driveway with the key in the ignition and a bottle of beer in one's hand.''

Because of this, the Ninth Circuit determined that a conviction under this statute was insufficient to count as a deportable offense. As the court put it, ''Drunken driving is despicable. Having physical control of a car while drinking is not''—their words, not mine.

As many places across the country experience cold spells in the last week or so, there are States that would allow prosecution of someone simply if they were sitting in their car with the heat on while inebriated even if it was in their own driveway.

Current law allows judges to use their discretion to look at the broader facts of the case. This bill would strip that discretion away from them and would mandate that even someone whose only crime was sitting in a parked car while inebriated must be deported.

Let's not forget that deportability grounds, like the one that this bill would create, impact immigrants who are here lawfully, those who my colleagues always like to say, ''came the right way.''

By the way, Mr. Speaker, I am one of those. I came here to this country at 16 years old. It took me 17 years to get my citizenship, and here I am as a proud Member of the United States House of Representatives.

Are we really saying that we think the best use of our very limited Federal Government resources is to work on deporting a green card holder who decided to sleep in their car rather than drive home drunk from a bar? A green card holder not trying to drive drunk, just trying to stay warm? I certainly don't think that is a good use of our resources. It is certainly not a good use of our time on this floor.

But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have made it clear that they are not interested in sensible solutions, just in sensationalism. This bill is another example of that.

Also, I hope my colleagues will stop referring to people as illegals. People are human beings. They have different statuses. Some are undocumented. If you want to say some are illegal, but let's not call human beings illegal. I am tired of that language.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), a former law enforcement officer and a good friend of ours.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, President Biden, today, by executive order can end catch and release, cease the exploitation of the parole authority, reinstate remain in Mexico, expand expedited removal authority, and renew building the wall.

By executive order, Mr. Speaker, he can do that, which will stop the illegal immigration by 80 percent, just those executive orders. He can do that today.

Mr. Speaker, I am horrified and I am dismayed. We have been shouting from the rooftops that the border is a crisis for years. And finally, finally, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are beginning to acknowledge there is a problem just in time for an election.

How shocking?

Just like when they switched from ''defund the police'' to pro-police rhetoric in 2022 just before the election. They have this playbook down pat.

Since the President has taken office, Mr. Speaker, there have been over 7 million illegal crossings at our southern border. Over 8.3 million illegal crossings nationwide. Yes, that is right. Our southern border is in such disarray and has sucked up so much of our resources that our northern border is wide open, and the cartels are taking advantage, including in the State of New York where my esteemed colleague, who is claiming time in opposition on the other side of the aisle, is from.

His State is in desperate need of help from illegals taking over their cities, overrunning their public safety, overrunning their schools, overrunning their social services, and he stands up here, Mr. Speaker, and says there is nothing wrong.

This crisis is personal, as it is impacting the safety and security of my constituents. In 2022, Minnesota resort owners along the Canadian border in Minnesota caught illegal immigrants trespassing on their property.

Last fall, a young girl in Bemidji, Minnesota, was sexually assaulted and 11 illegal immigrants were found at the scene.

And just last week, Mr. Speaker, authorities arrested an al-Shabaab terrorist in Minneapolis. The terrorist was caught at the southern border 1 year prior and released back into our country by the Biden administration's catch and release. They allowed him to roam for 1 year in this country, and it is alleged, Mr. Speaker, that he was trading in illegal arms.

I fear it is only a matter of time before another September 11 occurs on our soil, and we must not let that happen.

If Democrats were serious about making our border secure, they would encourage their colleagues in the Senate to pass the already House-passed bill, H.R. 2, the most strongest worded piece of legislation on our border in this country's history.

They can get it to his desk immediately for President Biden to sign, or they would call on the President to use his executive authorities, as I already stated, to reinstate President Trump's policies that were keeping our Nation safe.

But they are not serious, so, yes, I am here today to beg my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote for this bill that would make illegal immigrants convicted of a DUI deportable or inadmissible to our country.

Because of my law enforcement background, Mr. Speaker, I am probably one of the very few Members of Congress who has ever been to the scene of a drunk driving accident where there was a death. One of very few who has delivered death notices to unsuspecting families or victims, and I pray that none of you ever have to deliver or receive such heartbreaking news.

At a minimum, Mr. Speaker, we should keep illegal immigrants who drive under the influence of alcohol and put people's lives in danger out of this country.

To my Democratic colleagues, I ask: Get on the side of public safety and law enforcement all of the time, not just during election years. This is an easy vote, and I ask my colleagues to do the right thing and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 6976.

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6976, the Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act.

I have personally been to the southern border and seen the crisis firsthand. I don't care your political persuasion, all of us know what is happening down there is wrong and needs to be corrected.

The first duty of the Federal Government is to protect American citizens, and this cannot be done without securing our border. I am pleased that the House has taken the steps this week to do so.

It is not clear under current law that individuals illegally in this country can be deported for driving while intoxicated. This legislation would ensure any noncitizen convicted or admitting to driving under the influence would no longer be allowed to remain in the United States. This shouldn't be controversial.

When you drive drunk, you are putting your neighbors and the broader community at unacceptable risk, and that we cannot allow.

Also, this week, we passed legislation that would allow law enforcement to prosecute criminals who intentionally refuse to stop for Border Patrol agents. The practice of running from Border Patrol agents is dangerous for residents, patrol officers, and the fugitive. I hold deep compassion for those who are in circumstances that they feel the need to enter the United States illegally. However, we are a country of laws and need to ensure individuals know they need to enter the United States only through the legal manners.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 0945

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6976, the Protect our Communities from DUIs Act.

I will be on the border Saturday yet again, and it is a total mess. Illegal aliens continue to surge through the southern border and are overwhelming many States, to include those from the other side of the aisle.

In addition to the fentanyl overdoses and cartel violence, drunk driving has been a major issue that has senselessly taken too many American lives.

Last year, 52-year-old Special Olympian Craig Schimming was hit and killed in a car wreck on his way to church by an illegal alien drunk and high on meth.

Devastating stories like this happen far too often across our country, and there is absolutely no reason illegal aliens with DUI convictions should be able to stay in the United States.

The Protect our Communities from DUIs Act would deport illegal aliens who have been convicted of or committed the offense of driving while drunk or impaired.

This is commonsense legislation, and every Member of the people's House should support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, the last few speakers on the Republican side spent most of their time not addressing this bill but addressing the general crisis at our southern border.

The fact is there is a crisis. We all know that. The fact is that one of the major problems—and Republicans say this all the time, and they are right—is catch and release.

Someone is caught or more usually turns themselves in to a Border Patrol officer, claims asylum, and is given a court date 4 years, 5 years down the road. Why? Because we do not have enough asylum officers. We do not have enough asylum judges.

President Biden requested $14 billion to increase the number of Border Patrol men and women and to increase the number of asylum judges and immigration judges so that you wouldn't have catch and release; so that people who claimed asylum would have their cases adjudicated in weeks, not in years.

Those who are entitled to asylum would be admitted to the country and could work and those who are not could be swiftly removed, deported from the country.

Do our Republican colleagues want to do that? No. They don't want to give the President the means of alleviating this problem. They want a campaign issue, and they are very open about it.

You have in the Senate a painstakingly negotiated and extraordinarily conservative—so we hear, I haven't seen the text yet—strong immigration bill negotiated by such liberals as Senator LANKFORD and Senator GRAHAM, and they are going to pass it, in all likelihood.

The Republicans in the House say we won't even look at it. Why? Because the former President, President Trump, said don't pass anything. I want a campaign issue.

They don't want to solve the problem. They want to keep the problem going as a campaign issue, and they said it themselves.

Don't get up here and talk about the problems on the southern border when you won't give this President any of the authority or the means that he seeks to deal with it when you say, as Speaker JOHNSON said, you are not going to even look at the bill from the Senate because it isn't perfect. Since when do we insist on perfect legislation?

Now, Mr. Speaker, let's get to this bill. DUIs are a serious problem, and no one who poses a threat to public safety should be eligible for immigration benefits, but that is already the case under current law.

This legislation is a gross overreach that would lead to absurd consequences and deportation for people who pose no threat to our country, such as the examples we heard of someone who, rather than driving drunk, is in his own car inebriated with the key turned on, listening to music in his own driveway, posing a threat to no one.

Even for people who have been here many years, with American citizen spouses and children, that would lead to automatic deportation while doing nothing that our laws do not already do to deter people from driving under the influence—driving under the influence as opposed to sitting in their driveway under the influence.

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in response to my colleagues on the left. First, my colleagues across the aisle say that it is a campaign issue, that we are trying to make this is a campaign issue.

It is not. They made it a campaign issue when Joe Biden came in day one and did away with the remain in Mexico policy, when they started this catch and release program, and now they are saying they need more money. It is the executive orders that have created the problem on the U.S. southern border.

I have been there a number of times—three times, to be exact—and

Sheriff Dannels told us the best he had ever seen the border in 2018 was under Donald Trump. The worst he has ever seen the border was then, and that was before the recent 200,000 people came across last month.

To get up here and say that the administration needs more money or that they need some law—no. Biden has every tool in the toolbox to shut the U.S. southern border down, and he has continued to create crises for our communities. This government is so good often at setting the building on fire and then wanting to fund the fire department.

We don't need more money. We just need to apply the laws that are on the books and shut this flow down across this border before more and more people get killed and injured in these accidents we are talking about.

The Democrats would prefer to engage in these outlandish hypotheticals and make light of driving under the influence rather than protect American communities from dangerous drivers.

Again, here are some facts. According to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving: Most drunk driving offenders drive at least 80 times drunk before they are arrested.

Additionally, a 2014 article detailed how more than one-third of the individuals who are convicted of driving under the influence are repeat offenders.

The Protect our Communities from DUIs Act ensures that aliens who drive drunk can be removed from the United States after their first conviction—not after the tenth, not after they kill or seriously injure a child of yours or mine or a grandchild—instead of spending time on a 50–State survey of DUI laws to formulate some farfetched hypotheticals.

I encourage my colleagues to grapple with the consequences of drunk driving and support this commonsense bill.

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

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

The Chair understands that amendment No. 1 will not be offered.

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEUBE). Pursuant to clause 9 of Rule 20, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 274, nays 150, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 31]

YEAS—274

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Deluzio
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foster
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Spanberger
Spartz
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—150

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Crockett
Crow
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Higgins (NY)
Hoyer
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lieu
Lofgren
Magaziner
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Soto
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—7

Armstrong
Dingell
Norcross
Phillips
Rogers (KY)
Scalise
Smith (WA)

□ 1029

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. TRAHAN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024, TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

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

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

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 31, 2024.

Re Resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write to notify you that pursuant to New York State Law, I have tendered my resignation as the Representative in Congress for the 26th Congressional District of the State of New York to the Secretary of State of the State of New York, effective at the end of the calendar day on February 2nd, 2024.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

BRIAN HIGGINS.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2024.

Re Resignation from the U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. ROBERT J. RODRIGUEZ,
Secretary of State of the State of New York, Albany, NY.

DEAR MR. RODRIGUEZ: Pursuant to Section 31 of the Public Officers Law, I hereby resign as the Representative in Congress for the 26th Congressional District of the State of New York, effective at 12:00 midnight, the end of the calendar day, on Friday, February 2nd. I am providing concurrent notification to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

BRIAN HIGGINS,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF E. PHILLIP HICKMAN

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

Mrs. KIGGANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of E. Phillip Hickman of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Born in July of 1952, Phil group up in northern Accomack County, graduating from Atlantic High School. He attended Virginia Tech, studying agricultural economics, and returned to the shore upon graduation.

Together with his brother David, they founded Dublin Farms in Horntown, Virginia, and built it into the center of potato growing in the Commonwealth.

Phil was extremely active in the Virginia agriculture community, serving as the chairman of the Virginia State Seed Potato Board, National Potato Board, and countless other local organizations.

Matching his dedication to his community was his next-level enthusiasm for the Virginia Tech Hokies, owning a maroon pickup, an orange boat, and a van dedicated to tailgating. If it was a Saturday during football season, you could count on Phil to be cheering on Tech.

Phil was a devoted family man, raising the next generation of great Virginia farmers at Dublin Farms. He leaves behind a wife, son, daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and his brother.

Phil Hickman embodied the culture and values of the Eastern Shore, leaving behind an unforgettable legacy. The Commonwealth mourns his loss.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beginning of Black History Month. This month, we celebrate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the growth of our Nation.

Black History Month started as Negro History Week in February of 1926. That week was chosen because it included the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

In 1976, they expanded it to create Black History Month. Today, Africans Americans make a difference in every aspect of American life. Black History Month is a time to remember that and highlight the fact that the African-American story is one that is rich and woven into the history of our great Nation.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's economic policies continue to wreak havoc on families across our country, including the Tennessee families I represent.

Prices have skyrocketed by 17.2 percent since the President was sworn into office. The experts tell us these rising prices are a direct result of the deficit spending of the last 3 years, coupled with rising energy costs. However, this administration continues to borrow and stifle American energy growth with multitudes of new and costly regulations.

When President Biden took office, gas prices averaged less than $2 per gallon in Tennessee. Right now, they are more than $3. This is a direct result of the President's ongoing war against American energy production.

House Republicans remain committed to getting our fiscal house back in order by cutting deficit spending and passing legislation that robustly grows our economy to help get us out of the red.

COMMEMORATING 25 YEARS OF FAIRNESS IN MY HOMETOWN

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 25 years of fairness in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

When I was a kid, it wasn't uncommon for someone to be fired just for being gay or kicked out of their home or denied service in a store or restaurant. We don't know how common it was because there was no official body to report it to, because it was completely legal. It is painful to think about.

Fortunately, 25 years ago this week, a citizen-led effort in Louisville resulted in Kentucky's first fairness ordinance, one of the first in the Nation, banning discrimination against our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

I thank everyone who courageously fought for this life-changing achievement way back in 1999.

Today, 24 Kentucky communities and 31 States have these protections. It is time for the rest of our Commonwealth and our country to follow Louisville's lead.

For my entire adult life, fairness has been a reality in Louisville, and we are all better for it.

A WARNING AGAINST THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RULE

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor has announced a new independent contractor rule, which will cost millions of American jobs and be absolutely devastating for our workforce and our economy. We know that, because we have seen the effects of the law it was modeled on, AB 5, in California.

As a warning against the Biden administration's new rule, I am sharing the stories of Californians who have suffered under that law.

For example, Esther said: I help people who don't speak English communicate with medical providers. I am a proud senior, independent and self-sufficient. AB 5 leaves me out of work, unprotected, and isolated. It takes away my pride. It was passed without taking people like me into account.

To spare millions of Americans the same fate as Esther, I am calling on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in Congressional Review Act legislation to nullify the Biden administration's new independent contractor rule.

MAKE THE CHILD TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, we just voted here in the House to bring back the child tax credit, one of the most important and effective efforts to help working families and to lift children out of poverty in generations.

These payments will provide a crucial lifeline to families struggling to make ends meet. The previous child tax credit helped almost 75,000 families across my district alone. Here are some of the stories that we heard.

One said: It was the only thing keeping my family afloat while my partner was able to pursue his dream of starting a business.

Another said: As working parents, we struggled between childcare costs and paying a mortgage. The child tax credit was the only thing keeping us afloat.

Another said: It was the thing that helped pay down my student loans.

These are just a few of the many stories of how the child tax credit gave New Mexico families a lifeline. Here we are this week fighting to get it passed. I will not stop until we make the permanent child tax credit a reality and get it across the finish line.

RESTORING SMART TAX POLICY MATTERS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the tax and regulatory burdens on our businesses are crippling, and it is incumbent upon us to change that.

Last night, Congress took a step in the right direction to do something positive to help businesses in this struggling economy. We came together to pass the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. This bill will spur American innovation and competitiveness, will reinvigorate manufacturing jobs at home, and will restore Trump-era, business-friendly tax policies that spur economic growth.

My east Texas businesses have been asking for a progrowth, projob, and pro-American tax package designed to revitalize our economy and provide relief to American small businesses. Last night, we provided such a package.

Restoring smart tax policy matters. This bill extends the 2017 Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that has a proven track record of incentivizing U.S. investment, lifting families out of poverty, and allowing Americans to keep more of their paychecks.

I stand with our small businesses, and I thank Chairman SMITH for his diligent work on this thoughtful tax policy.

□ 1045

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AMP FIDDLER

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Joseph ''Amp'' Fiddler as we mourn his passing.

Amp Fiddler was born in Detroit and grew up surrounded by the sounds of Motown, rock, jazz, funk, and electronic music.

His big break came when he joined the legendary George Clinton Parliament Funkadelic. It was during this time that Amp honed his skills on the keyboard and synthesizers, contributing significantly to the band's distinctive sound.

Fiddler collaborated with many notable artists, like Prince and is credited with helping launch the pioneering hip-hop sounds of our own Detroit's legendary J Dilla.

He enjoyed a long and successful solo career, marked by his distinctive blend of funk and contemporary sounds. Fiddler always remained humble and dedicated to his craft and our community.

Please join me in recognizing Amp Fiddler, a true guiding force for Detroit's musical culture as we mourn his loss.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as Career and Technical Education Month. In recognizing this month, we are highlighting the value that career and technical education has not just for our students but for our country.

As the co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to be an advocate for CTE and the work that we do to support job training, apprenticeships, and CTE programs.

Skills-based education provides learners of all ages with career-ready skills, giving individuals the tools to succeed and restore the rungs on the ladder of opportunity. A highly skilled workforce is important to the success of our American workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the co-chair of the bipartisan CTE Caucus, Congresswoman BONAMICI join me in introducing a resolution to recognize the importance of career and technical education.

In Congress, I will continue to work feverishly to close our Nation's skills gap and provide our next generation of workers with the tools needed to succeed.

CHILD TAX CREDIT RELIEF

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, after a long fight, and as a senior member of the Budget Committee, we have gotten to a point where we can say to the American people: We care about you, and we care about your families and most of all your children.

The first step yesterday of taking a leap to be able to establish for this Nation permanent child tax credit relief is unbelievable in terms of the lives of America's children. Please be reminded that this is for our children.

I cannot forget the emotions that I felt when I opened up the registration for the child tax relief during the pandemic, when the Biden administration gave that opportunity, and to see the mothers coming in with two and three children, one in a stroller, seeking to be able to get the relief that was needed.

This permanent tax relief must be passed and, again, I will continue this fight into the Senate to ensure that in the middle of filing season this legislation could deepen relief for 16 million children and lift as many as 400,000 children above the poverty line in the first year alone. Increase the maximum refundability of the credit, giving eligible families the option to use their earned income from the prior year. That is crucial to be able to ensure that the child tax credit lifts our children up and helps our families. Let's get permanent child tax relief done.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TIM MONAHAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Tim Monahan for his 15 years of service to the House of Representatives.

A native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Tim began his service to the House by working with the Chief Administrative Officer. He later joined the staff of the House Appropriations Committee, where he worked on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee. Tim then joined the House Administration Committee, where he rose through the ranks, first as director of oversight, then deputy staff director, and finally staff director.

At the beginning of this Congress, Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY elevated Tim to the director of House operations in the Office of the Speaker. He remained in this position to assist with the transition to Speaker MIKE JOHNSON.

In every position, Tim brought an unmatched level of understanding and creativity. He has implemented enterprise reforms that have helped make this a better place to conduct the people's business and improved the lives of everyone who works here.

Tim has become a trusted adviser and friend to everyone, from those serving at the heights of power to the men and women with the often thankless job of keeping this place operating. While Tim's service to the House is coming to an end for now, I know each of us will continue to experience the benefit of that service for years to come.

I thank Tim and wish him good luck in all that is to come.

ALOHA ALWAYS WINS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined thousands of people, ''kama'aina'' ''locals'' and ''malihini'' ''guests'' alike in walking from ''mauka'' ''inland'' to ''makai'' ''the ocean'' in Lahaina in a celebration of unity and healing.

We lost so much in the fires—loved ones, homes, and businesses. The Lele Aloha Ho'ulu Lahaina Unity March reminded us that despite all we lost, we still have each other.

Under a sea of flags representing the countries of both victims and survivors, we walked for everything we lost. With each step we took, we came closer together with shared hopes for Lahaina's future. That day, we walked 4½ miles, but the road to recovery stretches much longer, and we will keep walking together no matter how long it takes.

As ''pule'' ''prayers'' were spoken and ''ho'okupu'' ''offerings'' offered by visiting canoes, we stood and walked side by side, equals in the pride we feel and hope we have for Lahaina.

Next week marks the 6-month anniversary of the Maui fires. While it will be a solemn occasion, the miles that we have walked together remind us that though we have been tested, aloha will always win.

CHEROKEE COMPANY SEND-OFF

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Georgia National Guard's Cherokee Company soldiers.

Over the weekend, I was honored to attend a send-off ceremony in Gainesville, Georgia, for Cherokee Company troops ahead of their deployment to Kuwait. The following day our Nation learned the tragic news that three U.S. soldiers were killed at Tower 22 in Jordan by a drone attack carried out by Iranian-backed terrorists.

During these times of global instability, we must honor, support, and thank our brave servicemembers who answer the call of duty to defend our country, preserve our peace, and protect our precious freedoms. I firmly believe that one of the best ways we can support both our troops deploying overseas and their families is through the power of prayer.

I urge Georgia's Ninth District and all others in our State to join me in praying for strength, wisdom, and protection for our soldiers as well, as for peace and comfort for their loved ones.

Father, may Your mighty right hand protect our Cherokee Company troops, as well as all of our Nation's warriors who serve so that we can live in freedom in the greatest country on Earth. May Psalm 91 be their banner. In Jesus' name. Amen.

BIPARTISAN MAJORITY IS STILL STRONG

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about what is at stake right now, who is here to lead, and who we have to watch out for.

Last year, there was a small number of more extreme Members that took this country to the brink of default, but a bipartisan majority of us voted to stop that and to protect our economy. When the Speaker brought us a bipartisan bill to fix air travel, that same bipartisan majority of us voted to pass that, too.

Is that bipartisan majority gone? No. We are still here.

In fact, last night the Speaker brought to the floor a bipartisan bill to provide meaningful tax relief for families and small businesses, and we passed it overwhelmingly. So bring us a bipartisan budget to protect millions of jobs and critical investments in our families. We will pass that, too.

Bring us the bipartisan bill agreement to fix the border. We will pass that.

The largest majority in this House is our bipartisan majority. Bring us these bills. We will pass each and every one of them, and that is what the American people want and need us to do.

HELP IS ON THE WAY

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Biden economy has taken its toll on Main Streets in northeast Florida and all across America. From stores struggling, to jobs lost, to limited research and development, to chaotic inflation, we are in need of tax relief.

There is a bill that gives immediate tax relief for families, farmers, and small businesses, that launches our economy forward, and finally ends the COVID giveaways. It is projobs, protaxpayer, pro-America.

Mr. Speaker, with the exception of Joe Biden, I don't believe there is another American who genuinely believes our Nation is headed in the right direction.

I have got good news for America. The House has passed the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. Help is on the way.

MICHAEL JOSEPH REED'S STRONG LEGACY

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a dedicated public servant and appropriations policy adviser par excellence, my former chief of staff and friend, Michael Joseph Reed. Michael transitioned on Monday, January 15.

Starting as a Presidential management intern at the U.S. Department of Transportation, he went on to serve two prolific congressional appropriators—Congressmen Lou Stokes of Ohio and Bill Gray of Pennsylvania.

When I got a seat on the House Appropriations Committee in 2003, I needed a seasoned specialist and was blessed to have Michael Reed join my team, first as special assistant, then deputy chief of staff, and finally chief of staff and senior policy adviser.

For 18 years I matriculated in the Michael Reed school of budgetary policy. He was a master. Learning the intricacies of ag policy, he became an asset to me and was highly respected on both sides of the aisle.

Upon leaving the Hill, he was honored by the communities and industries he helped, including the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and the Georgia Peanut Commission, among others. The research and disaster relief he made possible for American agriculture are among his lasting legacies.

Family and friends will celebrate his life in a private ceremony this week. We mourn his loss but thank God that his legacy of service will endure.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL JOSEPH REED

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to honor the life and legacy of an exemplary public servant and friend, Mr. Michael Joseph Reed, who passed away earlier this month.

He spent nearly two decades advising my good friend and colleague, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP, until his retirement from public service.

Michael was a shining example of dedication and service during his tenure on Capitol Hill, serving in many capacities to pass legislation and appropriations that benefited my great State and its citizens, as well as the United States of America.

My wife, Vivien, and I extend our deepest sympathies to Michael's wife,

Mrs. Diane Fields Reed, the entire Reed family, and the staff of Representative BISHOP.

Mr. Speaker, I will say this one last thing about Michael Reed. It didn't matter if you were a Democrat or Republican, especially a Democrat or Republican member of the staff. When you had a question about appropriations, it was Michael Reed that you called to get the straight answer. If he could help you, he would. He was one of the most dependable people I have met in my life.

□ 1100

CLOSURE OF THE ST. CROIX AVIS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Today, I honor the St. Croix Avis, our cherished newspaper, as it has concluded a remarkable 180-year journey leaving a legacy that is both historic and deeply rooted in our community.

Established in 1844, the St. Croix Avis was a beacon of enlightenment. It laid the foundation for a literate Black population. The paper was Black owned and Black run, and symbolized not only the dissemination of information but also the affirmation of the dignity of voicing an opinion.

Over the decades, the Avis has been more than a witness to history, it has been its scribe. From the era of chattel slavery to modern challenges, it has chronicled our evolution as a people and served as an invaluable source of information and engagement in our community.

Let us remember the St. Croix Avis for the history it helped write and for the critical role it played in our community's growth and development.

I thank Rena and her Dad, Mr. Brodhurst, and the previous owners. It will forever remain a cherished chapter in the story of the Virgin Islands and an enduring symbol of our Virgin Islands dignity and pride.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I seek recognition to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Censuring Representative ILHAN OMAR of Minnesota.

Whereas, elected Members of Congress take an oath to ''bear true faith and allegiance'' to the United States, ''without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion'';

Whereas, Representative ILHAN OMAR took an oath of allegiance to the United States upon becoming a citizen, declaring, ''I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen'';

Whereas, on January 27, 2024, Representative OMAR gave remarks at an event in Minneapolis in which she made treasonous statements;

Whereas, Representative OMAR said she has spoken to many Somalians who asked her to intercede for the Somali Government by pressuring the United States Government into certain actions;

Whereas, Representative OMAR assured the Somalians she spoke to, ''the U.S. Government will only do what Somalians in the U.S. tell them to do. They will do what we want and nothing else. They must follow our orders and that is how we will safeguard the interest of Somalia.'';

Whereas, Representative OMAR continued, ''for as long as I am in the U.S. Congress, Somalia will never be in danger, its waters will not be stolen by Ethiopia or others. Sleep in comfort knowing I am here to protect the interests of Somalia from inside the U.S. system.'';

Whereas, George Washington warned in his Farewell Address of 1796 to ''Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism'', and further declared, ''Citizens, by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations'';

Whereas, these statements by Representative OMAR clearly violate the oath she took as an elected Member of Congress to defend and protect the United States Constitution;

Whereas, Representative OMAR has exhibited the treasonous tendencies George Washington warned about, and her actions must be condemned by all Members of Congress who adhere to the oath they took upon assuming office; and

Whereas, by openly admitting her efforts to advance Somalia's interests using her position as a United States Representative, Representative OMAR has revealed herself to be a foreign agent acting on behalf of a foreign government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that—

One, Representative ILHAN OMAR of Minnesota be censured;

Two, Representative ILHAN OMAR forthwith present herself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure;

Three, Representative ILHAN OMAR be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker; and

Four, Representative ILHAN OMAR be, and is hereby, removed from the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILEY). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentlewoman from Georgia will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

WHY I OPPOSED THE TAX BILL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that I was saddened to have to oppose the tax bill that the House of Representatives passed last evening. I could not, in good conscience, vote for a deal that so lopsidedly benefits big corporations while failing to ensure a substantial tax cut to middle and working-class families.

I believe this deal is deeply inequitable, and at a time when we have seen the greatest rise in inequality when big corporations made super profits at the expense of the consumer, it is a mockery of whom representative government works for.

This bill delivers massive tax cuts for the biggest corporations while denying middle-class families the economic security they had under the expanded monthly child tax credit that was passed in 2021.

Let me be unequivocal. This is a reversal of the largest middle class tax cut in the history of the United States. This bill provides billions of dollars in tax relief for the wealthy and pennies for the poor. This expanded and improved child tax credit which we passed in 2021 returns $8 for every dollar spent.

How?

Because the child tax credit helps children learn more, earn more, and grow up healthier, which is why I find it upsetting and appalling that we would condition a limited extension of this life-altering program with a vast giveaway to billionaires and corporations who are already well practiced in paying no taxes.

DISH Network, FedEx, Salesforce, T-Mobile, and dozens of others—and I will later give you the list of the others, Mr. Speaker—these corporations and dozens of others paid no Federal income tax from 2018 to 2020 under the Trump tax law.

At a time when big corporations are richer than ever, the idea that we must evenly split the pot with working and

middle-class families is absurd, but there is no even split in this bill. It is $5 for the corporations and $1 to our children.

Understand, Mr. Speaker, people are calling this an expansion of the child tax credit. It is no expansion of the child tax credit. It is a step backward. That needs to be understood.

When groceries and other costs like childcare have skyrocketed driving record corporate profits of $3 trillion in 2023, it was families bearing the brunt of inflation and high interest rates.

The expanded monthly child tax credit is an antidote to child poverty, it is an antidote to inflation, and it is a successful tool that lifted millions and millions of children out of poverty virtually overnight. One-half of children in the United States were lifted out of poverty—4 million.

Today, families live paycheck to paycheck. Their wages have not kept up with rising costs, the economy is not working for them, and to our great shame, it is children who will suffer the most.

This bill fails to sufficiently improve the child tax credit. It leaves millions of middle-class families without a tax cut like they received in 2021. It keeps millions of children in preventable poverty because of a policy choice. This bill strips working-class families of the true economic security that was achieved with the expanded monthly child tax credit under the American Rescue Plan.

I understand that no bill that can become law, especially in a divided government like we have today, is going to be perfect or have everything that we want.

I am grateful for the hard work of Representatives NEAL and PELOSI, Senators BENNET, BRAUN, BOOKER, and WYDEN on the bill, and for the Members who spoke out and offered amendments to improve it, Representatives DELBENE, SANCHEZ, and MOORE—Congresswoman MOORE is here today and will speak in short order—and Representative SEWELL and Representative DOGGETT.

An extension of the expanded monthly child tax credit is what our constituents need and deserve. It worked. It worked better than any other Federal program that we have seen. As I said, it lifted one-half of our children out of poverty and lowered the hunger rate in the United States by 26 percent.

We lowered the child poverty rate, and today the rate has gone from 5.2 percent to 12.4 percent, and, yes, working families, middle-class families, and vulnerable families have seen their wages decline as a result of pulling the rug out from under them with the expiration of the child tax credit.

It is the one best thing we can do to improve economic well-being and secure the most vulnerable American families and to bring back the largest middle class tax cut in history. This was a lost opportunity. It leads the way to in 2025 making the Trump tax credits which benefited the richest one-tenth of 1 percent of the people in this country and the biggest corporations in this country, it leads the way to moving in that direction. It can't go there. We have to stop that, and we have to make sure that we will.

I look forward to continuing that fight to have an expanded and an improved child tax credit that we delivered for all families in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), who will become the chair of the Education and Labor Committee come 2025.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her longtime commitment to the child tax credit. We know it works, and she has been the most dedicated advocate for the child tax credit that we have in the United States Congress today. I thank ROSA DELAURO.

When congressional Democrats and President Biden enacted the American Rescue Plan in 2021 without a single Republican vote, we prioritized the economic well-being of working families with the expanded monthly child tax credit. The expanded child tax credit under the American Rescue Plan reached 61 million children and reduced child poverty by nearly one-half, lifting nearly 3 or 4 million children out of poverty.

In contrast, this bill is expected to lift only 500,000 children out of poverty when it is fully phased in. So this is not an extension of the child tax credit that we passed in the American Rescue Plan. It is not as generous, it does not help the lowest income families, and unlike the ARP plan, there are no monthly checks. People do not pay their bills once a year. They pay them monthly. So the impact of this program will not nearly be as strong as the former child tax credit that we passed in the American Rescue Plan.

So this deal fails to reinstate the economic gains made for working families, and it fails to come anywhere close to the reduction of child poverty achieved under the American Rescue Plan. While providing only $33 billion in benefits for children, this bill prioritizes $185 million in tax cuts for corporations that were included in the 2017 Trump tax scam.

□ 1115

It is overwhelmingly lopsided in favor of big corporations that are already paying historically low tax rates as a result of the Trump tax scam. What is even more egregious is that the bill makes the tax breaks for corporations and businesses retroactive and immediate, while not doing the same for working families. This doesn't make sense from either a budgetary or a public policy perspective, and is a bold display of misplaced priorities.

It is notable that congressional Republicans sanctimoniously complain about the national debt and budget deficits.

Earlier this month, Republicans on the House Budget Committee even passed the so-called Fiscal Commission Act because they were seemingly so concerned about the national debt and claim to want to do something about it, and yet, they consistently abandon all sense of fiscal responsibility when it comes to enacting corporate tax cuts.

In fact, before the bill has even come to the floor, we just passed the tax cut last night costing about $200 billion that, when fully phased in over 10 years, will cost about $700 billion over the 10-year period.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, I voted ''no'' because this fiscally irresponsible tax deal is too lopsided in favor of corporations and special interests, while failing to provide equivalent support for working families.

Mr. Speaker, I thank ROSA DELAURO for her advocacy for the child tax credit and for families.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia because he is someone who has been an emphatic champion for education and for working people in this country, and as someone who is always at the forefront of what makes sense in terms of providing for the economic security of people in this country, and particularly in children.

Mr. Speaker, he just hit the nail on the head that this is a question of just such gross inequity that is going to be foisted on our families and our children. The people who are standing up and talking about the expansion are just fooling themselves about what this bill is about. They need to take a look at who the beneficiaries are.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Congressman SCOTT for his work now and what he has done in the past and what he will continue to do in the future in this body. I thank him so much for being here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, Congresswoman GWEN MOORE, who sits on the Ways and Means Committee. She will talk about her amendment, which was defeated on a party-line vote, but she is someone who is never afraid to stand up and to speak out, and she did so last night on this floor in opposition to this lopsided tax deal.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. DELAURO for putting together this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I felt really compelled to come to the floor because 1 minute last night during the tax debate did not seem to be an adequate amount of time to explain why I adamantly opposed the tax bill in its current iteration.

Mr. Speaker, what I have been told is that a half a loaf is just better than no loaf at all; that this tax bill was a compromise, and that somehow as a legislative body and as legislators, we ought to be used to compromising, but I just didn't want to capitulate.

I didn't mind compromising, but I didn't want to capitulate. It wasn't

just that we passed this tax bill that supposedly was an improvement for the child tax credit, but we passed $600 billion of tax breaks for businesses, which is the job of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what Members of this body have against poor children. Are we in some sort of Dickensian reality here, like in a novel by Charles Dickens, where 5-year-olds have to go to work to take care of themselves?

Part of what is flawed about the so-called improvement in the child tax credit is that it relegates children's well-being and their ability to get a supplemental income based on their parent's income.

If you are married and you are a stay-at-home mom and your husband makes $399,000 a year, I am happy that we provide you the full credit because, even at that income level, we ought to recognize the tremendous expense that it is to raise children. We ought to consider the benefits of providing shelter and good food and good nutrition for children, but why is it that those children in that home are more deserving of a supplement than a child who lives in a household where a parent makes less than $22,000 a year?

Why?

Why is it that this body perceives that the lowest income children living in those households, that their parents need to put in a greater work effort?

Well, I asked the Joint Committee on Taxation to do a little arithmetic for me, so that I could sort of understand the thinking behind what my colleagues were saying. They said people need to work. Children need to see their parents going to work before they just get this welfare money and this free money.

Well, under current law, if a single mom gets out there and gets herself a minimum wage job, doing her part, she is only required under our welfare policy to work 20 hours a week, but if she gets out there and finds herself two minimum wage jobs paying 7.25 an hour and she goes and does Uber or Instacart after she finishes her two part-time jobs, then and only then will she be eligible for the tax credit.

I don't know who takes care of her kids while she is working more than 40 hours per week in order to qualify for the child tax credit. I mean, that is just criminal.

As my colleagues have pointed out, in this same package, we have corporations that are getting stuff like research expensing. I think R&D is a legitimate tax break, but there is research expensing that can hardly be called ''research.''

We also provide billions of dollars for bonus depreciation, which is really quite wasteful in our economy for companies to be able to buy new equipment year after year after year because they can expense it and write it off. And while they are able to write off their business expenses, we are writing off millions of children whose parents don't have tax liability.

So companies can have no tax liability, pay no taxes, and get $600 billion and parents, who have no tax liability, get nothing.

Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for the purpose of a colloquy.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. As a refundable tax credit, there are about 61 million children who are able to benefit from this provision, and yet I see through all of the talking points and literature and analyses of this proposal, that we are just supposed to be happy with this half loaf because now 16 million kids and 400,000 more are going to benefit from this proposal.

Is this correct?

Ms. DELAURO. First of all, the point that you have made and that Congressman SCOTT made, these tax breaks for the richest corporations, they are immediate. They are immediate.

The child tax credit, this has to be phased in over a 3-year period of time, and it is a lower number than they had with the original expanded monthly child tax credit, which was $3,000 for kids between 6 and 17, $3,600 for kids who are under 6.

It is a lower credit, and then they phase it in in terms of refundability, and the most vulnerable kids are excluded altogether. It is astounding the inequity of all of that.

Now, what we did with the child tax credit, which was in the American Rescue Plan, the monthly credit reached 61 million children.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Sixty-one million children?

Ms. DELAURO. Yes. There was about 4 million kids lifted out of poverty, almost half the kids in the U.S. lifted out of poverty.

Now, what we are talking about in this tax deal is 400,000 kids they talk about being lifted out of poverty versus 4 million. Plus, the 60 million that is made reference to is some piece of it at some portion in some time during this phase-in, et cetera, will be the beneficiary of a much lower tax credit. In addition to that, what people are saying is that we have expanded the child tax credit.

Folks out there are going to believe that they are going to be getting what they got in 2021, and it is misinformation. It is just about trying to put a veneer on what has been done here in giving the biggest corporations, as Congressman SCOTT pointed out in this 3-year period, $185 billion versus $33 billion for the child tax credit.

Give me the facts, and that is what we try to do. That is what we have tried to do in the last weeks since this proposal came out is give people the information, the accurate information about what is here. They are hiding it. They are hiding it. And you know what, as I said, it is an unbelievable missed opportunity.

I have to say this: I was told when we first went forward on the child tax credit, I wanted it to be permanent. They said we can't do it. We can't afford permanence. I said 5 years. Can't do it. Can't afford it, 5 years. I said 3 years. Can't afford it. I said 1 year, and then they asked me would you support 1 year of expanded monthly child tax credit, and I said yes.

As I mentioned earlier, the most successful Federal program that we have seen coming down the pike that met its mission in lifting kids out of poverty and providing families with economic security, helping them to deal with the cost-of-living effort.

I was also told at that time: Rosa, we do it for a year, it is not going to go away. It is not going to go away. It went away. And the first opportunity that we had to restore the child tax credit, we failed.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. We pushed more kids into poverty.

Ms. DELAURO. That is right. The kids have gone back into poverty, and it is preventable, as you pointed out. This is preventable poverty. We know the answer and we have refused to take that answer and move forward on it. That is what happened here last night

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for the purpose of a colloquy.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. As you mentioned, I had a proposal, a compromise.

Ms. DELAURO. Your amendment. Go for it.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. It was a compromise. It was not what I wanted. I wanted a fully refundable tax credit, but I was looking at our current work requirements for this tax credit and I said to myself—even though a work requirement really defies the whole purpose of a child supplement—if we were to compromise and had a work requirement, why would someone, who through no-fault of their own, finds themselves working for $7.25 an hour; they are subject to rules under our welfare reform protocols, under our TANF legislation, to work 20 hours a week when they have young children.

I had the Joint Committee on Taxation do an analysis and if a woman with two kids worked 20 hours a week, did everything that was expected of her, she still would not qualify for this tax credit.

And if she wanted to get a fully refundable tax credit, she would have to neglect her children in order to do it. She would have to work more than 40 hours, Mr. Speaker, in order to qualify.

That is slavery, you all. I mean, why are we continuing to cling to these old models of financing our economy and deciding that women, who by definition are typically single parents struggling to raise their kids, must work more than 40 hours in order to receive a benefit from their government?

Why is that?

What do they have against these poor children?

Ms. DELAURO. You ask a very relevant question. We have seen Congressman CASAR, Congressman SCOTT, yourself, we have seen it on this floor, the denigration of working families in this country. It is that they don't work. When we talked about the child tax credit, they said: Well, they are not going to go to work, that they are going to spend the money on drugs.

And when we got the data of what happened in that 1 year, we found that women used the money for childcare so that they could go to work; that the money was used to buy food, to pay rent, to buy school supplies, to pay for healthcare, for a mortgage payment

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. For childcare.

Ms. DELAURO. Childcare was one of the biggest issues, because then it allowed people to go to work.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. And it incentivized them to work.

Ms. DELAURO. That is right. It is because they wanted to denigrate working folks. They say these corporations and these folks are the richest one-tenth of 1 percent who cut coupons, that is the work. They exercise their fingers with scissors and cut coupons, or the corporations who deal with stock buybacks, that is okay. They are not held accountable, but by God, we are going to put it to people who are trying to make ends meet, trying to deal with the cost of living and inflation today. And that child tax credit helps them do that and we pulled the rug out from under them.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, my only proposal was to have a more generous phase-in.

If you are going to require people to work, why not allow them to have 40 percent of the credit after the first $2,500 of income. That way, someone who was working and trying to meet all of the program requirements, a TANF recipient, could go to work and feel some dignity—as they claim that you get—some dignity going to work, making work pay.

They go and do their 20 hours, and they are able to have time to deal with their children and help them with their homework.

□ 1130

They get the earned income tax credit. They are playing by the rules, and all we do is just move the goal post further and further away. Under this bill you cannot work your way out of poverty, and we are going to make sure you stay there.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments. You hit all of the points on this. Look, you just said it, children and families with zero to $2,500 in earnings get nothing—get nothing. Corporations who have avoided any kind of a tax liability get everything that they ask for, and the business community and the corporations put the red lines down, and when we had our red lines, they got blurred, and we walked backward, and we gave them everything they wanted. We made it retroactive. We said go for it, take it—laying the groundwork for next year. We said we are going to skimp on this child tax credit and make sure that it doesn't reach all of those who need to be reached in order for us to turn poverty around in this country, which we proved that we could do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASAR), who stood up yesterday on this floor and voted ''no'' on this tax deal last night. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his interest, for his progressive nature on this stuff, and for all of the issues that face working and middle-class families in this country and make this a more equitable society.

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I opposed the tax bill last night. To me it was pretty simple, because whether I am in Austin, Texas, or San Antonio, Texas, whether I am in a group of seniors or with young people, in front of more liberal constituents or conservative ones, one of the most common questions I get asked is: Why is it that I and everyday Americans pay such a higher effective tax rate than some of the biggest corporations in this country?

How is it that FedEx and T-Mobile would pay none, zero, in Federal income tax at all?

And the answer is: Look no further than the bill that we voted to pass last night, which provided tens of billions, if not hundreds of billions, in giveaways in corporate tax breaks.

Importantly, as folks have noted, packaged into the bill is a watered down partial return of the child tax credit, which thankfully, will help thousands of families. But for every dollar going to kids in the bill, $5 goes to corporations.

So in short, instead of helping thousands of kids, we could have helped millions of kids. We have the money to pull kids out of poverty, to ensure that people in this country are housed, fed, and educated. The money is there. In this case, the money was sitting right there in this bill—just in the wrong people's pockets.

We have to be willing to move the money from corporate pockets over to kids and families. We could provide working-class and middle-class tax cuts. We just have to be willing to fight and negotiate harder to end the giveaways to billionaires.

Mr. Speaker, just like the ranking member, I am open to compromise, but instead of a deal where corporations get $5 for every $1 that kids get, what about a compromise where kids get $5 for every dollar that corporations get?

I oppose this bill because we can do so much better. It is such a missed opportunity. We have to be willing to say no to deals that are so lopsided that workers get crumbs while corporate executives get a full steak dinner.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has made such very good points. It is a missed opportunity. That is the regret in all of this.

Again, I was told that you get it for a year, it is not going to go away. Well, not only did it go away, but it came back as a much watered down proposal. What is equally troubling is the number of people who are out there saying that this is an expansion. It really is doublespeak to the American people. It isn't an expansion. It is moving backward.

The notion that half a loaf is better than none, something is better than nothing; we cannot afford that kind of a philosophy going forward. That is not our job. Our job is to advocate for the American people, for those working families, those middle-class families, those vulnerable families, for children. That is what we should do here. We have that obligation.

When corporate profits have skyrocketed $3 trillion in 2023, how do we in good conscience say, amen, you get millions and millions of dollars in tax breaks? Your goal is to get to $600 billion. We cannot draw that line in the sand and say no.

I believe in research and development—we all do—but the inequity that is built into this tax package is stunning. To use the words of my colleague from Wisconsin, it is a capitulation of saying amen, it is okay, and that we will fight another day. No, we had a moment to fight, and we missed that moment.

We are not stopping. We are not stopping.

I heard a lot of people last night say that: well, we will get to it next year, and we will get the child tax credit to where it was. You know, it was not just a mental note. I made a list of the folks who talked about getting us to where we need to be. Time flies. We are going to hold people to their words here.

We heard that it is not ever going to be permanent. Well, we are going to hold you to that, as well. If we are going to make anything permanent, it has to be the child tax credit. It is the antidote to inflation. It allowed families to be able to achieve economic security that they had not seen in a generation because their wages haven't gone up in generations.

That is what is on the minds of people today, how they are going to economically survive. We had that opportunity to give them that help.

I don't put aside helping 400,000 kids, but we could have helped many millions of kids in what we call preventable poverty.

We don't understand what our values are, who we are, why we are privileged to serve in this institution. We can look at public policy in a way that makes a difference for people.

The great Joseph Stiglitz, who is a Nobel laureate in economics, said that inequality is not because of globalization or modernization, but it is the public policy choices that we make.

Last night, this body made a public policy choice to continue the inequality and inequitable advantage that corporations have over their lives, their families' lives, their kids' lives.

That is not the direction we are going in. We will continue the fight that we have started here. This now goes to the United States Senate, and let's just see how we can influence the process there. We will continue until there is a permanent child tax credit.

What is important that has come out of this debate in the last several days is that we have raised the decibel level on a child tax credit, its success, and its future and its future as permanent for this country. We are going to keep it on that front burner, and we are not going to let it go.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT of Virginia, Congresswoman GWEN MOORE, and Congressman CASAR for being here this afternoon, and, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1145

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of someone who I believe is one of the best staff members in this institution—Mr. Tim Monahan.

I first met Tim a few years ago during his tenure with the Committee on House Administration. As with me, Tim has left a lasting impression on many here in Congress.

Anyone who has ever met Tim probably remembers their first impression of the Gettysburg neighbor who some refer to as a grizzly with a Philly charm.

As you get to know Tim, you learn just how steadfast, generous, and kind he really is. He is the kind of person who can handle anything that is thrown his way, whether it be big feelings, awkward moments, and even the most outlandish member requests.

Tim first started on the Hill at the Office of the CAO during Speaker Boehner's years where he learned the nuts and bolts of our institution.

Later serving on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, Tim deepened his institutional relationship while ensuring his work was for the greater benefit of the House.

He joined ranking member Rodney Davis at the Committee on House Administration at the beginning of the 116th Congress where his natural leadership skills quickly stood out, and he was soon appointed staff director for the committee.

In 2023, Tim took over the House operations for Speaker Kevin McCarthy where he remained a steady hand during several unprecedented moments, including staying on through the transitions of Speaker pro tempore MCHENRY and now-Speaker MIKE JOHNSON.

So much could be said about Tim's dedication to our institution and the people working here. I could talk about his vital role in reopening the House post-pandemic, his conflict resolution skills, his role in the first House filibuster, his helping Congressman DAVIS carry Representative Wright to safety on January 6, 2021, staffing a historic 15 rounds of votes for the Speaker of the House, his mentorship and leadership for the past 15 years, or his deep, resolute patriotism.

Tim possesses an honor and respect for the halls of Congress that is admired by many. He gets to know and cares about all of those who work within its walls and works hard to ensure that our Capitol remains a functional beacon of our constitutional Republic. Tim's legacy in the House will be his strong character and his servant leadership.

Everyone who knows Tim is better for it. As he prepares to leave the House, our institution is better, thanks to his service.

Tim, we wish you all the best in this next chapter of your life. Hopefully your departure from the House will allow more time with your lovely wife, Marissa; your baby daughter, Marian; and your puppy, Bella.

Some of the staffers you have worked with have had some parting wishes for you. We hope the soup is plentiful in the next cafeteria, the nuts are absent, and that you have more time to listen to JLo and dream of Tiger Woods' comebacks.

Please, they said, if you ever try the grocery store sushi, Pringles, and kombucha combo again, please don't share.

To me, Tim has been not only a great member of the House staff, but he has been a close confidante and a good friend.

He has been instrumental in helping me with some of the greatest moments in my tenure as a Member of Congress, but he has also helped me through some of the most difficult times. Tim Monahan is the gold standard of this institution, and more should aspire to be like him.

Tim, we will miss you. God bless you.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to comment on a variety of things. Like always, I like to use this time to bring the Chair's attention to stories that I don't feel our mainstream media is doing an adequate job of covering.

A couple comments before I delve into these five stories. First of all, Congressman LOUDERMILK gave a shout-out to one of his staffers who is leaving.

This will be the final week that Kyle Amato of my office will be working for me, and I thank him publicly for the great job he does, particularly putting out the newsletters that everyone around the 6th Congressional District of Wisconsin likes.

The second thing I would like to do is I really didn't care for the form of the child tax credit that has been discussed so much today, but I thank the people for putting it together for this one reason.

Normally around here when we pass legislation designed to benefit the children, we leave out the children of what I will call the working middle class.

In other words, if you are hardly working at all, certainly if there is not a man in the house, this institution gives more and more benefits to people of that demographic.

We did something the other day, which is almost unheard of. We extended those benefits to the middle class.

While there are certainly problems with the way it is laid out, if you are a married couple making 120 grand a year and have a couple kids, you are going to get the child credits just as you would if you weren't working at all. Small favors, but I would like to point that out.

Now, the first issue that I don't think has been adequately addressed around here is there has been, I think, misinformation spread on the conflict between Israel and Hamas or Israel and Gaza.

We are supposed to be very sensitive and say Hamas is one group and Gaza is another group; but, in fact, Hamas—at least the polls show—is wildly popular in the West Bank and also, of course, popular in Gaza; and Gaza elected Hamas.

I think too many people feel it is a historical conflict, and, in a way, we heard this in a speech from a prominent American earlier today.

They are kind of treated as two sides of the same coin. In fact, that is not true, and I would like to talk a little bit more about how the people in Gaza should be so lucky, so grateful—realize how lucky and grateful they are that they are living so close to Israel.

There are far too many Americans in general, and congressmen in particular, who define this conflict as between two sides apparently equal or close to equal.

In fact, Gaza has been treated incredibly fairly and generously by Israel. When Gaza was set up as kind of an independent—I don't know what you would call it—principality a while ago, the Israelis removed the Jewish temples from the area despite the fact that in Israel proper, there are 400 Muslim mosques.

In Gaza, Israel felt, well, okay, if they don't want them, they shouldn't have to put up with temples in that area.

Not only that, they physically removed Israelis who were living in Gaza. Maybe you remember this. They physically grabbed and removed them from Gaza to the rest of Israel.

Apparently, the Gazans did not have to put up with Jews living in Gaza. That was bending over backward. It was almost barbaric.

Then Gazans were able to work in Israel. Israel is a wildly successful Western country on the Mediterranean. As a result, I think the second biggest source of revenue for people in Gaza was working in businesses in Israel.

That is their major source of income, along with foreign welfare that they didn't work for at all. It largely comes from Europe.

When Gaza was set up as an independent or somewhat independent principality, they were given greenhouses so they could take over those businesses and make money.

Of course, the Palestinians on their own destroyed the greenhouses because they didn't want to accept something that was tainted by previously being Jewish businesses, which is kind of offensive. I don't think the public really knows that.

I think one way you can tell whether you are put upon and have things tough or whether you have things easy is other people want to be like you, or people are running away from you.

Already, at the time of the barbaric acts in October, there were over 10,000 people from Thailand living in Israel and working in Israel. In other words, they came halfway around the globe from Thailand to Israel to work in Israel.

At first, I was kind of stumped when they said that Thai nationals were killed by Hamas in Israel or Thai nationals were taken hostage in Israel.

I thought what in the world are people from Thailand doing in Israel. Actually, they knew it was so wonderful working in Israel that they came halfway around the globe to work there.

As a practical matter now, since Israel can no longer trust the Palestinians, those jobs are going to be opened up to people around the world.

Not enough people know that, right; be they people from India—which is a booming country in its own right—Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Kenya, Malawi.

They are coming from around the world to replace the Palestinian workers who are fortunate enough to have jobs in Israel.

By the way, those Gaza citizens who worked in Israel were making far more money than your average person in the Arab world is making. They just lucked out that they were near enough to Israel, and they could grab these good jobs.

Now that they kicked them away by killing so many Israelis, they are going to be replaced by other people all around the world.

One thing that I think has not been publicized anywhere near enough is there are talks of 25,000 people from Ecuador who may come to Israel to work.

Think about that. The Gazans think they are so put upon that they have to kill the Israelis, chop off their heads, chop off the heads of children, and, meanwhile, people in Ecuador are coming halfway around the world with possible plans of taking 25,000 Ecuadorians to live in Israel and take those jobs.

That is something that every American should know. They don't know it because the American press is not covering it.

They are allowing people to believe, oh, those poor Gazans. They don't realize that people from Thailand or Ecuador or the southern part of Africa would move halfway around the world—goodbye to their families—to be in heaven, to work in Israel.

By the way, there is another item that ought to be pointed out with regard to how well the Arabs in Israel have it.

Not long ago, there were efforts made for a two-State solution. Bad idea, but, nevertheless, they talked about doing it.

At the time when they talked about it, they thought okay, in this area of land we call Israel, we are going to have some of that land be Israel and some of that land be Palestine.

So people don't have to be offended, the Israelis living in what would become Palestine would move to Israel, and the Palestinians living in what would become Israel will move to Palestine.

It seemed at first blush kind of a commonsense thing. You know who screamed bloody murder? The Palestinians who were going to have to move to Palestine and leave Israel because when push came to shove, they know that their children would be a lot freer, get a lot better education, and be a lot more economically well off living in Israel than they would in Palestine.

Palestine would probably become another State like Gaza, kind of a crooked State in which whatever leadership they vote for takes the foreign aid and keeps it.

By the way, some of you older people—I don't know how old the Chair is—remember Yasser Arafat who many, many years ago was running Gaza.

Apparently his ancestors now, they got out. They are living in Paris. They don't want to live in Gaza. They are living in Paris high on the hog with all the money that Yasser Arafat managed to make off the foreign aid the West was sending to Gaza.

□ 1215

In any event, I would ask the press to report a little bit about these land swaps—even that is kind of an old story—and in a new story, point out all the people from around the world who would like to live in Israel and replace the Palestinians who kicked away the great jobs that they had in Gaza, and particularly pay attention to what is going on in Ecuador and how many people from Ecuador are going to come halfway around the world to be grateful to have the jobs that the Palestinians kicked away who were living in Gaza at this time on the beautiful Mediterranean Sea.

Now, the next thing I want to talk about, and I don't think has been adequately addressed, we reported on the tax bill yesterday. I am not sure you could call it a major bill. There were good things in the bill and bad things in the bill, as you can imagine, because it was part of negotiations between Republicans and Democrats.

As I mentioned, the child tax credits probably have an element of welfare in them, which is bad. On the other hand, they did go to the middle class, which is one of the few things that we don't phase out and say because you are making $60,000 a year, we are going to take them away from you and punish you for working, or punish you for getting married.

There was another provision in there that I really disliked, even though I voted for the bill, because overall, the positives outweighed the negatives, but it is a provision that was only in there because the press corps does not highlight it; that is, low-income housing tax credits. It is a little bit of a boring topic, but I ask the Chair to indulge me a little bit.

There are a variety of ways in which the Federal Government—it is none of their business to do it, by the way—in which the Federal Government tries to provide low-income housing for people. One is by giving a low-income housing tax credit to property developers of low-income housing.

We tweaked that credit for only a 2-year period and only a certain subset of that credit yesterday in the bill. The press corps ought to talk a little bit about these credits, because I don't think that they would survive the light of day, or survive appropriate attention by the mainstream media.

My problem with them is in addition to my problem with all Federal mucking around in low-income housing, particularly low-income housing that is not for the elderly. For the elderly, I guess I can say positive things for it. For the disabled, I can say positive things about it.

The low-income housing tax credit means that when the Federal Government gets involved, a huge beneficiary is, quite frankly, well-off property developers. So you understand what happens, when developers take advantage of low-income housing tax credits, they get a credit equal to 9 percent of the total cost for a 10-year period. Because there is a time value of money, it means that when they build low-income housing, the government pays for 70 percent.

In other words, if I am a well-off property housing developer, the government gives me 70 percent of the cost of that building and I only have to put in 30 percent, at a minimum. There are, I am told, places around the country where the States and local governments give them further incentives.

I think a lot of these people, by the way, make campaign contributions. I think they are politically well-connected, as you can imagine, to take advantage of such a generous credit.

In any event, it is a very complicated thing. You might say what happens if the property developer does not have income tax to offset with the credit. What happens is, then they sell the credits to somebody else, frequently banks. We not only have beneficiaries of what is supposed to help with the low-income people go to an incredibly generous subsidy to property developers, but banks are able to use the credit to show the FDIC, or whoever, the banking regulators, that they are socially conscious, so they get a little bit of a benefit there as well.

There are some anecdotes I have heard about this—by the way, an accounting firm puts out an explanation of the tax credit. The tax credit by itself kind of makes your eyes glaze over. People wonder where paperwork comes from. The accounting firm that puts it out devotes 1,400 pages to an explanation for a credit. Even if there are other things you like, you should know if Congress is passing a program that takes 1,400 pages to explain, you know it is a bad program.

I think, by the way, it is complicated on purpose so you confuse Congressmen into voting for it. Because the government, not surprising, is paying for 70 percent of the cost of that apartment, that apartment, in general, costs 30 percent more than an apartment would if it was built in the private sector without having the government muck around. Right off the bat, there is a big problem there.

I know a property developer in Wisconsin who builds normal apartments, not aimed for low-income housing, not taking advantage of the generous credit. He tells me that the people with the low-income housing credit frequently outbid him for the land, because the government is paying for 70 percent of the cost. Think about that. If you want somebody to build apartments for the middle class, they can't get the prime location in town because the low-income credit is so generous that the person with the low-income housing will always outbid them.

Another thing that happens when the government pays 70 percent of the cost of something, you have a nicer apartment—because after 20 years it is no longer low-income housing—a nicer apartment than people who don't have low-income housing have. I have heard that complaint. I have heard people looking for new apartments, and they find the nicest apartments in town they are not eligible for because they are the low-income housing units. That is what happens when the government pays for 70 percent of the cost of the unit. Not to mention, there is the possibility for crookedness there, because if the government is paying 70 percent of the cost of anything, doesn't it encourage your subcontractors to jack up the prices because the government is paying for 70 percent? Of course it does.

Now, this new increase in generosity in the low-income housing credit will expire in 2 years. They were able to get this thing through because naive people, first of all, thought it was the Federal Government's business to get involved at all, but nice people felt that the low-income housing tax credit benefited low-income people. They didn't realize it was a payoff to well-connected property developers.

If the press corps would wake up and write articles about this program, it would not survive the next 3 or 4 years. The only reason this program, which I consider to be about the most questionable part of the Internal Revenue Code—the only reason this thing is able to survive is because the slumbering press corps does not report on it.

Now, there are a lot of programs on it. I don't like to highlight one nonprofit, but the Cato Institute has a great expose about this program out there, if you want to find it on the internet. It is about 5 years old, but it is as accurate today as it was then. If you think the Internal Revenue Code is used by well-heeled people to get things in there, this is for you.

I strongly encourage the press corps to pay attention to the low-income housing tax credits. Like I said, it is a waste of taxpayer money. I am the type of Congressman who tries to look out for the average guy. These are provisions stuck in the Internal Revenue Code to benefit the well-off, the politically well-connected. Just because they put kind of a nice-sounding title to it, ''low-income housing tax credit,'' you think they are looking out for the poor. They are looking out for the well-heeled property developer. That is the second thing that our slumbering press corps should pay attention to.

The third thing I want to talk about is an issue we have talked about many times before, but since I last addressed the Chair, we released the figures on the number of people coming across the border.

Now, I had guessed the last time I was up here that for the first time ever we would have over 300,000 people a month crossing the border. I remind people that back in the days of President Trump, that number was, depending on the month, around 10,000 or 12,000. We have gone from 10,000 or 12,000 people a month crossing our border what I will call illegally—because I think they are asking for asylum they don't deserve—from 10,000 or 12,000 to—this is just shocking; whenever I look at it, I can't believe it—370,000. We have gone up about 30 times as many people crossing into the United States as we did 3 years ago.

The American public ought to be absolutely appalled. We have an administration with Joe Biden, who fumbles around and says: Well, I guess maybe we should do something about that. Maybe Congress should meet with me, and we should try to do something.

The American public should know, the fact that we have gone up from 12,000 to 370,000 has nothing to do with Congress; it is the inability of the Biden administration to want to enforce the law. This is something they want by design. Instead of 12,000 people coming here illegally every month, they want 370,000. If they went back to the policies of President Trump, the stay-in-Mexico situation, we would reduce this number by 85 percent.

Now, it would still be over 50,000. We still have more work to do. It would still be a disaster. Just by the signing of a piece of paper, he could knock that 370,000 figure back down to 40,000 or 50,000.

Pointing out other things that are going on that the mainstream media is not doing a very good job on. In the 370,000, there were about, one more time, 12,000 unaccompanied minors. There is another thing that has gone up exponentially under this administration.

The mainstream media purports to care when families are separated. I will tell you, when you have 12,000 people cross the border without their parents, that is family separation. Those kids should be turned around and sent back to their parents or contact their parents. Now, we don't do anything like that at all. If the child shows up and they have got a piece of paper on their T-shirt that says ''deliver me to Uncle Joe in Portland, Oregon,'' we buy them the plane ticket, we deliver them to Uncle Joe. We don't do DNA testing to see if it really is Uncle Joe. It is a recipe for human trafficking when people want to take advantage of young children, but the press allows it to happen.

Under President Trump, they screamed about family separation when it was only a very temporary thing for a very small number of kids. Now, you have 10,000, 11,000, 12,000 kids a month, no big deal. We don't talk about it.

The next thing to remember is that even once these kids are placed with sponsors, the Biden administration does not follow up to see where they are. Estimates vary, but somehow, I think somewhere between 30,000 and 80,000 kids we have lost track of. In other words, we have let 15-year-olds, 14-year-olds, and 12-year-olds in the country, and after a few months, we don't even know where they are.

I would strongly encourage the press corps to report on the volume of people who came here in December. Even I, as opposed to the Biden administration as anybody, was expecting that number to come in 310,000, 320,000. Instead, it is 370,000. They blew away the old record by about 50,000, more than I ever would have dreamed.

We have to remember, in addition to all the people coming into our country, changing our country, committing crimes in our country, in addition to that, we have a situation in which they are bringing drugs in the country. We have to remember that over 100,000 of our citizens are dying every year from illegal drug overdoses.

I know there are some hardhearted people who say: They took the drugs

themselves; we don't care. Apparently, the Biden administration is in that category, because they don't do much to stop it. You would think any normal President, just to save the 100,000 lives and prevent all of these drugs from coming into our country, would close the border on that alone. The press, again, does not report it.

□ 1215

I was old enough to remember the Vietnam war. In 12 years in the Vietnam war, 57,000 American troops died, and it was reported constantly and should have been reported constantly. That was news when our troops were dying in Vietnam, 57,000 over 12 years.

Now, we have 108,000, every year, dying from illegal drug overdoses. It happens in county after county, and it is swept under the rug because the mainstream media doesn't want to embarrass the Biden administration, so we don't talk about 108,000 people a year dying.

Of course, is there any effort made to close the border or any effort made to prevent it? No. No effort is made to prevent it.

It is a story that every local newspaper in the country—they are easy to find—ought to be reporting, not only the number for America as a whole; they ought to be pointing out how many people died, say, in the State of Wisconsin, or whatever State their paper is sent. They should be reporting how many people are dying in the county.

You will find out, I would think, for almost every county in the country, probably every county in the State, if you added up all the murders and all the car accidents together, the number of people who are dying of illegal drugs is way over that total. We put car accidents with fatalities in the paper all the time because it is a tragic thing; people like to read about it or want to be informed about it. We obviously put local murders in the paper all the time.

There are 108,000 Americans dying every year with spouses, with parents, with children. Let's sweep it under the rug, says the mainstream media. I will tell you, if you put that in there, people would pay attention to those stories.

The next issue that I don't think has been covered enough and I will talk about more next week, but we had one more committee hearing in my subcommittee on wokeness in the military.

Our current General Brown, who was previously head of the Air Force and is now head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, prior to coming in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, publicly said he wanted to reduce the number of officers in the military from 67 percent White men down to 43 percent White men.

I walk around my district, and I ask average people. I said: Do you know the most important member of the military in the country has said his public goal is to reduce the number of White officers in the military from 67 percent to 43 percent? Almost nobody knows. The rest of the people are shocked.

I told this to a Vietnam veteran who fought in Vietnam. I thought he was going to break down and cry right there when he found out what was happening to our military. They have taken the single most important agency in the United States, and they run it like it is some stupid community college, where it doesn't matter who we promote, where we don't have to pay attention to merit. Who cares? I can go to a cocktail party and brag about how many Hispanics or how many Asians or how many Native Americans are in the military. I no longer brag about how good my military is or how strong it is. I brag about how diverse it is.

The press does not know what is going on here. In my committee, there were inferences that we also were playing games with who gets into our military academies—West Point, Air Force Academy, Annapolis. I nominate those people, like all Congressmen do every year, but the testimony was they are putting a thumb on the scale as to who gets into them.

It is just offensive. It mirrors what is going on in other parts of the country.

They pay people $190,000 a year to be diversity experts, to say: Oh, this person is registered as this, this person is registered to that. I believe, when they do it, they do it like they do in the private sector and have been doing this for 50 years. You self-identify, so we keep this fiction going that, if you are one-quarter Peruvian, that you are a protected minority and you bring a diverse view of the world.

I don't know why, if somebody has a grandmother who is Peruvian and grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, you have a unique view of the world and it is important to give you preferences to get a promotion in the military, but that is apparently how we are operating right now. In any event, all of the American public should be aware of that.

If our military is not number one in the world, we are going to be in big trouble, baby. One of the only reasons why we are number one in the world is because we do have the strongest military in the world, and to begin to say our promotions should no longer be based on merit but should be based on looking around and finding somebody from—I don't know—South Africa or whatever is preposterous.

Now, I will remind the Chair one more time that we are adding a new minority group to be given preferences right now. President Biden wants North Africans and Middle Eastern people—people, if you draw a line from Morocco all the way to Iran, he wants them considered as a special group who is in need of protection, as well. This will mean that if somebody emigrates here from, say, Egypt, and President Biden gets what he wants, they will also be considered a special case, in need of special protection, and being given preference over the native born.

It is so divisive. Not only do you not have the best people necessarily getting the job, but it is so divisive because you are teaching our military—rather than you are one, we are all one unit, we are all American, you are taking the military and saying: You should walk around with a chip on your shoulder. You are a Hispanic American, you are an African American, you are a Native American, you are an Asian American, you are a Middle Eastern American, and it is just the beginning of the end.

I strongly hope, when we come to the appropriations bill—and we made some progress—not as much progress as we wanted in the authorizing bill, but I hope that our team, when it comes to the appropriations bill, removes all of these horrible DPI positions.

Our military, a lot of people tell us it is underfunded. I am not sure that is true, but people tell us that. To pay 190 grand a year for these people is, quite frankly, ridiculous, and it is something that should be reported in the mainstream media.

My fifth story that we are going to cover today that the mainstream media is not going to pay attention to is we had a prayer breakfast earlier this morning in the Capitol. In the past, we had that prayer breakfast outside the Capitol. We would take a bus a mile away or rent something in a hotel. Today, we did it right here in the Capitol, which is fine, saved a few bucks; that was good. President Biden came over, gave a little speech, which was good.

In any event, the main speaker was the Chaplain of the Senate, and the Chaplain of the Senate was very animated, gave quite a long sermon. However, it was an interesting sermon, because I believe he called for a fast of all Americans of once or twice a week. It wasn't a full fast. I mean, you could drink water. The fast would end every day at 3 o'clock.

Nevertheless, I thought it was interesting that Reverend Black from the U.S. Senate, who claimed there are a lot of Senators or Members of the Senate—I think maybe he was mentioning staff, too—who fasted frequently. Of course, he quoted several Bible verses in both the Old and New Testament in which the Israelis fasted. Jesus' disciples, after he left, were going to fast.

I thought it was interesting that we had such a student of the Bible, the Chaplain of the Senate, who has been here since 2003 that was calling for a fast.

I think it is something interesting and ought to be in your local newspaper if you want to know what is going on around here. I mean, it was a prayer breakfast. A significant number of U.S. Senators and Congressmen attended. The President of the United States attended. Wouldn't you think they would cover it?

I bet, if I look in the mainstream newspapers tomorrow—the Washington Post, the New York Times, et cetera,

the Milwaukee Journal in my area—they will not cover the fact that the longtime Chaplain in the U.S. Senate called for a fast.

So those are five stories that have been underreported. We will ask, if there are any members of the mainstream media that we see, whether their newspapers covered them. If the stories are even a little bit old, it doesn't mean they shouldn't be in there.

To me, if you are a mainstream newspaper, a citizen who reads you every day should be informed, and every one of these five issues, I think somebody who reads the Washington Post; the Philadelphia Inquirer, if that is still around; the Milwaukee Journal, would not know these five issues.

I am going to go through them again:

The degree to which people all around the world are looking to replace these Palestinians as far as doing work in Israel.

The horribleness, the waste of the low-income housing tax credits which would not survive the mainstream media paying attention to it.

What is going on at the border, the degree to which, in December, we just blew away any previous totals of people coming across there, and the degree that we have to do something.

The wokeness in the military—that is the fourth issue—the degree to which the current head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is overtly saying that he does not want the best people running the military if they happen to be White.

Also, that the Chaplain of the Senate was such a Bible-believing guy that he called on the Congressmen and Senators who were there today to begin to fast, and he actually told us that a lot of the U.S. Senators are already fasting.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

IMPOSING CERTAIN SANCTIONS ON PERSONS UNDERMINING PEACE, SECURITY, AND STABILITY IN THE WEST BANK—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–102)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 212(f) and section 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 8 U.S.C. 1185(a)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the situation in the West Bank, including in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction. Such actions constitute a serious threat to the peace, security, and stability of the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, and the broader Middle East region and undermine the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. I find that these actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and I have declared a national emergency to deal with that threat.

The order authorizes the blocking of property and interests in property of any foreign person determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

(i) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged or attempted to engage in, actions—including directing, enacting, implementing, enforcing, or failing to enforce policies—that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the West Bank;

(ii) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged or attempted to engage in, planning, ordering, otherwise directing, or participating in certain actions—including acts of violence or threats of violence targeting civilians, efforts to place civilians in reasonable fear of violence, property destruction, or seizure or dispossession of property by private actors—affecting the West Bank;

(iii) to be or have been a leader or official of certain entities that have engaged in, or whose members have engaged in, such activities;

(iv) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, any person blocked pursuant to the order; or

(v) to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person blocked pursuant to the order.

The order also authorizes the blocking of property and interests in property of any foreign person determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, to have committed or have attempted to commit, to pose a significant risk of committing, or to have participated in training to commit acts of terrorism affecting the West Bank. In addition, the order suspends the entry into the United States of any noncitizen determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

The order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. It directs the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to implement the order as it applies to visas, and it directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to implement the order as it applies to the entry into the United States of noncitizens. All executive departments and agencies of the United States are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to implement the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 1, 2024.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, February 5, 2024, at noon for morning-hour debate.

RULES AND REPORTS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(d), executive communications [final rules] submitted to the House pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1) during the period of September 14, 2023, through January 3, 2024, shall be treated as though received on February 1, 2024. Original dates of transmittal, numberings, and referrals to committee of those executive communications remain as indicated in the Executive Communication section of the relevant CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–3016. A letter from the Director of Oversight, USDA Office of Congressional Relations, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay [Docket No.: APHIS-2018-0007] (RIN: 0579-AE73) received January 30, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–3017. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Corporation For National and Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Annual Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 3045-AA86) received January 25, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3018. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties received January 30, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3019. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3020. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Damascus Flight Information Region (FIR) (OSTT) [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0768; Amdt No.: 91-348D] (RIN: 2120-AL91) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3021. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Minden-Tahoe Airport, Minden, NV; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1006; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWP-65] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3022. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0027; Project Identifier 2023-01202-T; Amendment 39-22653; AD 2024-01-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3023. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Bedford, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2114; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AEA-17] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3024. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hutchinson, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2116; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AGL-29] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3025. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Jackson, OH [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2113; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AGL-28] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3026. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Statesboro, GA; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2051; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-38] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3027. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Natchez, MS [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2115; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-40] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3028. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Ozark, AL and Columbus, GA; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1352; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-55] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3029. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-302 in the Vicinity of Acequia, ID [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1548; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANM-62] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3030. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1715; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00548-T; Amendment 39-22640; AD 2023-25-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7181. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report ranking the organizations of the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H.R. 7182. A bill to authorize the National Guard to take such actions as may be necessary to repel persons attempting to enter the United States from Mexico who are carrying weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 7183. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used to provide certain gender transition procedures to minors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. MFUME, Mr. FERGUSON, and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 7184. A bill to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DUARTE (for himself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. VASQUEZ):

H.R. 7185. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Prevention Act of 1998 to include new requirements for assessments and reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York):

H.R. 7186. A bill to provide for the integration of participant treatment within the Continuum of Care Program with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 7187. A bill to modify eligibility requirements for amateur sports governing organizations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 7188. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a national, evidence-based education campaign to increase public and health care provider awareness regarding the potential risks and benefits of human cell and tissue products transplants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 7189. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. DONALDS, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 7190. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security to treat illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 7191. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require States to set aside certain funds to carry out highway safety improvement projects to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities at high-risk pedestrian crossings; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. CHU, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. BERA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LIEU, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. WATERS, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. KILEY):

H.R. 7192. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the ''Dr. William I. 'Bill' Kott Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7193. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for exclusion of air quality monitoring data that is directly due to a catastrophic or beneficial use wildfire from use in determinations with respect to exceedances or violations of the national ambient air quality standard for any air pollutant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 7194. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to codify a Federal cause of action and a type of remedy available for individuals significantly exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to encourage research and accountability for irresponsible discharge of those substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUNCAN (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MANN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. FRY, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SELF, Mr. BACON, Mr. OGLES, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 7195. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect and enhance the mailing of firearms, ammunition, and components thereof; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 7196. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the impacts of seasonal and nonresident homeownership on data collected by the Bureau of the Census, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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

H.R. 7197. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a study on the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene a consortium on such environmental impacts, and to require the Director to develop a voluntary reporting system for the reporting of the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 7198. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. STEIL, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 7199. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the ''Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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

H.R. 7200. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a hydrogen infrastructure finance and innovation pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 7201. A bill to secure Federal access to scientific literature and other subscription services by requiring Federal agencies and legislative branch research arms to make recommendations on increasing agency library access to serials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BOST, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FALLON, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SELF, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 7202. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on funding provided by the United States to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. SYKES, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 7203. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to grants for beach monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 7204. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 with respect to the Susquehanna, Delaware, and Potomac River Basin Commissions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 7205. A bill to authorize additional district judgeships for the districts of Colorado and Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 7206. A bill to designate the United Nations Relief and Works Agency as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 7207. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from selecting certain activities relating to the development of anti-racism plans as clinical practice improvement activities under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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

H.R. 7208. A bill to reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 7209. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Caribbean and Latin America Maritime Security Initiative to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Caribbean and Latin America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Ms.

MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 7210. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 7211. A bill to improve honesty in pet sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Mr. MANN, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 7212. A bill to address the behavioral health workforce shortages through support for peer support specialists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 7213. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to [enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism / reauthorize certain programs with respect to autism spectrum disorder?], and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 7214. A bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 7215. A bill to express the sense of Congress that aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws should not receive any benefit under the Medicare program or under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BACON, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. SELF, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 7216. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise regulations to remove the requirement under the Medicare program that an ambulatory surgical center shall report the COVID-19 vaccination status of health care personnel; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Mr. NICKEL):

H.J. Res. 109. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to ''Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121''; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.J. Res. 110. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to ''Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. FALLON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SELF, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. OGLES, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. ROUZER, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BOST, Mr. ROSE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ESTES, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.J. Res. 111. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. TITUS):

H. Res. 991. A resolution condemning all acts of violence, oppression, and abuse against ethnic minorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 992. A resolution recognizing February 4, 2024, as ''World Cancer Day'', and its theme ''Close the Care Gap'', to raise awareness about and launch efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic inequities and disparities in cancer care both in the United States and globally; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MANN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TRONE, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. BOST, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. STEIL, and Ms. KUSTER):

H. Res. 993. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''Career and Technical Education Month''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUITONAL AUIHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7181.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of State to submit a report ranking the organizations of the United Nations.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 7182.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Defense of the United States by the Armed Forces

By Mr. McCORMICK:

H.R. 7183.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 Article 1—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 7184.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Data Access

By Mr. DUARTE:

H.R. 7185.

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

U.S. Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, cl, 14, relating to the Congress's power ''to make rules for the Government . . .''; U.S. Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 3, relating to the Congress's power ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes''; and U.S.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To, amend the Office of National Drug Control Prevention Act of 1998 to include new requirements for assessments and reports to combat fentanyl

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 7186.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill integrates participant treatment within the Continuum of Care Program with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 7187.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To modify eligibility requirements for amateur sports governing organizations.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 7188.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would enhance initiatives to prevent tuberculosis outbreaks from infected donor cell and tissue products through public awareness campaigns and civil penalties for public health violations.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 7189.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill reauthorizes the National Congenital Heart Disease Research, Surveillance, and Awareness Program for 5 years.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 7190.

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

Article 1 Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would require the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department of Homeland Security to treat illicit fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction.

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 7191.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require States to set aside certain funds to carry out highway safety improvement projects to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities at high-risk pedestrian crossing

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 7192.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the ''Dr. William I. 'Bill' Kott Post Office Building''

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7193.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Clean Air Act to provide for exclusion of air quality monitoring data that is directly due to a catastrophic or beneficial use wildfire from use in determinations with respect to exceedances or violations of the national ambient air quality standard for any air pollutant, and

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 7194.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

PFAS

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 7195.

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

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation protects and enhances the mailing of firearms, ammunition, and components thereof via the United States Postal Service.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 7196.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; . . .

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the impacts of seasonal and nonresident homeownership on data collected by the Census Bureau.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 7197.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a study on the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence.

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 7198.

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

Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Making amendments to the Executive Branch regulatory process.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 7199.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution: ''Congress shall have the power . . . to establish post offices and post roads.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill renames a United States Post Office in Muskego, Wisconsin after Civil War Colonel Hans Christian Heg.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 7200.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Infrastructure

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 7201.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Streamlining Federal Access to Scientific Research.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 7202.

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:

Prohibit Federal funds to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 7203.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to grants for beach monitoring.

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 7204.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

infrastructure

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7205.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize additional district judgeships for the districts of Colorado and Idaho.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7206.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate UNRWA as a foreign terrorist organization

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 7207.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from including the development of anti-racism plans as a qualifying clinical practice improvement activity under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 7208.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Traumatic brain injury

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 7209.

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

Article I, Sec. 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

National Security

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 7210.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 7211.

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:

This bill addresses the sale of animals as pets, including by requiring certain disclosures by a seller to a purchaser, prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts with respect to the sale of an animal as a pet, and restricting the licensing of certain pet dealers.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 7212.

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

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support peer support specialists in aiding recovery from substance use disorders.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 7213.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:
Autism
By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 7214.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To complete a study on the maternal care military service members and their dependents receive at military facilities.
By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 7215.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Sec. 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To express the sense of Congress that aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws should not receive any benefit under the Medicare program or under the Medicaid program.
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 7216.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Health
By Mr. FLOOD:
H.J. Res. 109.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To nullify the SEC's ''Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121''
By Mr. BALDERSON:
H.J. Res. 110.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to ''Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds''
By Mrs. FISCHBACH:
H.J. Res. 111.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Disapprroving of the Department of Energy's rule related to the Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 286: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 308: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 521: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 537: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 619: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 694: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 704: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. WILD, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 732: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 814: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1077: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1179: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1280: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1328: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WILD, Mr. DOGGETT, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1342: Mr. NICKEL and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1399: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 1406: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1462: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 1477: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1509: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 1610: Mr. GOOD of Virginia and Mr. CARTER of Texas.
H.R. 1700: Mr. EZELL.
H.R. 1818: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2530: Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 2573: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2704: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2706: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2742: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 2830: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 2870: Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2955: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 3092: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3106: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 3269: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 3346: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3433: Mr. FLOOD and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3473: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 3504: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3541: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 3628: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3755: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3828: Mr. TORRES of New York and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3873: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3923: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4178: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4423: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 4438: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 4448: Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 4456: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 4571: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 4756: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 4942: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5062: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 5163: Ms. Barragán.
H.R. 5224: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 5399: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5408: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5433: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 5477: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5553: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 5555: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 5636: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 5754: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 5784: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 5813: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FROST, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6205: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6463: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 6470: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 6542: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 6603: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MILLS, Mr. SELF, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 6663: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 6683: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 7031: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 7039: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. CHU, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 7050: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 7059: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 7060: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 7083: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 7117: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 7123: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7156: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 7159: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7167: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 7171: Mr. GUEST.
H.J. Res. 25: Mr. AMO.
H.J. Res. 72: Mr. THANEDAR.
H. Con. Res. 61: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 50: Mr. HUNT.
H. Res. 580: Mr. NEGUSE.
H. Res. 828: Ms. TLAIB.
H. Res. 863: Mr. BANKS.
H. Res. 901: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. LIEU.
H. Res. 966: Mr. KILEY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H. Res. 977: Mr. PFLUGER.
H. Res. 989: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petition:

Petition 8 by MS. DEGETTE on House Resolution 916: Mr. Stanton, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Casar.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 No. 19

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Listen to our prayer, dear Lord, for You are our mighty fortress. When we feel overwhelmed, we place our hope in You. When we feel doubt, You fill us with Your faith. When we feel afraid, You continue to be our light and salvation. Thank You for keeping us safe.

Lord, guide our lawmakers. May they give You their burdens as they seek to do Your will and live for Your glory. Use them to help heal our hurting nation and world. Let faith, hope, and love abound in their lives.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is not often that the U.S. Senate is called to act on a multitude of national security issues all at the same time. But right now, that is precisely the task at hand.

Vladimir Putin has waged war against Ukraine and against Western democracy for nearly 2 years. Israel suffered its bloodiest day last fall at the hands of the terror group Hamas, and millions of innocent Gaza civilians are in desperate need of aid. The Chinese Communist Party threatens to increase tensions in the Indo-Pacific. And our southern border is in urgent need—in urgent need—of fixing.

These are daunting challenges. They are time-sensitive challenges. And in the era of divided government, the only way—let me repeat—the only way to pass a national security supplemental is through bipartisanship—bipartisanship.

Over the course of this week, Democrats and Republicans have continued serious negotiations on the supplemental package. But there are still some pieces remaining to be settled.

Democrats have been exceedingly clear that we are willing to treat these negotiations with the seriousness they deserve. We have worked with Republicans on border security and on a vast range of issues and on coming to an agreement, and we want to finish the job.

The negotiators' tasks have not been easy because the more progress they make, the louder voices get on the outside who want to kill these negotiations in their tracks. There are always going to be some who prefer to exploit the issue of the border instead of fixing it. So the real question is whether Senators can tune all of that noise out and focus on reaching an agreement. Opportunities like this one are extremely rare when it comes to border security, so we owe it to the American people to seize this opportunity, and that is what Democrats want to do.

Senate Democrats remain committed to seeing this bipartisan process through. For the sake of our friends in Ukraine, for the sake of security on our border, for the sake of the future of Western democracy in the 21st century, we will keep working to get the job done.

THE ECONOMY

On the economy, Mr. President, the reports are in, the results are clear: Americans are feeling better and better about where the economy is headed under President Biden and congressional Democratic leadership. When

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

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you pass an ambitious agenda like the ones Democrats have passed under President Biden, it can take some time for the effects to take hold. But now we are starting to see these benefits gain momentum.

Americans are starting to notice. As a Washington Post headline read this week:

Falling inflation, rising growth give the United States the world's best recovery.

American citizens have noticed. The University of Michigan shows that consumer sentiment surged by nearly 30 percent over the last 2 months—the biggest 2-month increase in over 30 years.

Earlier this week, another survey by The Conference Board showed American consumers are more optimistic about the economy today than they have been in over 2 years. Let me say that again. According to a new survey by The Conference Board—very well-respected—American consumers are more optimistic about the economy today than they have been over the past 2 years.

The chief economist at The Conference Board credited the surge in consumer optimism to ''slower inflation'' and ''favorable employment conditions.''

Look, a year and a half ago, when Democrats passed legislation investing in the American people, like the Inflation Reduction Act, the hard right predicted America would sink into recession. Instead, the opposite has happened. Jobs are up, the economy is up, wages are up, and inflation has cooled down. None of this happened on its own. It is a result of Democrats choosing to invest in infrastructure, invest in manufacturing and scientific innovation, lowering prescription drug costs, and more.

We are seeing big progress across the country. One year ago this week, I stood with President Biden to announce historic investment in one of the most important infrastructure projects in the country—the Gateway Tunnel. Just this morning, we learned that manufacturing investments—something that has plagued America for quite a while—is near an alltime high, more than double its highest point during the previous administration.

Look, Republicans know the Democratic agenda is working. It is why so many Republicans in Congress are openly taking credit for our achievements. All over the country, you see Republicans bragging about projects and jobs that they actually voted against in Congress. The hard right knows they have no real agenda to tout. As one Texas Congressman said on the House floor:

I want my Republicans colleagues to give me one thing—one—that I can go campaign on and say we did.

Unfortunately, this Republican Congressman, his options are slim because they don't have much to tell the American people about that they did that was good.

Without real accomplishments on their own, the hard right is trying to take credit for the things Democrats are doing. It is laughable. And the American people, frankly, aren't falling for it.

So make no mistake. We still have a long way to go to make our economy more productive. But Americans can rest assured that under President Biden and congressional Democrats, we are on the right track.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the People's Republic of China is the single greatest strategic challenge facing the United States. It poses a potentially existential threat to our friends in the region and a growing threat to our allies in Europe as well.

The PRC is working to undermine the prevailing order that has maintained a major power piece for eight decades. It is useful to think about this challenge from our adversary's position.

President Xi aims to expand China's influence at our expense, to rewrite the rules of the road, and to dominate his neighbors. Each of these tasks becomes easier the more the West is distracted, divided, and deterred. And depending on the choices America and our allies make, our adversaries may succeed without even trying.

Are we distracted? Ask Beijing what it thinks about the Western diplomatic energy expended on unenforceable climate mandates while Chinese industry accelerates its carbon emissions. Our adversaries must scratch their heads at some of the things about which Western leaders obsess.

Are we divided? The PRC clearly hopes that the West's shared values are not as strong as our adversaries' shared disdain for them. Beijing no doubt enjoys watching the United States abandon allies in Afghanistan, second-guess allies in Israel, and initiate trade fights with its closest allies rather than China.

Are we deterred? We are self-deterred. Hesitation and hand-wringing over fears of escalation have become hallmarks of the Biden administration's foreign policy. Right now, you would be forgiven for wondering whether President Biden might take longer to respond to the Iran-backed strike that killed U.S. soldiers in Jordan than he did to finally approve long-range fires for Ukraine.

The administration's public obsession with avoiding escalation at all cost only signals to our adversaries that, indeed, authoritarians can take what they want by force.

Fortunately, Putin's aggression has clarified our allies' thinking. The West is waking up, turbocharging investments in new capabilities, and accelerating the expansion of our own defense industrial base.

Beijing and Moscow are not happy to see war in Ukraine prompt two more highly advanced European nations make historic new commitments to collective defense of the West by joining NATO. They are not happy to see America's allies direct a gusher of historic military investments into cutting-edge American weapons made by American workers. In the past 2 years, Pacific allies like Japan, South Korea, and Australia have been buying American to the tune of tens of billions of dollars. NATO allies have invested $120 billion of their own in U.S. capabilities. Importantly, they are also investing in expanding their own defense industrial capacities.

Our allies recognize that Russia, China, and Iran are, as Secretary General Stoltenberg put it just yesterday here in Washington, ''shaping [an] alternative world where U.S. power is diminished [and] NATO is divided.'' In response, they are rejecting division and committing to interoperability and collective defense. In many ways, NATO is now more united than during the Cold War. But this progress is not a given. It depends on American leadership, and it is quite capable of unraveling. President Xi would like nothing more.

There is really no quicker way to make sure we will be distracted from necessary competition with China than by letting Russian aggression in Europe fester. There is no surer path to dividing America from our closest allies than by shredding our credibility and abandoning Ukraine. The PRC hopes that America and our allies will lose our will to stand up to Russian aggression. President Xi hopes for Russian victory but will benefit, too, from a frozen conflict. As they watch Russia fight in Ukraine, what Beijing and Tehran fear is a Western victory.

We must understand that the threats our adversaries pose are connected. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are making alarming new commitments to support and underwrite one another's aggressive behavior. Our Asian allies know it. They know that leaving Russia undefeated means leaving the PRC undeterred. And their security assistance to Ukraine demonstrates how seriously they take these linked threats.

There is also growing transatlantic agreement that China is a systemic rival and a revisionist power.

When the most successful military alliance in history stands together, it represents fully half of the world's military power and half of its economic power. NATO is a formidable force that inspires confidence and collaboration among an even wider circle of allies and partners, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. But when America and our allies let aggression linger undefeated, this force is spread thin. Beijing wants nothing more than to face a West still consumed by self-deterrence in a conflict halfway around the world.

Europe has woken up. It is outpacing America in direct assistance to

Ukraine, with another €50 billion in assistance announced just today. This is good news. But even as our European allies ramp up their support, strengthen their defenses, upgrade their capabilities, and expand their defense industrial capacity, America doesn't get to opt out—opt out—of doing the same. Even as our most technologically advanced allies take historic steps forward, America doesn't have the luxury of pawning off our interests.

Deterring China means defeating Russian aggression. Degrading Russia's military means weakening Beijing's ''friendship without limits'' with Moscow. Equipping Ukraine to defend itself means confronting the PRC with the thing it hates the most: sovereign nations that choose their leaders and defend their interests.

Strengthening America's national security means standing with our allies and investing even more heavily in the capabilities we need to face our top strategic rival and every threat we face with formidable American strength.

ENERGY

Mr. President, on another matter, last week, the Biden administration followed through on a devastating threat to some of the most abundant and reliable energy made here in America and to those who rely on it around the world.

The administration's de facto ban on new liquefied natural gas export permits is the sort of policy so profoundly damaging that it could only have been dreamt up by the leftwing activists who are increasingly calling the shots on President Biden's energy policies.

As I have mentioned before, this de facto ban is harmful to American interests both at home and abroad. Canceled export permits mean canceled projects and canceled jobs. Bans on exploring and exporting American energy mean working families pay higher prices for gasoline, home heating, and countless other everyday expenses.

Since President Biden took office, the cost of gasoline has increased a cumulative 35 percent, fuel oil prices have increased 61 percent, natural gas has increased 27 percent, and electricity prices have increased 25 percent. But the costs of the administration's green bent aren't confined to our own borders. For the past 2 years, allies who once relied on Russian energy have started consuming more clean American LNG. As a recent editorial put it, ''If new U.S. LNG projects are blocked, Europe and Asia will have to import gas from elsewhere to meet their growing demand. Most won't come from America's friends.''

Iran and Russia are both increasing their LNG production capabilities, ready to meet desperate demand when American export capacity no longer can. Meanwhile, the same radical activists who drove a stake through the Keystone XL Pipeline are gleefully declaring victory in their campaign to make America and our allies more reliant on dirty energy from our adversaries.

President Biden, in keeping with his administration's practice of rewarding bad behavior with more responsibility, put one of the masterminds of his climate policy up for a promotion at the EPA. Yesterday, Senate Democrats overran bipartisan opposition to confirm Joseph Goffman's nomination as Assistant Administrator.

As I have said before, Mr. Goffman has encouraged the EPA's worst—worst—regulatory excesses and put activist whims over American workers and job creators. By some estimates, he has presided over the elimination of half the Nation's coal jobs. Unfortunately, the radical climate agenda he is helping to steer shows no signs of slowing down.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 477, Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, and nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 31 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Collins	Graham
Brown	Coons	Hassan
Butler	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Cantwell	Duckworth	Hickenlooper
Hirono	Murphy	Smith
Kaine	Murray	Tester
Kelly	Ossoff	Van Hollen
King	Padilla	Vance
Klobuchar	Reed	Warner
Luján	Rosen	Warnock
Manchin	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schatz	Welch
Menendez	Schumer	Whitehouse
Merkley	Shaheen	Wyden
Murkowski	Sinema	

NAYS—43

Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Peters
Hoeven	Stabenow

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43.

The motion is 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 476, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, 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 Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 32 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Collins	Luján	Tester
Coons	Lummis	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tuberville
Cotton	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cramer	McConnell	Vance
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Merkley	Warnock
Daines	Moran	Warren
Duckworth	Mullin	Welch
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Peters	Stabenow

CHANGE OF VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, on vote No. 32, I voted no, but my intention was to vote yes, actually. I would like to ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote, since it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 96, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Maryland.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for human rights defenders. They are the core of free, democratic societies. They risk their lives and freedom to hold governments and the private sector accountable. They advocate for human rights and political freedom. They protect our environment and fight corruption.

Despite very real threats to their lives and safety, they have achieved incredible victories. Because of their tireless efforts, from Colombia to Mexico, nations across Latin America expanded reproductive rights; Argentina passed a law to prevent gender-based violence online and hold perpetrators accountable; the EU reached an agreement to require companies to address the human rights and environmental harms of their operations; and Malaysia and Ghana took steps to abolish the death penalty. We celebrate these victories.

But I also must underline a deep sense of urgency today. Attacks against human rights defenders are on the rise across the globe. Hundreds are killed each year, and thousands more are attacked, threatened, or imprisoned: the Russian investigative journalist who was brutally attacked for exposing human rights abuses in the Northern Caucuses; the Guatemalan judge forced into exile after holding human rights abusers accountable for their actions during the brutal civil war; the taxi driver and human rights defender in Turkmenistan serving a 22-year sentence in a penal colony for documenting the torture of ethnic minorities; the 28-year-old human rights defender in Sudan who was killed, along with his parents and his four brothers; or one of the hundreds of human rights defenders killed by armed groups vying for control of Colombia's drug trafficking routes.

Not only are attacks growing in scale, today's oppressors use sophisticated surveillance technology to target their enemies, even those living in exile.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders has said:

> Governments claim that all this repression is about national security. In reality it is about power and money. They want to maintain power so they control information.

As a result, those who stand for freedom and justice often face death threats, harassment, arbitrary detention, and torture.

Women human rights defenders and those working on environmental protection, climate change, LBGTQI+ community issues, and indigenous rights face especially high levels of violence.

I am pleased that the Biden administration has made protecting human rights defenders a priority for American foreign policy. Human rights defenders are heroes in the fight for democracy and freedom, and the United States must stand in solidarity with them.

But we all need to do more. That is why I introduced the Human Rights Defenders Protection Act. This bill enhances our government's ability to prevent and respond to attacks on human rights defenders. It requires the administration to come up with a whole-of-government global strategy for human rights defenders. It creates a new, limited visa category for at-risk human rights defenders. It elevates the State Department's human rights officers in countries facing democracy and human rights crises. It trains Foreign Service officers on the protection of human rights defenders. It expands fellowships to allow human rights defenders to conduct research, outreach, and exchanges in the United States.

My grandparents came to America in 1902 from Lithuania, where there were pogroms against Jews across Russia and Eastern Europe. The defense of human rights has always been profoundly important to me and my family.

For many decades in my life, the Soviet Union was one of the greatest threats to human rights on Earth, and it seemed indestructible. But I remember standing with my wife at the Berlin Wall in 1987—a symbol of totalitarianism suffering. My wife and I hammered at the concrete that was covered in graffiti, showing a crossed-out hammer and sickle. Chipping away at the Berlin Wall was a reminder of the good we can achieve if only we have faith.

So to everyone who cares about justice, to everyone who fights for freedom, to everyone who defends human rights against all odds, don't give up. Let us continue to advocate for those human rights defenders behind bars. Let us champion their efforts across the globe. Let us have faith that we can overcome oppression and violence and assassinations. Let us keep hope alive that we can build a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation I filed.

NOMINATION OF LISA W. WANG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Lisa Wang to the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Ms. Wang attended Cornell University and the Georgetown University Law Center before entering private practice in Washington, DC, as an international trade associate. Ms. Wang then spent 3 years serving in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing as a senior import administration officer before joining the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as assistant general counsel. She went on to serve as a senior attorney in the Commerce Department's Office of the Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement and Compliance before completing another stint in private practice.

In 2021, President Biden nominated Ms. Wang to serve as an Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance, and she was confirmed in the Senate by voice vote. At the Department of Commerce, she has led the Federal Government's efforts to maintain a level playing field for American workers and consumers by holding our partners accountable to their trade agreements.

Ms. Wang was unanimously rated ''well qualified'' by the American Bar Association. Her deep knowledge of international trade law and commitment to fairness make her an excellent addition to the Court of International Trade. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

Mr. CARDIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote for 1:45 p.m. begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON WANG NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wang nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted ''nay.''

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 33 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Vance
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—42

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Marshall	Stabenow
Cruz	Peters	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about something every American wants from their public officials: transparency and accountability.

Unfortunately, after repeated attempts, Congress has not received that transparency or accountability from Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, and it is feeding the perception of corruption. For the past 6 months, the Senate Finance Committee has been trying to get straight answers from the Justice and his wealthy friends about the growing list of handouts they have lavished on the Justice.

Most recently, we sought to figure out whether Justice Thomas secretly had over $250,000 in debt written off—simply wiped away—by a wealthy benefactor. If so, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I am working to learn whether he paid the taxes he was supposed to—taxes that any American is legally required to pay.

The Justice has refused to respond. Justice Thomas acts as if the freebies and the special favors Americans are reading about—the flights on private jets, comped; trips on luxury yachts; megawealthy individuals paying for school tuitions; quarter-million-dollar debts wiped away—is totally normal stuff.

The reality is, it is not. It isn't normal for anyone, and when the person receiving all of these extravagant handouts is one of the nine most powerful jurists in the country, with unchecked power to rewrite laws from the bench, it looks worse.

With respect to this disappearing debt, here is what we know. In 1999, one of Justice Thomas's friends loaned him $267,230 to buy a luxury RV. That is some kind of friend.

Justice Thomas wants to believe the story is simple, like the couple hundred bucks you would loan somebody to get their car fixed in an emergency. This is the story that the Justice has, in effect, apparently subscribed to obscures the truth.

The simple fact here is that loans have to be repaid, and it sure looks like this one was not. According to the terms of the loan agreement—which, by the way, was written down on Supreme Court stationary from the chamber of Clarence Thomas—Thomas's friend supplied the money to buy Thomas the luxury RV. In return, the Justice was supposed to pay 7.5 percent interest for 5 years. Then the loan would come due, and then Justice Thomas would be responsible for having to repay the full principal. But from what I have seen, the payment never happened.

Through my investigation, I have uncovered that Justice Thomas only paid interest on the transaction. When the deadline hit after 5 years, his friend extended the maturity date on the loan for another decade. But just 4 years later, Thomas' friend simply decided to stop collecting payments from the Justice, even though the Justice still owed him more than $¼ million.

Justice Thomas's friend wrote a note telling him that the interest he paid was good enough and that he wouldn't accept further payments. That means that the debt—likely the entire $260,000 in principal—was considered forgiven. Again, that is quite a friend.

So the documents we have seen indicate Justice Thomas received a $267,000 loan to buy a luxury RV and never repaid most—and, likely, not even a dollar—of the money that his friend originally loaned him. This has legal consequences.

The Tax Code makes clear that in instances where a debt is canceled, forgiven, or discharged for less than the amount owed, the borrower must report the amount canceled or forgiven as income for tax purposes. Furthermore, the forgiven debt is income that Justice Thomas is required by law to report on his financial disclosure report.

But Justice Thomas never reported the $¼ million in forgiven debt on his financial disclosure report in 2008, the year his debt was forgiven. He won't give the Finance Committee a direct answer on whether he reported it on his taxes, raising serious legal questions.

After I publicly revealed these findings, Justice Thomas, through his lawyer, said the documents that I reviewed were untrue. The Justice said:

> The loan was never forgiven. Any suggestion to the contrary is false.

And—

> The terms of the agreement were satisfied in full.

This contradicts the documents I reviewed. So, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, our colleague from Rhode Island, we wrote to Justice Thomas's lawyer and gave him a chance to prove his claim. Personally, I believe that a sitting Supreme Court Justice would jump at the opportunity to correct the record and prove that he repaid his debt and did not cheat on taxes. I wish I could report to the American people that was the case and that this whole mess was just a misunderstanding. But that did not happen.

Justice Thomas did not give us any documentation about his so-called loan. Senator WHITEHOUSE and I gave him a month to respond and received nothing—no loan agreement, no payment schedule, no evidence of principal payments, and no explanation for why he and his lawyer said the documents and information I uncovered were untrue. If what Justice Thomas and his lawyer are saying about the loan is accurate, the question is, What is behind all the stonewalling?

Does the Justice believe he shouldn't ever have to answer the questions about all these major windfalls and luxury travel, not even to prove that everything was on the level? Justice Thomas and his lawyers could put this whole affair to rest by providing copies of checks repaying the $¼ million loan.

My personal guess is they can't because those payments never happened.

If a wealthy friend forgave a $¼ million loan to Justice Thomas, the law requires that he declare it.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, it is essential that Justice Thomas list that income on his taxes. He is also required to disclose the money on his financial disclosure report. Based on what we have seen, it

seems like he did neither. Our laws, including our tax laws, have to apply to everyone. The law applies to everyone, especially one of the nine most powerful jurists in America. Congress must ensure that they do.

It is time for Justice Thomas to respond with the facts about this $¼ million loan and any similar money and gifts he has received as a Supreme Court Justice.

Now, Madam President, I am going to yield to my colleague on the Finance Committee. He is also the chairman of the Budget Committee and chairman of the important Judiciary Subcommittee on Federal Courts, our colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me start by thanking our Finance Committee chairman, Chairman WYDEN, for his strong leadership. Chairman WYDEN was able to secure the cooperation of the wealthy donor who gave Justice Thomas the $¼ million-plus RV loan. The chairman doggedly followed the facts to get the truth for the American people, which takes guts, particularly when you consider the many special interests rooting for this investigation to go away.

And while I am thanking the chairman, let me also thank Chairman DURBIN for his persistent and dogged pursuit of the truth through the Judiciary Committee. Both the Judiciary and Finance Committees are working to get to the bottom of this.

Keep in mind, in all the ethics mess engulfing Justice Thomas, that for every ethics issue, there is also likely a tax issue; perhaps, two sides of the same coin. If a Justice isn't reporting income on his legally required financial disclosure, there is a good chance that something is amiss with his tax reporting as well.

When a Justice receives something of value from a benefactor, the presumption is that it needs to be disclosed under the ethics law either as income or as a gift. Generally speaking, if it is income, the Justice must also report it as income for income tax purposes; and if it is a gift, the donor needs to report it for gift tax purposes—which is why when you are looking at possible ethics violations in situations like this, it is important to know if that income showed up on the tax side or if that gift report showed up on the tax side. That is why Chairman WYDEN's leadership here is so essential.

If this went unreported, that could be a tax law violation. Again, if it is a gift, the Justice needs to disclose it under the ethics law unless it falls under a narrow definition for ''personal hospitality''—spending Christmas with your in-laws, for instance, or going on a trip with your college roommates. So either way, the tax question becomes for donors, for gifts, did the benefactor or did the donor report it for gift tax purposes? So you have the income tax reporting issue, the gift tax reporting issue. And then you have a third issue, which is that these tax filings can also test the veracity of what Justices claim.

Justices Thomas and Alito claim they didn't have to report free jet and yacht travel gifted by billionaires because those gifts, they claimed, were personal hospitality. There were no college roommates or in-laws involved. It is a heck of a stretch to call this personal hospitality. But one of the ways you could test whether it is personal hospitality would be by looking at how the donor of the hospitality treated it on their taxes. It would be a pretty good tell that all that hospitality those Justices received was not so personal if the yacht and jet travel gifted to Justices Thomas and Alito was written off by these billionaires as a tax expense—as a business expense. So there is a lot to be learned from tax filing.

Two other reminders as we go through this. One, it is a crime. It is a crime under 18 U.S. Code section 1001 to file a false sworn statement with the Federal Government. Both judicial disclosures and tax filings are filed under oath.

No. 2, the law requires the Judicial Conference, if there is any question about whether an improper judicial disclosure filing might have been willful, to refer the question of willfulness to the Attorney General for investigation. It is not under the law of the Judicial Conference's job to decide the question of willfulness; it is only to decide if there is a question of willfulness and then refer that to the Attorney General for investigation.

So this can get serious fast, which brings us to Justice Thomas and his RV. When it comes to ethics requirements, there is no question about what the law required here. If part of Justice Thomas's debt was forgiven, he had to report it. The state of the facts based on the documents the Finance Committee has obtained and reviewed is that Justice Thomas never paid back a dollar of principal on $¼ million loan and that the donor long ago stopped collecting even interest on that loan.

So let's take a look at the law. Justice Thomas likely didn't have to report the loan itself. Justices don't need to report loans secured by a personal vehicle as long as the value of the loan isn't worth more than the vehicle itself.

If Justice Thomas put up the RV as collateral for his loan and didn't obtain more money than the RV was worth, there was no need for him to disclose the loan. But all that changes if any part of the loan was forgiven later on. As the chairman has said, when you collect not $1 of principal and stop collecting interest, that sure looks like forgiveness of a loan. And a loan you don't pay back is a form of income.

The law requires officials to disclose any income they receive outside of their government salaries, which makes sense if you are trying to expose or prevent corruption. Under the law, if you receive more than $200 of income from any one person in a year, you have to disclose that.

Here are the regulations on financial disclosure. These are regs adopted pursuant to law, and they say that income ''includes but is not limited to'' income from ''discharge of indebtedness.'' And down here, it further says that you must report ''discharge of indebtedness.''

And if you go to the Tax Code—specifically 26 U.S. Code, section 21, which defines income for tax purposes, subsection 11(a) describes that ''income from discharge of indebtedness counts as income.'' Income from discharge of indebtedness—it is the identical language in the Tax Code and in the judicial reporting regulations.

So a loan whose principal is not repaid is reportable income both under judicial ethics law and under tax law. And the law is crystal clear on this point.

Even Justices are told what the law is on this point. So if you go to the ''Filing Instructions for Judicial Officers''—this is what the judge gets that tells them how to comply with their filing requirements regarding these disclosures. Here is what it tells them:

> Income . . . The disclosure of the gross amount and the type of income—dividends, rent, interest, or income from discharge of indebtedness—is required.

Disclosure of income from discharge of indebtedness is required.

There is nothing very subtle or complicated about that. It couldn't be more straightforward.

If Justice Thomas failed to report a loan that was no longer being collected with a big balance still due and hence was, as a practical matter, forgiven, he likely violated these requirements.

If he failed to file his taxes accordingly, he also likely violated our tax laws. Either of these—either the tax filing or the filing under the judicial disclosure rules—could amount to a false statement under the Criminal Code.

In the first instance, as to the judicial disclosure filings, the law requires the Judicial Conference to determine if there is reason to believe that Justice Thomas's violation may have been willful, in which case it has a legal obligation to report him to the Attorney General for further investigation to settle the question of willfulness.

I have asked the Judicial Conference to consider exactly these facts, and I hope they will do so. It looks like they are. As they do so, here are some things they should consider:

First, this is not Justice Thomas's first brush with this law. A previous episode of yacht and jet travel gifts to him from Harlan Crow actually went to the Judicial Conference for investigation years ago.

In my subcommittee on the Judiciary Committee, we held a hearing about this with a judge who served on the Judicial Conference at the time and could relate to us what transpired

back then with the Crow to Thomas yacht and jet travel undisclosed gifts.

That episode I would describe as a decent burial, but it is not clear now that, with Thomas back as a repeat offender with the same types of gifts from the same billionaire, that he will get the same courtesies from his fellow judges as he did in episode one of Crow to Thomas yacht and jet travel gifts. Indeed, the latest report from the Judicial Conference—they put out two reports a year. This is their report of proceedings for this past fall; i.e., this is their most recent report of proceedings, dated September 12 of last year. It has this rather Delphic sentence in it:

> The Committee was also updated on the status of the ongoing review of public written allegations of errors or omissions in a filer's financial disclosure reports that were referred to it since the Conference's last session.

I don't know of any other judge or Justice who has received public written allegations of errors or omissions in that filer's financial disclosure reports other than Justice Thomas. So although there is no name mentioned here, it looks very much like the Thomas investigation is alive and well in the Judicial Conference. If they should determine that there is a question of willfulness in his failure to file, particularly to the extent that it may involve similar failures in tax filings, it is their legal obligation to present that question to the Attorney General.

So it appears that the matter remains under active review, and I would conclude by saying that this is to be continued.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, conversations are ongoing. Some issues still need resolution, but we are getting very close on the national security supplemental.

The national security supplemental is so important to enabling us to address multiple crises around the globe. Vladimir Putin has waged war against Ukraine and against Western democracy for nearly 2 years, and America must step up. Israel suffered its bloodiest day last fall at the hands of the terror group Hamas, and millions of innocent Gaza civilians are in need of aid. The Chinese Communist Party threatens to increase tensions in the Indo-Pacific. Our southern border is in urgent need—in urgent need—of fixing.

Addressing these challenges is not easy, but we cannot simply shirk from our responsibilities just because a task is difficult.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

So, for the information of Senators, the Senate will be in session and will hold a vote on Monday, February 5. There is no longer a no-vote day. While we are respectful of Members' schedules and try to limit inconveniences, these challenges at the border, in Ukraine, and in the Middle East are just too great, and we will need to be here working.

Next, as I said, discussions are going well, so I want Members to be aware that we plan to post the full text of the national security supplemental as early as tomorrow, no later than Sunday. That will give Members plenty of time to read the bill before voting on it.

As for the timing of the vote, I plan to file cloture on the motion to proceed to the vehicle on Monday, leading to the first vote on the national security supplemental no later than Wednesday.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 486.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

> We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 486, Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State.
>
> Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Jeff Merkley, Mazie K. Hirono, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Tina Smith, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher A. Coons, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 473.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

> We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 473, Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.
>
> Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 1, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

IRAN

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, tensions in the Middle East have escalated dramatically since Hamas, an Iranian-backed terrorist organization, launched its war on Israel on October 7 of last year, killing innocent men, women, and children and taking and still holding up to 132 hostages.

Over the last few months, another Iranian proxy—Iran-backed militias—intensified their attacks throughout the region.

There are Houthis in Yemen, there is Hezbollah in Lebanon, and, of course, as I mentioned, there are the attacks against Americans and American interests by Iranian proxies in Iraq and Syria. These conflicts are playing out thousands of miles away from here, but we are not just a distant and disinterested spectator. Thousands of American troops are stationed in the region—not engaged in combat operations but in carrying out a range of security and intelligence missions and helping the residents and citizens of those nations defend themselves and

provide a stabilizing force against what is the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, which is the Iranian regime.

The presence of these American troops is vital to the stability of the region and, as I said, our own security interests. We may engage in wishful thinking, thinking that what happens over there doesn't affect us here. You would think that after 9/11—albeit it occurring some 23 years ago now—it would have awakened us to the reality that what does happen in the Middle East does not stay in the Middle East. So it is important for us to provide stability operations and assistance, train-and-assist operations, for our allies in the region in a very dangerous neighborhood.

Since mid-October, Iranian-backed militia groups have attacked U.S. troops in the region more than 165 times—165 times. In less than 4 months, U.S. troops have been targeted 165 times.

This last weekend, the situation escalated dramatically when Iranian proxies targeted a U.S. military post in Jordan known as Tower 22. Tragically, these proxies of the Iranian regime—these militias—used a drone to attack the base, killing three American heroes as they slept.

SGT William Rivers, SGT Kennedy Sanders, and SGT Breonna Moffett made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country that night.

These brave individuals were the first American servicemembers killed by enemy fire since the start of the Israel-Hamas war last October, but they are not the first Americans who have been targeted by the Iranian regime.

The truth is, as you look back at the changes in Iran since the revolution in 1979, the Iranian regime has been in what you might call a low-grade war against America and American interests for the last 45 years.

Last month, two Navy SEALs were killed while seizing a vessel carrying Iranian-made arms intended for the Houthi rebels in Yemen. These brave SEALs and their comrades prevented the Houthis from receiving ballistic missiles and cruise missile components that could have been used to target U.S. forces or commercial traffic in the Red Sea or the nation of Israel.

Today, I know our country mourns alongside of the families of each of those heroes, and we pray for the safety of the servicemembers who continue to serve our Nation providing these stability missions in the Middle East.

But, as I said, the violence that we are seeing and experiencing in recent days is only a tragic continuation of Iran's decades-long proxy war against the United States. I said Iran is the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism in the world. That is a fact. And the reason they operate through proxies is because they don't want to directly confront the United States because they fear American military might, as they should. But what they do is they will carry out terrorist attacks, having been equipped and trained and provided weapons by the Iranian regime, against innocent civilians and American servicemembers in the region.

Of course, relations between the United States and Iran have been extremely fraught and violent since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, when the country quickly transformed from a pro-Western democracy to an anti-Western theocracy. Its Supreme Leader is driven by a radical ideology and a deep hatred of the United States and the freedoms that we enjoy. He even referred to the United States as the ''Great Satan.''

As we have witnessed over the last four-plus decades, that shift from a pro-democracy to an anti-American policy carried with it very serious consequences. Of course, many of us remember the Iranian hostage crisis. The movie ''Argo'' was written about getting some of the 52 Americans out of Iran who had been held hostage for up to a year.

Four years later, the Iranian-backed terror group Hezbollah in Lebanon bombed a Marine Corps barracks, killing 241 American servicemembers.

And then, in 1996, Iran orchestrated an attack on U.S. Air Force personnel in Khobar, Saudi Arabia. A truck bomb was detonated next to a building housing American troops, killing 19 U.S. Air Force personnel and a local Saudi citizen and wounding 498 others.

Then, during the war in Iraq, from 2003 to 2011, it became common knowledge that Iran was supplying the most dangerous form of munitions—explosively formed penetrators—that penetrate the armor of humvees and other up-armored vehicles that the U.S. forces were in and planted numerous IEDs, killing hundreds of American troops.

And today, as our country is mourning the troops who were killed in Jordan last weekend at the hand of Iranian proxies, we need to be absolutely clear-eyed about the fact that this is not a new innovation. This isn't something that just happened in the last 2 days. This has been going on for 45 years.

To be clear, this is not an exhaustive list of the violence Iran has unleashed against the United States and our interests. Sadly, this just scratches the surface. But it is important to look back at the history to understand the Iranian intentions toward the United States and our allies.

Tehran has consistently waged acts of war against the United States. It has gone to great lengths to export terrorism around the globe, and it has engaged in gross human rights violations against its own people.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, otherwise known as IRGC, is the loyal henchman responsible for leading these efforts. It is a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces that tries to squash democracy movements, both at home and abroad, by pushing its extreme ideology beyond Iran's borders. They provide training and equipment to terrorists which they use to kill innocent civilians—not just in Israel, not just in Syria and Iraq, not just in Lebanon, but even in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, in Yemen.

The IRGC wields vast power and influence, and it uses its capabilities to spark turmoil throughout the Middle East. As I said, it provides arms, training, and foot soldiers to these terrorist groups.

As the world has seen in recent months, those attacks are quickly intensifying. It is a grave cause for concern in a very dangerous neighborhood, the sort of escalation that we are seeing by Iran via its proxies. But the only responsible answer is for the United States to take swift and decisive action to respond to these attacks, because, if we don't, we are sure to be met with more.

Sadly, I don't think the Biden administration has responded to this attack with the sort of decisiveness that it needs. As far as we know, the administration hasn't taken any action to target Iran's leaders, the IRGC, or the Quds Force—militarily, financially, or otherwise.

We are told that the President has decided what he is going to do, but he is not sharing that with us. And, I fear, as more and more time goes by, the Iranian regime will not connect the killing of three American servicemembers in Iraq by Shia militias backed by Iran with whatever the subsequent kinetic attack against Iran's forces are.

We are all watching to see what the coming days may hold, but I would like to encourage President Biden that, when it comes to Iran, there is no benefit to applying anything less than maximum pressure.

Now, we are not talking about American boots on the ground. We are not talking about another war. We are talking about deterrence.

So if there is no price to be paid for these repeated attacks against civilians and American servicemembers, they are going to continue. This is not a cost-benefit analysis made by the regime; this is pursuant to their radical ideology where they want to destroy Israel. And they call America the ''Great Satan''; so you know they don't mean us well.

Iran's leaders must learn that the attacks on U.S. servicemembers and American interests will be returned in kind. Regardless of who carries out an attack—Iran or its proxies—the Iranian regime must be brought to account. It is the head of the octopus, and the tentacles are the proxies they use to commit mayhem and terrorism around the region. The only way to achieve deterrence and to prevent this conflict from widening is to teach the Iranian regime that these sorts of unilateral terrorist attacks will not be tolerated.

Given the escalating tensions between our countries, President Biden can't continue promoting the same

weak policies that he has embraced over the last few years, trying to appease the Iranian regime because he wants to get them back in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the Iran nuclear deal, negotiated under President Obama.

He has lifted sanctions, which have allowed Iran to supply China and other countries oil, which has helped bolster their economy. They have continued to enrich uranium, getting closer and closer to a breakout for a nuclear weapon. As dangerous as Iran and its proxies are now, can you imagine what it would be like if they had a functioning nuclear weapon in the region?

What would the response be of countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, and other Arab countries that Iran has historically fought for control—not just geographic control but control as the leader of the Muslim world, according to their own brand of Islam.

Unfortunately, in the messages that President Biden has sent over the last few years, from the disastrous withdrawal in Afghanistan without even notifying our allies—just pulling the plug and having the Taliban march in without a shot being fired—to the attempts to appease Iran in order to get back to the Iran nuclear deal, to the foolish decision to unfreeze $6 billion in Iranian assets, the Biden administration has projected an image of weakness when it comes to foreign policy.

These missteps have sent a message to the Supreme Leader that he can continue to push until we push back. The Supreme Leader will naturally continue to test the limits of this administration to see how far he can go. We know what his ultimate aims are. We know the methods by which they act, and we don't need—we don't want—any more dead Americans because Iran continues to attack Americans and American allies in the Middle East.

The root and foundation of all of this violence and instability in the Middle East is Iran. We can talk about Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, and the Shia militias, but it is Iran that finances, equips, and trains these terrorists. That is true today, and it has been true literally for the last 45 years. From the Iran hostage crisis to the regime's outright support of terrorist groups in the Middle East, to the latest attack that killed three U.S. troops, Iran has demonstrated over and over and over again its unequivocal hatred of the United States.

President Biden cannot hit Iran with kid gloves or allow the attacks on our servicemembers to go unanswered. It is a lesson that we have to learn, apparently, from history, time and time again, that appeasement is not a viable strategy when it comes to autocrats and dictators and terrorists. Appeasement doesn't work, and it is time for the President to impose crippling consequences on the Iranian regime, and I am talking about on the instruments of their terrorism, which is the IRGC and the Quds Force, which would be a good place to start.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington, the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate.

SUMMER EBT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have been fighting for over a decade to establish a new summer nutrition program to help end child hunger, and I come to the floor today to celebrate the tremendous progress we have made in that effort because, this year, legislation I fought to pass in 2022 based on my Stop Child Hunger Act will go into effect, establishing a permanent summer nutrition benefit for struggling families—Summer EBT, electronic benefit transfer.

Basically, that means millions of parents who rely on free or reduced-price meals to feed their kids during the school year will get help feeding their kids over the summer too. This has been a long time coming, and it is a huge deal that now this program is becoming permanent.

Child hunger isn't just something I heard about from parents across my home State of Washington; it is personal to me. I remember what it was like when my family fell on hard times when I was young. Growing up, my parents had seven kids. It was never easy, but when my dad could no longer work because he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, it wasn't just hard, it was impossible.

Fortunately for all of us, our country didn't just say ''tough luck.'' We got support. Food stamps helped put food on our table until my mom was able to go back to school and get a job. That was the difference between our family getting by or going hungry.

I want to make sure that we are showing up for families today in the same way because the painful reality is that right now in this country, we have some 30 million kids for whom the free or reduced-price meals they get at school are the difference between them eating a real meal that day or going hungry.

When summer comes, instead of feeling relief at getting a break from homework, many of these kids and their parents are worried about where they are going to get their next meal, until school starts again.

It is heartbreaking, and in the richest country in the world, it is unacceptable. That is why back in 2010 I helped fund the first of its kind pilot program for summer EBT at USDA. The idea is pretty simple: Create a program that gives families benefits they can use at the grocery store to help feed their kids over the summer. One of the pilot sites was in Vancouver, WA. Do you know what? The program worked. Those benefits decreased the number of kids with very low food security by about a third and supported a much healthier diet because they got more fruits and vegetables.

So to build off the success of that pilot program, in 2014, I introduced my Stop Child Summer Hunger Act. Rigorous evaluations made clear that benefit worked.

Still, even if it seems like common sense and basic humanity that kids shouldn't go hungry, it has been a very long journey to finally get this idea passed into law.

I reintroduced my bill several times with different colleagues. Then the pandemic struck and threw struggling families into even greater food insecurity. Everyone here remembers the enormous number of cars lined up outside food banks across the country in the early days of the pandemic.

So I started working with my colleagues to establish a temporary nutrition program to see families through that crisis in the relief packages that we passed during the worst of the pandemic. In doing so, we were also able to show how necessary that kind of support is and how effective it is and establish a foundation that we then built on to pass a permanent summer nutrition program into law as part of our omnibus government funding bill at the end of 2022.

I have to pause and really, really thank my great friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Michigan. She chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee, and she led on negotiating this big win for kids.

Now that bill is going into effect, and what it means for families is that this summer, in participating States, like my home State of Washington, families whose kids qualify for free or reduced-price school meals during the school year will receive a preloaded nutrition benefits card worth about $120 per child to buy groceries over the summer. Unlike the pandemic-era program we passed, this program is permanent. Those benefits will work similar to SNAP, which means parents can use them to buy food at grocery stores, farmers markets, and more.

In my home State alone, we are talking half a million kids who can benefit from this program. That is a meaningful step towards ending child hunger in America. But, as always, we have more work to do. No child should ever go hungry in the United States of America.

While I don't think that is a controversial idea, my message to all my colleagues who agree is that achieving this takes more than words; it takes action. That means giving a hand to families like mine who fall on hard times. It means making sure parents who rely on school lunches for their kids can keep them fed in the summer months and fully funding WIC, which is a lifeline to so many women and infants. That is something I am very focused on right now, and I will not let up until we see that through.

So I am here today not just to celebrate the important progress which I fought for years to make on fighting summer hunger but to make clear that I am not done fighting. I am going to keep pushing to make sure that no

child goes hungry—no child—and that every family gets the same kind of support my family got when I was growing up.

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.

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

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

ISRAEL

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, this is my 10th floor speech since the October 7 attack. Ten times I have stood here and told the hostages' stories. Ten times I have expressed their families' endless pain. But for every minute that I have stood here, the hostages and their families have lived lifetimes, an eternity in each moment.

I have met so many families whose entire universe has been paralyzed. I have met mothers who are despondent, fathers who are desperate. They are living between hope and despair. They are asking themselves: Is my father alive? Is my daughter being raped every day? Is my husband being mistreated? Is my sister being fed?

I recently met a family who says several of their loved ones were kidnapped by Hamas. Two escaped, and one was released, but one, 39-year-old Carmel Gat, is still being held captive.

She is an occupational therapist by training. Carmel had recently returned from a 3-month trip to India and was staying with her parents in Kibbutz Be'eri.

On the morning of October 7, terrorists broke into her home. They took her mother to a street corner in the kibbutz and brutally murdered her. A few minutes later, they put Carmel into a car and drove her by that corner. That is how she learned her mother was killed.

Released hostages who were with her told Carmel's family about the cruelty and the viciousness of the guards, but they also told them how brave Carmel was, defending and caring for the children being held in captivity, keeping them safe, teaching them how to turn within themselves, to meditate, to do yoga, to breathe, to give them some tools just to survive.

Carmel was expected to be released on the eighth day of the November cease-fire, but just a few hours before it was her time to come home, the deal collapsed. Her family said they still haven't heard anything about her condition—whether she is alive, whether she is suffering, whether she will come home.

Carmel is just one of the roughly 130 people still being held hostage by Hamas, including as many as 6 Americans. But she, like every other person whose life has been torn apart by this conflict, is not a statistic. She is a daughter. She is loved. Our hearts are with her, and we will not rest until she is home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, for centuries, Native people have had everything stolen from them—their lands, their water, their language, their children.

It wasn't that long ago it was the official policy of the U.S. Government to terminate—to terminate—the existence of Tribes and to forcibly assimilate their citizens. And a big part of that unrelenting, inhumane policy was that the remains of Native ancestors and culturally significant items were also taken from them, not with permission, but by force; not discovered, but stolen on battlefields and in cemeteries, under the cover of darkness or under guise of academic research.

Think about that. The U.S. Government literally stole bones. Soldiers and agents overturned graves and took whatever they could find. And these were not isolated incidents. They happened all across the country. In my home State of Hawaii, the remains of Native Hawaiians—or ''iwi kupuna,'' as they are called—were routinely pillaged without regard for the sanctity of burials or Native Hawaiian culture.

All of it was brought to some of the most venerable institutions at home and abroad to be studied like biological specimens, displayed in museum exhibits as if they are paintings on loan or squirreled away in a professor's office closet never to be seen again.

The theft of hundreds of thousands of remains and items over generations was unconscionable in and of itself, but the legacy of that cruelty continues to this very day because these museums and universities continue to hold onto these sacred items in violation of everything that is right and moral and, more importantly, in violation of Federal law.

To remedy this injustice, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, in 1990. It required museums and universities to quickly return the remains and the items that they were holding that belonged to Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and American Indians.

At the time, the Congressional Budget Office anticipated that it would take about 5 years to complete the process of repatriation. Thirty-four years later, it is nowhere close to being done. In fact, experts recently estimated that at the current rate, it may take up to 70 more years to complete the process. Why? Because these institutions, all otherwise well-respected and sought after, have done everything in their power to obstruct and obfuscate when confronted about their collections.

They act as if this is some sort of impossible task, either administratively or determining the lineage or providence of an item. They purposefully mischaracterize items as ''culturally unidentifiable.'' Culturally unidentifiable.

They engage with Native communities as little as possible. They ''borrow'' collections from one another so they can never actually be held responsible for them. And maybe the most outrageous of all excuses, they claim that Tribes and Native groups lack the ability to take care of their own things—lack the ability to take care of their own items of cultural patrimony, bones stolen from graves.

This smells of the worst kind of colonialism, with a thin veneer of progressive ideology and verbiage. University provosts and presidents can do all of the land acknowledgements that they want. They can post lengthy statements about equity on their websites and champion any number of progressive causes, but that rings hollow when they are at the same time clinging onto vast collections of stolen items because of a perverse, patronizing sense of ownership.

This is not morally ambiguous. There is nothing to ponder here. The fact is these items do not belong in museums or universities or to science or academia. They belong to the Native people from which they came, which is why the Committee on Indian Affairs, where I am chair, held an oversight hearing on this issue almost 2 years ago and demanded explanations from the foremost offenders about their delays in repatriating these items.

They are located all over the country: Ohio History Connection; the Illinois State Museum; Harvard University; University of California, Berkeley; and Indiana University. Together, these five institutions still hold at least 30,000 Native ancestral remains. These institutions have been responsive, and many have accelerated their repatriation efforts since.

Earlier this month, Harvard, which has the third largest collection of these items in the country, pledged to cover the travel expenses of Native leaders to facilitate the repatriation process. Other museums, including the American Museum of Natural History and the Field Museum, have recently announced steps to finally comply with the Federal law. And yet there are still more than 70 other institutions holding almost 58,000 ancestral remains. That is not counting the additional hundreds of thousands of cultural items in their collections.

These museums and universities are everywhere: the University of Tennessee; the University of Kentucky; the University of Alabama; the University of Arizona; the University of Florida; the University of Missouri, Columbia; the University of Oklahoma; the Center for American Archaeology in Illinois; the University of Texas at Austin; the Milwaukee Public Museum; and so on. This is just a small sample, and I will enter the full list into the RECORD.

But the point is this: We are not done. Our work is not over. These are

supposedly liberal institutions who have no problem parroting whatever progressive expression is in vogue. And yet at the same time, they continue a colonial project against the explicit and repeated wishes of Native people. If you say you are for equal justice, for doing right by people of all backgrounds, then act like it. Return these remains and items to the Native people they belonged to all along.

Some of the challenges when it comes to addressing past injustices in American history can seem so big as to be totally overwhelming. Where do you start? But this is not one of them. Returning these items matters, and the good news is it is imminently doable, but doable only if we collectively agree that getting this right is a necessary condition for justice to be restored.

Doing this alone will not right past wrongs or somehow erase a long and brutal history of injustice. Of course, it won't. Native people still need money for water and electricity and healthcare. They still, as ever, need the unimpeded right to self-determination. But the least we can do—and I mean that, the least we can do—is enable them to tell their own stories and to define themselves, for themselves, to the rest of the world.

Give the items back. Comply with Federal law. Hurry. Devote resources to this. Demonstrate in three dimensions that you care about the values that you espouse.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the list of institutions in possession of the repatriated remains be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Rank	Institution	Unrepatriated Ancestral Remains	Percent of National Total (97,622)
1	Ohio History Connection	7167	7.34
2	Illinois State Museum	7110	7.28
3	Harvard University	5680	5.82
4	University of California, Berkeley	4959	5.08
5	Indiana University	4838	4.96
6	University of Tennessee, Knoxville	3929	4.02
7	University of Kentucky	2807	2.88
8	Department of the Interior	3672	3.76
9	University of Alabama	2732	2.80
10	University of Arizona	2624	2.69
11	University of Florida	2620	2.68
12	University of Missouri, Columbia	2451	2.51
13	University of Oklahoma	2324	2.38
14	Department of Defense	1950	2.00
15	Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville Archaeological Center	1947	1.99
16	University of Texas at Austin	1905	1.95
17	American Museum of Natural History	1882	1.93
18	Milwaukee Public Museum	1600	1.64
19	Florida Department of State	1447	1.48
20	Field Museum	1298	1.33
21	State Museum of Pennsylvania	908	0.93
22	Southern Illinois University, Carbondale	846	0.87
23	Arizona State University	786	0.81
24	University of Michigan	781	0.80
25	Museum of New Mexico, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture	779	0.80
26	Department of Agriculture	769	0.79
27	Auburn University	767	0.79
28	Universiy of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	761	0.78
29	Virginia Department of Historic Resources	711	0.73
30	Carnegie Museum of Natural History	646	0.66
31	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	641	0.66
32	New York State Museum	584	0.60
33	Univ. of New Mexico	583	0.60
34	Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History	551	0.56
35	Cincinnati Museum Center	520	0.53
36	Florida State Univ.	508	0.52
37	Nassau County Dept. of Parks and Recreation	488	0.50
38	Cleveland Museum of Natural History	477	0.49
39	Univ. of Kansas	458	0.47
40	Dayton Museum of Natural History	438	0.45
41	San Jose State Univ.	429	0.44
42	Natural History Museum of Utah	416	0.43
43	Univ. of Pennsylvania	402	0.41
44	Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site	383	0.39
45	Museum of Texas Tech Univ.	377	0.39
46	Tennessee Dept. of Env't and Conservation	374	0.38
47	Yale Univ.	366	0.37
48	West Virginia Division of Culture and History	365	0.37
49	West Texas A and M Univ.	362	0.37
50	California Dept. of Parks and Recreation	359	0.37
51	San Francisco State Univ.	359	0.37
52	Western Kentucky Univ.	351	0.36
53	Los Angeles County Natural History Museum	343	0.35
54	Kansas State Historical Society	305	0.31
55	Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources	301	0.31
56	Univ. of Texas at San Antonio	294	0.30
57	Gilcrease Museum	271	0.28
58	Sonoma State Univ.	267	0.27
59	North Carolina Office of State Archaeology	262	0.27
60	Univ. of South Carolina, SCIAA	261	0.27
61	Univ. of Louisville	259	0.27
62	Ball State Univ.	240	0.25
63	Wisconsin Historical Society	239	0.24
64	Indiana State Univ.	232	0.24
65	Univ. of Toledo	210	0.22
66	Univ. of Alaska Museum of the North	197	0.20
67	Mississippi State Univ.	196	0.20
68	Missouri Dept. of Transportation	196	0.20
69	Maryland Historical Trust	190	0.19
70	California Univ. of Pennsylvania	183	0.19
71	Univ. of California, Davis	172	0.18
72	HistoryMiami Museum	160	0.16
73	Univ. of Wisconsin, Oshkosh	159	0.16
74	East Carolina Univ.	152	0.16
75	Beloit College	145	0.15
Total		87,721	89.86
Grand Total		97,622	

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon

such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23–01, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost $8.6 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–01

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment* $6.0 billion

Other $2.6 billion

TOTAL $8.6 billion

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty (40) F–35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft

Forty-two

(42) Pratt & Whitney F135–PW–100 Engines (40 installed, 2 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/PYQ–10 Simple Key Loaders; KGV–135A embedded secure communications devices; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; Full Mission Simulators and system trainers; electronic warfare systems and Reprogramming Lab support; logistics management and support systems; threat detection, tracking, and targeting systems; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); classified software and software development, delivery and integration support; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; weapons containers; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft engine component improvement program (CIP) support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic systems and equipment; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; minor modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support; personnel training and training equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; warranties; and U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services, studies, and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (GR–D–SAD).

(v) Prior Related Cases. if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 26, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Greece F–35 Aircraft

The Government of Greece has requested to buy up to forty (40) F–35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) aircraft; and forty-two (42) Pratt & Whitney F135–PW–100 engines (40 installed, 2 spares). Also included are AN/PYQ–10 Simple Key Loaders; KGV–135A embedded secure communications devices; Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; Full Mission Simulators and system trainers; electronic warfare systems and Reprogramming Lab support; logistics management and support systems; threat detection, tracking, and targeting systems; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); classified software and software development, delivery and integration support; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; weapons containers; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft engine component improvement program (CIP) support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic systems and equipment; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; minor modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support; personnel training and training equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; warranties; and U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services, studies, and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $8.6 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security of the United by improving the air capabilities and interoperability of a NATO Ally that is a force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will allow Greece to modernize its air force and improve Greece's ability to provide for the defense of its airspace, contribute to NATO missions to preserve regional security and defend NATO Allies, and maintain interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces. The F–35 will offset the increasing obsolescence of other Hellenic Air Force aircraft such as the F–4 and Mirage 2000. Greece will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, TX, and Pratt & Whitney Military Engines, East Hartford, CT. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Greece.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–01

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F–35A Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) aircraft is a single seat, single engine, all-weather, stealth, fifth-generation, multirole aircraft. It contains sensitive technology including the low observable airframe/outer mold line, the Pratt and Whitney F135 engine, AN/APG–81 radar, an integrated core processor central computer, a mission systems/electronic warfare suite, a multiple sensor suite, technical data/documentation, and associated software.

a. The Pratt and Whitney F135 engine is a single 40,000–lb thrust class engine designed for the F–35 and assures highly reliable, affordable performance. The engine is designed to be utilized in all F–35 variants, providing unmatched commonality and supportability throughout the worldwide base of F–35 users.

b. The AN/APG–81 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) is a high processing power/high transmission power electronic array capable of detecting air and ground targets from a greater distance than mechanically scanned array radars. It also contains a synthetic aperture radar (SAR), which creates high-resolution ground maps, provides weather data to the pilot, and provides air and ground tracks to the mission system, which uses it as a component to fuse sensor data.

c. The Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS) provides long-range detection and tracking as well as an infrared search and track (IRST) and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) capability for precision tracking, weapons delivery, and bomb damage assessment (BDA). The EOTS replaces multiple separate internal or podded systems typically found on legacy aircraft.

d. The Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EODAS) provides the pilot with full spherical coverage for air-to-air and air-to-ground threat awareness, day/night vision enhancements, a fire control capability and precision tracking of wingmen/friendly aircraft. The EODAS provides data directly to the pilot's helmet as well as the mission system.

e. The F–35 Electronic Warfare (EW) system is a reprogrammable, integrated system that provides radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support and self-defense through the search, intercept, location, and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter IR and RF threats.

f. The F–35 Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence/ Communications, Navigation, and Identification (C4I/CNI) system provides the pilot with unmatched connectivity to flight members, coalition forces and the battlefield. It is an integrated subsystem designed to provide a broad spectrum of secure, anti-jam voice and data communications, precision radio navigation and landing capability, self-identification, beyond visual range target identification, and connectivity to off-board

sources of information. It also includes an inertial navigation and global positioning system (OPS) for precise location information. The functionality is tightly integrated within the mission system to enhance efficiency.

g. The F–35 C4I/CNI system includes two data links: the Multi-Function Advanced Data Link (MADL) and Link 16. The MADL is designed specifically for the F–35 and allows for stealthy communications among F–35s. Link–6 is an advanced command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. It provides the warfighter key theater functions such as surveillance, identification, air control, weapons engagement coordination, and direction for all services and allied forces. Link–16 equipment allows the F–35 to communicate with legacy aircraft using widely-distributed J-series message protocols.

h. The F–35 Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment (ALGS) provides a fully integrated logistics management solution. ALGS integrates a number of functional areas, including supply chain management, repair, support equipment, engine support, and training. The ALGS infrastructure employs a state-of-the-art information system that provides real-time, decision-worthy information for sustainment decisions by flight line personnel. Prognostic health monitoring technology is integrated with the air system and is crucial to predictive maintenance of vital components.

i. The F–35 Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) provides an intelligent information infrastructure that binds all the key concepts of ALGS into an effective support system. ALIS establishes the appropriate interfaces among the F–35 Air Vehicle, the warfighter, the training system, government information technology (IT) systems, and supporting commercial enterprise systems. Additionally, ALIS provides a comprehensive tool for data collection and analysis, decision support, and action tracking.

j. The F–35 Training System includes several training devices to provide integrated training for pilots and maintainers. The pilot training devices include a Full Mission Simulator (FMS) and Deployable Mission Rehearsal Trainer (DMRT). The maintenance training devices include an Aircraft Systems Maintenance Trainer (ASMT), Ejection System Maintenance Trainer (ESMT), Outer Mold Line (OML) Lab, Flexible Linear Shaped Charge (FLSC) Trainer, Fl35 Engine Module Trainer and Weapons Loading Trainer (WLT). The F–35 Training System can be integrated so both pilots and maintainers learn in the same Integrated Training Center (ITC). Alternatively, the pilots and maintainers can train in separate facilities (Pilot Training Center and Maintenance Training Center).

k. Other subsystems, features, and capabilities include the F–35's low observable air frame, Integrated Core Processor (ICP) Central Computer, Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS), Pilot Life Support System (PLSS), Off-Board Mission Support (OMS) System, and publications/ maintenance manuals. The HMDS provides a fully sunlight readable, biocular display presentation of aircraft information projected onto the pilot's helmet visor. The use of a night vision camera integrated into the helmet eliminates the need for separate Night Vision Goggles. The PLSS provides a measure of Pilot Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Protection through use of an On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS); and an escape system that provides additional protection to the pilot. OBOGS takes the Power and Thermal Management System (PTMS) air and enriches it by removing gases (mainly nitrogen) by adsorption, thereby increasing the concentration of oxygen in the product gas and supplying breathable air to the pilot. The OMS provides a mission planning, mission briefing, and a maintenance/intelligence/tactical debriefing platform for the F–35.

2. The Electronic Warfare Reprogramming Lab is used by U.S. Government engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for foreign F–35 customers.

3. The AN/PYQ–10 Simple Key Loader is a portable, hand-held device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

4. The KGV–135A is a high-speed, general purpose encryptor/decryptor module used for wide-band data encryption.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Greece can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Greece.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 620C(d) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Section 620C(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Act), Executive Order 12163, State Department Delegation of Authority No. 293–2, and State Department Delegation of Authority 510; I hereby certify that the furnishing to Greece of F–35 aircraft and related defense articles and services is consistent with the principles contained in Section 620C(b) of the Act.

This certification will be made part of the notification to Congress under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, regarding the proposed sale of the above-named articles and services and is based on the justification accompanying such notification, of which such justification constitutes a full explanation.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23–07, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Türkiye for defense articles and services estimated to cost $23.0 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Türkiye.

Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* $15.3 billion.
Other $7.7 billion.
Total $23.0 billion.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Republic of Türkiye has requested to buy 40 new F–16 Block 70 aircraft and to modernize 79 existing F–16 aircraft to V-Configuration. The request includes:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirty-two (32) F–16 C Block 70 Aircraft.

Eight (8) F–16 D Block 70 Aircraft.

Forty-eight (48) F110–GE–129D Engines (40 installed, 8 spares).

One hundred forty-nine (149) Improved Programmable Display Generators (iPDG) (40 installed, 10 spares, 99 for modernization program (79 installed, 20 spares)).

One hundred forty-nine (149) AN/APG–83 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Scalable Agile Beam Radars (SABR) (40 installed, 10 spares, 99 for modernization program (79 installed, 20 spares)).

One hundred sixty-nine (169) Modular Mission Computers (MMC) 7000AHC (or available mission computer) (40 installed, 10 spares, 119 for modernization program (79 installed, 40 spares)).

One hundred fifty-nine (159) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M–Code capability and Precise Positioning Service (PPS) (40 installed, 8 spares, 111 for modernization program (79 installed, 32 spares)).

One hundred sixty-eight (168) Integrated Viper Electronic Warfare Suite (IVEWS) or equivalent Electronic Warfare (EW) systems (40 installed, 10 spares, 118 for modernization program (79 installed, 39 spares)).

Eight hundred fifty-eight (858) LAU–129 Guided Missile Launchers.

Forty-four (44) M61 Vulcan cannons (40 installed, 4 spares).

Sixteen (16) AN/AAQ–33 Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP).

One hundred fifty-one (151) Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS–JTRS) (40 installed and 4 ground terminals, 8 spares, and

99 for modernization program (79 installed and 4 ground terminals, 16 spares)).

Nine hundred fifty-two (952) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) AIM–120C–8 or equivalent missiles.

Ninety-six (96) AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Eight hundred sixty-four (864) GBU–39/B Small Diameter Bombs Increment 1 (SDB–1).

Two (2) GBU–39(T–1)/B SDB–1 Guided Test Vehicles.

Two (2) GBU–39(T–1)/B SDB–1 Practice Bombs.

Ninety-six (96) AGM–88B High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM).

Ninety-six (96) AGM–88E Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles (AARGM).

Ten (10) AARGM Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Eleven (11) AARGM Control Sections.

Twelve (12) AARGM Guidance Sections.

Four hundred one (401) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Missiles.

Twelve (12) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs).

Forty (40) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units.

Twelve (12) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder CATM Guidance Units.

Twelve (12) MK82 Inert Filled General Purpose Bombs.

Eight hundred fifty (850) Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) KMU–556 Tail Kits for GBU–31.

Two hundred (200) JDAM KMU–557 Tail Kits for GBU–3lv3.

Three hundred eighty-four (384) JDAM KMU–559 Tail Kits for GBU–32.

Three (3) JDAM KMU–572 Tail Kits for GBU–38 or Laser JDAM GBU–54.

One thousand fifty (1,050) FMU–152 Fuzes.

Non-MDE:

Also included are AMRAAM CATMs; AIM–9X Sidewinder training missiles and Active Optical Target Detectors (AOTD); HARM control sections, rocket motors, and warhead spares; FMU–139 Joint Programmable Fuzes; DSU–38 Laser Guidance Sets for GBU–54; missile containers; AN/ARC–238 radios; AN/APX–127 or equivalent Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) Combined Interrogator Transponders (CIT) with mode 5; Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS) II or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tracker (HObIT) helmet mounted displays; Infrared Search and Track (IRST) pods; AN/ALE–47 Countermeasure Dispenser Systems (CMDS); KY–58 and KIV–78 cryptographic devices; Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); additional secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; Flight Mission Planning Systems (FMPS); Remote Operated Video Enhanced Receivers (ROVER) 6i/6Sis; Tactical Network ROVER kits, and STINGER Multi Bi-Directional (MBI) antennas; SNIPER pod pylons; impulse cartridges, chaff, flares, and ammunition; other bomb components; Common Munitions Built-in-Test (BIT) Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); Rackmount Improved Avionics Intermediate Shop (RIAIS); Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); Triple Missile Launcher Adapters (TMLA); aircraft, avionics, and weapons integration, test support, and equipment; major modernization upgrade kits for F–16 Block 40 and Block 50+ aircraft and Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) modifications; aircraft and engine repair and refurbishment after maintenance; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories and repair and return support; aircraft, engine, ground, and pilot support equipment; Classified/Unclassified Computer Program Identification Number (CPIN) systems; electronic warfare database support; pylons, launcher adaptors, weapon interfaces, bomb and ejection racks, conformal fuel tanks, and travel pods; precision measurement equipment laboratory and calibration support; Classified/Unclassified software and software support; Classified/Unclassified publications, manuals, and technical documentation; maps and mapping data; facilities and construction support; simulators and training devices; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (TK–D–SAE, TK–D–QCV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TK–D–SFA, TK–D–SLA, TK–D–NCU, TK–D–SMB, TK–D–YAC, TK–D–YAE, TK–D–YAH, TK–P–AHX.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 26, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Türkiye F–16 Aircraft Acquisition and Modernization

The Republic of Türkiye has requested to buy 40 new F–16 aircraft and to modernize 79 existing F–16 aircraft to V–Configuration. The request includes: thirty-two (32) F–16 C Block 70 aircraft; eight (8) F–16 D Block 70 aircraft; forty-eight (48) Fl 10–GE–129D engines (40 installed, 8 spares); one hundred forty-nine (149) Improved Programmable Display Generators (iPDG) (40 installed, 10 spares, 99 for modernization program (79 installed, 20 spares)); one hundred forty-nine (149) AN/APG–83 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Scalable Agile Beam Radars (SABR) (40 installed, 10 spares, 99 for modernization program (79 installed, 20 spares)); one hundred sixty-nine (169) Modular Mission Computers (MMC) 7000AHC (or available mission computer) (40 installed, 10 spares, 119 for modernization program (79 installed, 40 spares)); one hundred fifty-nine (159) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS)(EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M–Code capability and Precise Positioning Service (PPS)(40 installed, 8 spares, 111 for modernization program (79 installed, 32 spares)); one hundred sixty-eight (168) Integrated Viper Electronic Warfare Suite (IVEWS) or equivalent Electronic Warfare (EW) systems (40 installed, 10 spares, 118 for modernization program (79 installed, 39 spares)); eight hundred fifty-eight (858) LAU–129 guided missile launchers; forty-four (44) M61 Vulcan cannons (40 installed, 4 spares); sixteen (16) AN/AAQ–33 Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP); one hundred fifty-one (151) Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS–JTRS) (40 installed and 4 ground terminals, 8 spares, and 99 for modernization program (79 installed and 4 ground terminals, 16 spares)); nine hundred fifty-two (952) Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) AIM–120C–8 or equivalent missiles; ninety-six (96) AMRAAM guidance sections; eight hundred sixty-four (864) GBU–39/B Small Diameter Bombs Increment l (SDB–1); two (2) GBU–39(T–l)/B SDB–1 guided test vehicles; two (2) GBU–39(T–1)/B SDB–1 practice bombs; ninety-six (96) AGM–88B High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM); ninety-six (96) AGM–88E Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles (AARGM); ten (10) AARGM Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); eleven (11) AARGM control sections; twelve (12) AARGM guidance sections; four hundred one (401) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder missiles; twelve (12) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); forty (40) AIM–9X Block II sidewinder tactical guidance units; twelve (12) AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder CATM guidance units; twelve (12) MK82 Inert Filled general purpose bombs; eight hundred fifty (850) Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) KMU–556 tail kits for GBU–31; two hundred (200) JDAM KMU–557 tail kits for GBU–31v3; three hundred eighty-four (384) JDAM KMU–559 tail kits for GBU–32; three (3) JDAM KMU–572 tail kits for GBU–38 or Laser JDAM GBU–54; one thousand fifty (1,050) FMU–152 fuzes. Also included are AMRAAM CATMs; AIM–9X Sidewinder training missiles and Active Optical Target Detectors (AOTD); HARM control sections, rocket motors, and warhead spares; FMU–139 Joint Programmable Fuzes; DSU–38 Laser Guidance Sets for GBU–54; missile containers; AN/ARC–238 radios; AN/APX–127 or equivalent Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) Combined Interrogator Transponders (CIT) with mode 5; Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS) II or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tracker (HObIT) helmet mounted displays; Infrared Search and Track (IRST) pods; AN/ALE–47 Countermeasure Dispenser Systems (CMDS); KY–58 and KIV–78 cryptographic devices; Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); additional secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; Flight Mission Planning Systems (FMPS); Remote Operated Video Enhanced Receivers (ROVER) 6i/6Sis; Tactical Network ROVER kits, and STINGER Multi Bi-Directional (MBI) antennas; SNIPER pod pylons; impulse cartridges, chaff, flares, and ammunition; bomb components and Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); Rackmount Improved Avionics Intermediate Shop (RIAIS); Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); Triple Missile Launcher Adapters (TMLA); aircraft, avionics, and weapons integration, test support, and equipment; major modernization upgrade kits for F–16 Block 40 and Block 50+ aircraft and Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) modifications; aircraft and engine repair and refurbishment after maintenance; engine and aircraft spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories and repair and return support; aircraft, engine, ground, and pilot support equipment; Classified/Unclassified Computer Program Identification Number (CPIN) systems; electronic warfare database support; pylons, launcher adaptors, weapon interfaces, bomb and ejection racks, conformal fuel tanks, and travel pods; precision measurement equipment laboratory and calibration support; Classified/Unclassified software and software support; Classified/Unclassified publications, manuals, and technical documentation; maps and mapping data; facilities and construction support; simulators and training devices; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $23.0 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security of the United States by improving the air capabilities and interoperability of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is a force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will allow Türkiye to expand and modernize its fleet of F–16 aircraft as older F–16 aircraft approach the end of their service life. These new and refurbished aircraft will provide Türkiye with a fleet of

modernized multi-role combat aircraft to enable it to provide for the defense of its airspace, contribute to NATO missions to preserve regional security and defend NATO Allies, and maintain interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces. Türkiye has F–16 aircraft in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Greenville, SC. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Türkiye.

There will be no adverse-impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F–16 Block 70 weapon system is a fourth generation single-engine supersonic all-weather multirole fighter aircraft and features advanced avionics and systems. It contains the General Electric F110–129D engine, AN/APG–83 radar, digital flight control system, embedded internal global navigation system, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS) II or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tracker (HObIT) with Night Vision Device (NVD) compatibility, internal and external Electronic Warfare (EW) equipment, Advanced IFF, Link–16 datalink, operational flight trainer, and software and computer systems.

a. General Electric F110–GE–129D engines are afterburning turbofan jet engines that power the F–16.

b. General Electric F110–GE–129D engine spare modules are kits made up of spare engine components including the following modules: inlet fan, core engine, fan drive turbine, augmenter duct and nozzle, and gear box.

c. The Modular Mission Computer (MMC) 7000AHC is the central aircraft computer of the F–16. It serves as the hub for all aircraft subsystems and avionics data transfer.

d. The Improved Programmable Display Generator (iPDG) and color multifunction displays utilize ruggedized commercial liquid crystal display technology that is designed to withstand the harsh environment found in modern fighter cockpits. The display generator is the fifth generation graphics processor for the F–16. Through the use of state-of-the-art microprocessors and graphics engines, it provided orders of magnitude increases in throughput, memory, and graphics capabilities.

e. The APG–83 Scalable Agile Beam Radar (SABR) is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar upgrade for the F–16. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars (e.g., APG–68). The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, and significant improvements in all modes.

f. The Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)—or M–Code receiver when available—and Precise Positioning Service (PPS) is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM—or M–Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y or M) signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

g. The Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System II (JHMCS II) or Scorpion Hybrid Optical-based Inertial Tracker (HObIT) is a device used in aircraft to project information to the pilot's eyes and aids in tasks such as cueing weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. This system projects visual targeting and aircraft performance information on the back of the helmet's visor, enabling the pilot to monitor this information without interrupting their field of view through the cockpit canopy. This provides improvement for close combat targeting and engagement.

h. The Integrated Electronic (EW) Warfare Suite provides passive radar warning, wide spectrum Radio Frequency (RF) jamming, and control and management of the entire EW system. This system is anticipated to be internal to the aircraft, although mounted pod variants are used in certain circumstances.

i. The Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (AIFF) Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIT) is a system capable of transmitting and interrogating Mode V. Mode IV and Mode V anti-jam performance specifications, data, software source code, algorithms, and tempest plans or reports will not be offered, released, discussed, or demonstrated.

j. The Multifunction Information Distribution System (MIDS) Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) is a four-channel software programmable radio for Link–16 digital voice communications and datalink, Tactical Air Navigation (TACAN), and advanced waveforms. Link–16 is a command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity and jam-resistant digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

2. The LAU–129 Guided Missile Launcher is capable of launching the AIM–9 family of missiles or AIM–120 AMRAAM. The LAU–129 launcher serves as the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft.

3. The Triple Missile Launcher Adapter (TMLA) carries three (3) missile launchers and missiles from a single standard wing pylon.

4. The M61 Vulcan Cannon is a six-barreled automatic 20mm cannon with a cyclic rate of fire from 2,500–6,000 shots per minute. This weapon is a hydraulically powered air-cooled Gatling gun used to damage and destroy aerial targets, suppress and incapacitate personnel targets, and damage and destroy moving and stationary light material targets.

5. The AN/AAQ–33 Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod (ATP) is a single, lightweight targeting pod for military aircraft that provides positive target identification, autonomous tracking, Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinate generation, and precise weapons guidance from extended standoff ranges. It incorporates a high-definition mid-wave-forward-looking infrared (FLIR) dual-mode laser, visible-light High-Definition television (HDTV), laser spot tracker, video data link (VDL), and a digital data recorder.

6. The L3Harris ROVER 6i/6Si transceiver provides real-time full-motion video (FMV) and other network data for situational awareness, targeting, battle damage assessment, and surveillance for relay and convoy over-watch operations and other situations where eyes-on-target are required. This potential sale includes Tactical Network kits and Stinger MBI antennas. It provides expanded frequencies and additional processing resources from previous ROVER versions, allowing increased levels of collaboration and interoperability with numerous manned and unmanned airborne platforms.

7. The Infrared Search and Track (IRST) system detects and tracks threats that have infrared signatures at long ranges. It can act without emitting any radiation of its own and enables aircrews to detect adversaries before those adversaries see or sense them.

8. The AN/ARC–238 radio with HAVE QUICK II is a voice communications radio system that employs cryptographic technology. Other waveforms may be included as needed.

9. The AN/APX–126/127 Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Combined Interrogator Transponder (CIT) is a system capable of transmitting and interrogating Mode 5. The AN/APX–127 is a form, fit, and function refresh of the AN/APX–126 and is the next generation to be produced.

10. The AN/ALE–47 Countermeasure Dispenser Set (CMDS) provides an integrated threat-adaptive computer-controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The AN/ALE–47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and determine a response.

11. The KY–58 is a secure voice module primarily used to encrypt radio communication to and from military aircraft and other tactical vehicles.

12. The KIV–78 is a cryptographic applique for IFF. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

13. The AN/PYQ–10 Simple Key Loader is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

14. The Flight Mission Planning System (FMPS) is a multi-platform, PC-based mission planning system. FMPS is the Turkish-designed equivalent to the Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS).

15. The AIM–9X Block II Sidewinder Missile is a short-range air-to-air missile providing a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate a Helmet Mounted Cueing System. This potential sale will include AIM–9X guidance section spares, Active Optical Target Detectors, Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM), and CATM guidance units.

16. The AIM–120C–8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high-and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) as well as AMRAAM guidance section and control section spares.

17. The GBU–39 Small Diameter Bomb Increment 1 (SDB–1) is a 250-lb GPS-aided inertial navigation system with small autonomous, day or night, adverse weather, conventional, air-to-ground precision glide weapon capabilities able to strike fixed and stationary re-locatable non-hardened targets from standoff ranges. It is intended to provide aircraft with an ability to carry a high number of bombs. Aircraft are able to carry four SDBs in place of one 2,000-lb bomb. This potential sale includes SDB–I Guided Test Vehicles and GBU–39/B Tactical Training Rounds.

18. The AGM–88 High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile (HARM) is a tactical air-to-surface missile designed to inhibit or destroy surface-to-air missile radars, early warning radars, and radar-directed air defense artillery systems. This potential sale includes HARM guidance section, control section, warhead, and rocket motor spares.

19. The AGM–88E Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile (AARGM) weapon system is an air-to-ground missile intended for Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) and Destruction of Enemy Air Defenses (DEAD) missions. The AARGM provides suppression or destruction of enemy RADAR and denies the enemy the use of air defense systems, thereby improving the survivability of tactical aircraft. This potential sale will include CATMs as well as guidance section, control section, propulsion section, GPS cards, and warhead spares.

20. Joint Direct-Attack Munitions (JDAM) consist of a bomb body paired with a warhead-specific tail kit containing an Inertial Navigation System (INS)/Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance capability that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse Weather ''smart'' munitions. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface-targets during the day or night. The JDAM is capable of receiving target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by onboard aircraft sensors (i.e., FLIR, Radar, etc.) during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry.

a. The GBU–31 is a 2,000-pound JDAM consisting of a KMU–556 tail kit and BLU–109 or MK–84 bomb body.

b. The GBU–31v3 is a 2,000-pound JDAM consisting of a KMU–557 tail kit and BLU–109 bomb body.

c. The GBU–32 is a 1,000-pound JDAM consisting of a KMU–559 tail kit and BLU–110 or MK–83 bomb body.

d. The GBU–54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition (LJDAM) is a 500-pound JDAM which incorporates all the capabilities of the JDAM guidance tail kit and adds a precision laser guidance set. The LJDAM gives the weapon system an optional semi-active laser guidance in addition to the INS/OPS guidance. This provides the optional capability to strike moving targets. The GBU–54 consists of a DSU–38 laser guidance set, KMU–572 tail kit, and MK–82 or BLU–111 bomb body.

e. This potential sale includes inert bombs, which have no explosive-fill and are used for integration testing.

21. The FMU–152 or FMU–139 Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) is a multi-delay, multi-arm, and proximity sensor compatible with general purpose blast, frag, and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit selectable in flight when used with numerous precision-guided weapons.

22. The Common Munitions Built-In-Test/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results and to upload and download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform preflight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of Operational Flight Program (OFP) data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of Global Positioning System (GPS) cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

23. The Electronic Warfare Integrated Reprogramming Database (EWIRDB) is used by U.S. Government engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for the AN/ALQ–131 electronic countermeasures pod on the F–16 aircraft. The source product is not releasable to the customer.

24. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

25. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

26. A determination has been made that Türkiye can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

27. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Türkiye.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO §620C(d) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Section 620C(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Act), Executive Order 12163 and State Department Delegation of Authority No. 245–2, I hereby certify that the furnishing to Turkey of 40 new F–16 aircraft and equipment to modernize 79 existing F–16 aircraft is consistent with the principles contained in Section 620C(b) of the Act.

This certification will be made part of the notification to Congress under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, regarding the proposed sale of the above-named articles and services and is based on the justification accompanying such notification, of which such justification constitutes a full explanation.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL PAUL NAKASONE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the career of an exceptional public servant, GEN Paul Nakasone. General Nakasone is retiring from the Army after 37 years of military service, most recently as the Director of the National Security Agency and Commander of United States Cyber Command. He is a decorated combat veteran, and his career has been exceptional. His first operational tour of duty, in 1987, was at Fort Carson, CO, as an assistant intelligence officer. His tours since have brought him everywhere from Korea to Kansas, Georgia to Iraq, and to Fort Belvoir, the Pentagon, and Alexandria, VA.

Over the last 6 years General Nakasone has led the women and men of the National Security Agency, ensuring that its unique, timely and accurate intelligence insights on topics of critical national security are delivered to warfighters, policymakers, and U.S. allies. As chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I am a firsthand daily consumer of NSA's signals intelligence and analysis, and I cannot stress enough the importance, value, and insight it brings to us as policymakers.

Under his leadership of NSA and concurrently, as Commander of U.S. Cyber Command, General Nakasone oversaw greater integration between U.S. Cyber Command and the NSA. He established several NSA organizations, including a Cybersecurity Directorate, a China Strategy Center, and the Cybersecurity Collaboration Center, to partner with private industry. He spearheaded the development of several successful joint NSA and Cyber Command teams such as the Russia Small Group on election security, which has been vital in securing U.S. elections through the last three election cycles.

In 2018, during General Nakasone's first appearance before the committee as Director of the NSA, he told members that his priority coming into the position was the NSA workforce. He called them the core of the Agency and was adamant about assessing the challenges to retaining ''his talent'' and also recruiting more talent. He knew, as with any successful organization, the NSA relies on its brilliant and skilled workforce of intelligence professionals to accomplish its national security mission. Their well-being and success have been a priority for him throughout his tenure and during his nearly 20 appearances before the committee. He helped to grow the next generation of intelligence analysts and collectors, mathematical scientists, linguists, and cybersecurity experts with programs such as Women in Cyber, cybersecurity and foreign language summer camps, codebreaker challenges, and with partnerships at colleges and universities across the country.

In speaking of the next generation, I would be remiss in not sharing the incredible story of General Nakasone's father, retired Colonel Edwin Nakasone, known as Bud. On the morning of December 7, 1941, then 14-year-old Bud Nakasone, now 96, was eating a bowl of corn flakes in his kitchen when he saw Japanese planes streaking through the skies, part of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. He saw the planes strafing the nearby barracks and saw a bomb drop on the nearby airfield. He saw U.S. planes, barracks, and hangars going up in flames. As one of the planes flew over their home, he saw on the plane ''the big red meatball''—what the military called the large red circle representing the Japanese Rising Sun—and in the cockpit, the Japanese pilot wearing goggles and a white scarf—and he realized we were at war.

Bud Nakasone enlisted in the Army in 1945, and he served as an interpreter during the occupation of Japan. He later served both on Active Duty and with the Army Reserve, retiring after 41 years of service. He made his career as a high school teacher and college professor in Minnesota. General Nakasone's mother Mary was also an educator—a librarian at the University of Minnesota—when she met Bud. They were married in 1954 are still both living in Minnesota and will celebrate 70 years together this September.

General Nakasone has said that his father's career in the Army Reserve influenced his decision to enroll in the Army's ROTC program and that, when he started learning about the 442nd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army—a World War II fighting unit composed almost entirely of second-generation American soldiers of Japanese ancestry—and interviewed several of its veterans, he also became interested in serving.

He has remarked that some of his most satisfying assignments included the privilege to command soldiers, including as a company commander while deployed along the demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea.

He is a big sports fan, including of the Minnesota Vikings, which means he knows how to keep a stiff upper lip when life brings disappointment or misfortune, whether in the form of a missed Gary Anderson field goal or a lengthy Senate hold. On General Nakasone's bio, it is noted that he and his wife Susan are the proud parents of four children, who form the nucleus of ''Team Nakasone,'' and I know how important their efforts and sacrifices have also been in allowing General Nakasone to take on assignments of increasing responsibility and importance to the security of the United States.

On behalf of a grateful nation, as he transitions to future opportunities, I would like to publicly thank Paul for his long military career, his contributions to the Nation and our national security, and for his leadership of the intelligence professionals at the National Security Agency, and I want to personally thank the Nakasone family for their critical role in supporting him throughout his service to the Nation.

Paul, thank you, and we will miss you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY GOLDWATER CLAY

• Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Peggy Goldwater Clay for her 20 years of service as the chair of the board of trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation was established by Congress in 1986 to serve as a living memorial to honor the lifetime work of Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate. Peggy Goldwater Clay is Senator Goldwater's youngest daughter.

During Mrs. Clay's tenure, she enhanced the visibility and national reputation of the foundation by successfully promoting its mission and goals of seeking to identify, encourage, and financially support college sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming this Nation's next generation of research leaders in the fields of natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics.

As chair, Mrs. Clay promoted the foundation's modernization, effective communication, innovation, and collaboration with Tribal colleges, community colleges, 4-year universities, and other institutions.

She approved, with unanimous board support, the technological improvements of the foundation's application process that transitioned it from paper to online applications and from in-person to virtual review. This effort greatly reduced the costs of processing the nominations received by the foundation from colleges and universities in all 50 States and U.S. Territories.

Mrs. Clay encouraged and approved a 2014 survey of Goldwater Awardees, revealing that the outcomes desired when the foundation was established by Congress are being fulfilled; the survey showed that upwards of 70 percent of those who had been awarded Goldwater Scholarships had gone on to obtains Ph.Ds. in natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics and that a similar percentage had pursued research careers in these critical fields.

She approved the inception of the Goldwater Scholar Faculty Mentor Award, a collaborative initiative between the Council on Undergraduate Research and the foundation that annually recognizes an outstanding faculty mentor of the Goldwater Scholars.

Mrs. Clay endorsed a proposal, submitted by the foundation's president, that resulted in a $9 million grant from the Department of Defense Education Program. This grant enabled the foundation to nearly double the number of scholarships it awarded from 2019 to 2023.

Also, during her tenure, Mrs. Clay helped establish the Barry Goldwater Educational Support fund, a scholars alumni organization known as the Goldwater Scholar Community, a new undergraduate research internship initiative, and a strategy to enhance the diversity of Goldwater Scholarship Awardees.

The foundation received a direct $2 million congressional appropriation in 2022 to further support its scholarship awards. In 2021, Congress reauthorized the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. These accomplishments would not have been possible without Mrs. Clay's efforts.

I, along with the board of trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, express sincere gratitude and profound appreciation for Peggy Goldwater Clay's long, tireless, and inspired service as chair of the board of trustees.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT POSED BY THE SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR HIGH LEVELS OF EXTREMIST SETTLER VIOLENCE, FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF PEOPLE AND VILLAGES, AND PROPERTY DESTRUCTION—PM 36

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), section 212(f) and section 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 8 U.S.C. 1185(a)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the situation in the West Bank, including in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction. Such actions constitute a serious threat to the peace, security, and stability of the West Bank and Gaza, Israel, and the broader Middle East region and undermine the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. I find that these actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and I have declared a national emergency to deal with that threat.

The order authorizes the blocking of property and interests in property of any foreign person determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

(i) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged or attempted to engage in, actions—including directing, enacting, implementing, enforcing, or failing to enforce policies—that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the West Bank;

(ii) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged or attempted to engage in, planning, ordering, otherwise directing, or participating in certain actions—including acts of violence or threats of violence targeting civilians, efforts to place civilians in reasonable fear of violence, property destruction, or seizure or dispossession of property by private actors—affecting the West Bank;

(iii) to be or have been a leader or official of certain entities that have engaged in, or whose members have engaged in, such activities;

(iv) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, any person blocked pursuant to the order; or

(v) to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person blocked pursuant to the order.

The order also authorizes the blocking of property and interests in property of any foreign person determined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, to have committed or have attempted to commit, to pose a significant risk of committing, or to have participated in training to commit acts of terrorism affecting the West Bank. In addition, the order suspends the entry into the United States of any noncitizen determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

The order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. It directs the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to implement the order as it applies to visas, and it directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to implement the order as it applies to the entry into the United States of noncitizens. All executive departments and agencies of the United States are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to implement the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 1, 2024*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 599. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the ''Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office''.

H.R. 1060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the ''Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2754. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, as the ''Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3728. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the ''Caroline Chang Post Office''.

H.R. 6679. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel.

H.R. 7024. An act to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 599. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the ''Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the ''Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2754. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2395 East Del Mar Boulevard in Laredo, Texas, as the ''Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza, Lance Corporal Juan Rodrigo Rodriguez & Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3728. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the ''Caroline Chang Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 644. A bill to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies.

S. 1840. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

S. 3393. A bill to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and for other purposes.

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. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 3719. A bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to revise the duties of the Science Advisory Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3720. A bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to provide for additional requirements for land installment contract transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3721. A bill prescribe requirements with respect to plants detained by the Secretary of the Interior on suspicion of a violation of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3722. A bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3723. A bill to prohibit funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3724. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from using assessments generated by the Integrated Risk Information System as a tier 1 data source in rulemakings and other regulatory actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3725. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to codify a Federal cause of action and a type of remedy available for individuals significantly exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to encourage research and accountability for irresponsible discharge of those substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3726. A bill to amend Federal law to remove the terms ''mentally retarded'' and ''mental retardation'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3727. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Interagency Oversight Committee and to facilitate the disclosure and reporting of information regarding complaints and investigations related to proprietary institutions of higher education eligible to receive Federal education assistance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3728. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the administration of

housing loans of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prevent or resolve default under such loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 3729. A bill to modify eligibility requirements for amateur sports governing organizations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3730. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 3731. A bill to permit under certain conditions the transportation of passengers between ports in the State of Alaska, or between a port in the State of Alaska and a port in the State of Washington, on vessels not qualified to engage in the coastwise trade that transport more than 1,000 passengers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3732. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a study on the environmental impacts of artifical intelligence, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene a consortium on such environmental impacts, and to require the Director to develop a voluntary reporting system for the reporting of the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S.J. Res. 57. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to ''Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds''; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. VANCE, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S.J. Res. 58. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LUMMIS:

S.J. Res. 59. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to ''Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. Res. 540. A resolution requesting information on Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. Res. 541. A resolution supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. Con. Res. 27. A concurrent resolution recognizing the need for research, education, and policy development regarding high-potency marijuana; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 226

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 226, a bill to establish eligibility requirements for education support professionals and school support staff under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1149, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 2695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3235, a bill to require a strategy to counter the role of the People's Republic of China in evasion of sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 3470

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3470, a bill to amend the National

Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes.

S. 3493

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3493, a bill to require certification prior to obligation of funds for United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 3548

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3548, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 3657

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3657, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and make the credit fully refundable for certain taxpayers.

S. 3659

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3659, a bill to require a citizenship question on the decennial census, to require reporting on certain census statistics, and to modify apportionment of Representatives to be based on United States citizens instead of all persons.

S. 3666

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3666, a bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes.

S. 3688

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3688, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 7.4 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 3704

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3704, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve or deny applications for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of facilities to export or import natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 3708

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3708, a bill to reprogram Federal funds appropriated for UNRWA to construct the southwest border wall and to prohibit future funding for UNRWA.

S.J. RES. 52

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 52, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ''Finding That Lead Emissions From Aircraft Engines That Operate on Leaded Fuel Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution That May Reasonably Be Anticipated To Endanger Public Health and Welfare''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3727. A bill to establish the Proprietary Education Interagency Oversight Committee and to facilitate the disclosure and reporting of information regarding complaints and investigations related to proprietary institutions of higher education eligible to receive Federal education assistance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3727

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 ''Proprietary Education Oversight Task Force Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ACCREDITING AGENCY.—The term ''accrediting agency'' means a private educational association that acts as a reliable authority on the quality of education or training provided by an institution of higher education and is recognized by the Secretary under section 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099b).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—Unless otherwise expressly provided, the term ''Department'' means the Department of Education.

(3) EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The term ''executive officer'', with respect to a proprietary institution of higher education that is a publicly traded corporation, means—

(A) the president of the corporation;

(B) a vice president of the corporation who is in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function of the corporation, such as sales, administration, or finance; or

(C) any other officer or person who performs a policy-making function for the corporation, including an executive officer of a subsidiary of the corporation if the officer performs a policy making function for the corporation.

(4) FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—The term ''Federal education assistance'' when used with respect to a proprietary institution of higher education, means Federal funds that are disbursed or delivered by the Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Department of Defense to, or on behalf of, a student to be used for tuition, fees, instruction, or any other component of the student's cost of attendance (as defined in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll)) to attend the institution.

(5) INSTITUTIONAL DEBT.—The term ''institutional debt'' means any debt owed by a student or the parent of a student to an institution of higher education, including—

(A) debt owed through a private loan program, income-share agreement, or other financing product operated by the institution;

(B) debt owed from a return of student assistance made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) to the Department; and

(C) debt owed from the student's nonpayment of institutional charges or fees.

(6) PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN.—The term ''private education loan''—

(A) means a loan provided by a private educational lender (as defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a))) that—

(i) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(ii) is issued expressly for postsecondary educational expenses to a borrower, regardless of whether the loan is provided through the educational institution that the subject student attends or directly to the borrower from the private educational lender (as so defined); and

(iii) is not made, insured, or guaranteed under title VII or title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq. and 296 et seq.); and

(B) does not include an extension of credit under an open-end consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage transaction, a residential mortgage transaction, or any other loan that is secured by real property or a dwelling.

(7) PROPRIETARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''proprietary institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)).

(8) RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ''recruiting and marketing activities'' means activities that include any of the following:

(i) Advertising and promotional activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events, that are made directly or indirectly to a student, a prospective student, the public, an accrediting agency, a State agency, or to the Secretary by a proprietary institution of higher education, one of its representatives, or any person with whom the institution has an agreement to provide educational programs, advertising, or admissions services.

(ii) Misleading statement, misrepresentation, and substantial misrepresentation (as defined in section 668.71(c) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation).

(iii) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for a grant, a loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including soliciting an individual to provide contact information to a proprietary institution

of higher education, including through websites established for that purpose and funds paid to third parties for that purpose.

(iv) Other activities as the Secretary may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of the receipt of funds by an institution of higher education under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under that title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary, is not a recruiting and marketing activity under subparagraph (A).

(9) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise expressly provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(10) STATE APPROVAL AGENCY.—The term ''State approval agency'' means any State agency that determines whether an institution of higher education is legally authorized within the State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education.

(11) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term ''veterans service organization'' means an organization that is—

(A) recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code;

(B) congressionally chartered under title 36, United States Code, and serves or represents veterans;

(C) recognized by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs under section 14.628 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), as a national organization, State organization, tribal organization, or regional or local organization; or

(D) an organization that has a record of demonstrating expertise in, assists in, or serves the interests of veterans in education.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPRIETARY EDUCATION INTERAGENCY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Proprietary Education Interagency Oversight Committee (referred to in this Act as the ''Committee'') to be composed of the head (or the designee of the head who is designated under subsection (d)) of each of the following:

(1) The Department.

(2) The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

(3) The Department of Justice.

(4) The Securities and Exchange Commission.

(5) The Department of Defense.

(6) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(7) The Federal Trade Commission.

(8) The Department of Labor.

(9) The Internal Revenue Service.

(10) At the discretion of the President, any other relevant Federal agency.

(b) PURPOSES.—The Committee shall have the following purposes:

(1) To improve enforcement of applicable Federal laws and regulations.

(2) To increase accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education to students and taxpayers.

(3) To ensure the promotion of high-quality education programs.

(4) To reduce and prevent fraud and abuse by proprietary institutions of higher education.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—To meet the purposes described in subsection (b), the Committee shall—

(1) coordinate administrative oversight of proprietary institutions of higher education—

(A) such that the Federal agencies represented on the Committee may develop a memorandum of understanding to specify responsibilities of each of those agencies in creating the report under section 6;

(B) to encourage information-sharing, to the extent practicable, among those agencies related to Federal investigations, audits, or inquiries of proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(C) to increase coordination and cooperation between Federal and State agencies, including State Attorneys General and State approval agencies, with respect to improving oversight and accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(2) synthesize cross-agency industry data on proprietary institutions of higher education to—

(A) develop an annual report under section 6;

(B) publish a ''For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students'', in accordance with section 7; and

(C) develop consistency among Federal and State agencies in the dissemination of consumer information regarding proprietary institutions of higher education to ensure that students, parents, and other stakeholders have easy access to that information.

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) DESIGNEES.—The head of a Federal agency listed in subsection (a) may designate a high-ranking official of the agency to serve as a designee on the Committee. The designee shall be, whenever possible, the head of the portion of the agency that is most relevant to the purposes described in subsection (b).

(2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary or the Secretary's designee shall serve as the Chairperson of the Committee.

(3) COMMITTEE SUPPORT.—The Chairperson of the Committee shall ensure that appropriate staff and officials at the Department are available to support Committee-related work.

(e) COMMITTEE MEETINGS.—The members of the Committee shall meet regularly, but not less often than once during each quarter of each fiscal year, to carry out the purposes described in subsection (b) and the responsibilities described in subsection (c).

(f) NOTIFICATION TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SUBMIT COMPLAINTS.—The head of each Federal agency listed in subsection (a) shall notify each individual who submits to the Federal agency a complaint with respect to a proprietary institution of higher education that information from the complaint may be used to carry out the purposes described in subsection (b).

SEC. 4. PROPRIETARY EDUCATION OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department shall establish a Proprietary Education Oversight Advisory Committee (referred to in this Act as the ''Advisory Committee'') to advise the Committee. The Advisory Committee shall meet not less often than twice each fiscal year.

(b) FACA APPLICABILITY.—The Advisory Committee shall be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act'').

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall have 13 members, of which—

(A) 4 members shall be representatives from State attorneys general—

(i) 2 of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and 1 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) 2 of whom shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate, and 1 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate; and

(B) 9 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, of whom—

(i) 1 member shall be a representative from a State approval agency;

(ii) 1 member shall be a representative from a veterans service organization;

(iii) 1 member shall be a representative from an accrediting agency;

(iv) 1 member shall be a representative from a civil rights organization;

(v) 1 member shall be a representative from a proprietary institution of higher education;

(vi) 1 member shall be a current student of a proprietary institution of higher education who is a dependent student;

(vii) 1 member shall be a current student of a proprietary institution of higher education who is an independent student;

(viii) 1 member shall be a representative from a consumer advocate organization; and

(ix) 1 member shall be a representative from a legal assistance organization that represents students or borrowers.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals shall be appointed as members of the Advisory Committee—

(A) on the basis of the individuals' experience, integrity, impartiality, and good judgment; and

(B) on the basis of the individuals' technical qualifications, professional standing, and demonstrated knowledge in the field of proprietary education.

(3) TERMS OF MEMBERS.—The term of office of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be for 6 years, except that any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term.

(4) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made not later than 90 days after the vacancy occurs. If a vacancy occurs in a position to be filled by the Secretary, the Secretary shall publish a Federal Register notice soliciting nominations for the position not later than 30 days after being notified of the vacancy.

(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Committee with respect to—

(1) complaints filed against proprietary institutions of higher education with State attorneys general or State approval agencies;

(2) State enforcement actions against proprietary institutions of higher education;

(3) minority enrollment in proprietary institutions of higher education;

(4) veteran enrollment in proprietary institutions of higher education;

(5) outcome measures at proprietary institutions of higher education, including graduation rates, percent of graduates earning more than a high school graduate, and licensure pass rates;

(6) student loan burden from enrollment at proprietary institutions of higher education, including median amount owed disaggregated by degree type, cohort default rate, and percent of students in repayment;

(7) marketing and recruitment practices at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(8) per pupil expenditure for instructional purposes at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(9) enforcement actions the Federal Government should take against proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(10) preparation of the report under section 6.

(e) SHARING OF DATA FROM COMPLAINTS.—To carry out the duties described under subsection (d), the Advisory Committee may share among the members of the Advisory Committee and the Committee information from complaints filed against proprietary institutions of higher education consistent with the protection of the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information.

SEC. 5. COLLECTION AND TRACKING OF COMPLAINTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) CENTRALIZED COLLECTION, MONITORING, AND RESPONSE.—In consultation with the Committee, the Secretary shall establish a single, toll-free telephone number, a website, and a database (or use an existing database) to facilitate the centralized collection of, monitoring of, and response to student complaints regarding the services or activities of any proprietary institution of higher education that is eligible for Federal education assistance.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Committee shall coordinate with the Federal agencies represented on the Committee to route complaints to those agencies, where appropriate, and consistent with—

(A) the protection of the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information; and

(B) data security and integrity.

(b) USE OF COMPLAINT INFORMATION.—Information collected from complaints under subsection (a) shall be used—

(1) to facilitate coordination among the Federal agencies represented on the Committee;

(2) to facilitate investigations and enforcement actions against proprietary institutions of higher education;

(3) to prepare the report under section 6; and

(4) to prepare the For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students under section 7.

(c) ROUTING COMPLAINTS TO STATES.—To the extent practicable, State approval agencies may receive appropriate complaints from the systems established under subsection (a), if—

(1) the State approval agency system has the functional capacity to receive calls or electronic reports routed by the systems of the Department;

(2) the State approval agency has satisfied any conditions of participation in the system that the Department may establish, including treatment of personally identifiable information and sharing of information on complaint resolution or related compliance procedures and resources; and

(3) participation by the State approval agency includes measures necessary to provide for protection of personally identifiable information that conform to the Federal laws and standards for protection of the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information and for data integrity and security that apply to the Federal agencies described in subsection (d).

(d) DATA-SHARING REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate preparation of the reports required under section 6, supervision and enforcement activities, and monitoring of the market for educational services provided by any proprietary institution of higher education that is eligible for Federal education assistance, the Committee members shall share student complaint information with accrediting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, other Federal agencies, and State agencies, subject to the Federal laws and standards applicable to Federal agencies for the protection of the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information and for data security and integrity.

(2) SHARING OF DATA WITH THE DEPARTMENT.—The accrediting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, and other Federal agencies shall share data relating to student complaints regarding educational services provided by any proprietary institution of higher education with the Department, subject to the Federal laws and standards applicable to Federal agencies for the protection of the privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information and for data security and integrity.

SEC. 6. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and any other committee of Congress that the Committee determines appropriate.

(b) CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC ACCESS.—The report described in subsection (a)—

(1) shall not contain any personally identifiable information; and

(2) shall be made available to the public in a manner that is easily accessible to parents, students, and other stakeholders.

(c) CONTENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a description of the role of each member of the Committee in achieving the purposes described in section 3(b);

(B) an accounting of any negative or adverse action taken by the Federal Government, any member agency of the Committee, or a State to enforce Federal or State laws and regulations applicable to a proprietary institution of higher education;

(C) a summary of complaints received, resolved, or pending against each proprietary institution of higher education during the applicable year, including—

(i) student complaints collected by the complaint system established under section 5 or received by any member agency of the Committee;

(ii) any complaint filed by a Federal or State agency in a Federal, State, local, or Tribal court;

(iii) any administrative proceeding by a Federal or State agency involving noncompliance of any applicable law or regulation;

(iv) any other review, audit, or administrative process by any Federal or State agency that results in a penalty, suspension, or termination from any Federal or State program; and

(v) any complaint, review, audit, or administrative process by an accrediting agency that results in probation or equivalent action, denial, withdrawal, suspension, or termination of accreditation;

(D) the data described in paragraph (2) and any other data relevant to proprietary institutions of higher education that the Committee determines appropriate; and

(E) recommendations of the Committee for the legislative and administrative actions as the Committee determines are necessary to—

(i) improve enforcement of applicable Federal laws;

(ii) increase accountability of proprietary institutions of higher education to students, parents, and taxpayers;

(iii) reduce and prevent fraud and abuse by proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(iv) ensure the promotion of quality education programs.

(2) DATA.—

(A) INDUSTRY-WIDE DATA.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include data on all proprietary institutions of higher education that consists of information regarding—

(i) the total amount of Federal education assistance that proprietary institutions of higher education received for the previous academic year, and the percentage of the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) for the previous academic year that reflects the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to proprietary institutions of higher education for the previous academic year;

(ii) the total amount of Federal education assistance that proprietary institutions of higher education received for the previous academic year, disaggregated by—

(I) educational assistance in the form of a loan provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(II) educational assistance in the form of a grant provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(III) educational assistance provided under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(IV) assistance for tuition and expenses under section 2007 of title 10, United States Code;

(V) assistance provided under section 1784a of title 10, United States Code; and

(VI) Federal education assistance not described in subclauses (I) through (V);

(iii) the percentage of the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) for the previous academic year for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (VI) of clause (ii), that reflects the total amount of Federal education assistance provided to proprietary institutions of higher education for the previous academic year for each of those programs;

(iv) the average retention and graduation rates for students pursuing a degree at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(v) the average cohort default rate (as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)) for proprietary institutions of higher education, and the cohort default rate for each proprietary institution of higher education;

(vi) the average pre-enrollment expenditures on a per-enrolled-student basis, including expenditures on recruiting and marketing activities;

(vii) the average educational and general expenditures (as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a)) per student, excluding all pre-enrollment expenditures;

(viii) for careers requiring the passage of a licensing examination—

(I) the passing rate of individuals who attended a proprietary institution of higher education taking the examination to pursue such a career; and

(II) the passing rate of all individuals taking the exam to pursue such a career; and

(ix) the use of private education loans at proprietary institutions of higher education that includes—

(I) an estimate of the total number of those loans;

(II) information on the average debt, default rate, and interest rate of those loans; and

(III) the names of each lender providing private education loans to borrowers with respect to each proprietary institution of higher education in the prior academic year, including—

(aa) the number of borrowers receiving loans from each lender; and

(bb) the volume of dollars provided to borrowers with respect to the proprietary institution of higher education by each lender.

(B) DATA ON PUBLICLY TRADED CORPORATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include data on proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations, consisting of information on—

(I) any pre-tax profit of those proprietary institutions of higher education—

(aa) reported as a total amount and an average percent of revenue for all those proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(bb) reported for each of those proprietary institutions of higher education;

(II) revenue for those proprietary institutions of higher education spent on recruiting and marketing activities, student instruction, and student support services, reported—

(aa) as a total amount and an average percentage of revenue for all those proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(bb) for each of those proprietary institutions of higher education;

(III) total compensation packages, including bonuses, of the executive officers of each of those proprietary institutions of higher education;

(IV) a list of institutional loan programs offered by each of those proprietary institutions of higher education that includes information on the default and interest rates of those programs; and

(V) the data described in clauses (ii) and (iii).

(ii) DISAGGREGATED BY OWNERSHIP.—The report shall include data on proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations, disaggregated by corporate or parent entity, brand name, and campus, consisting of—

(I) the average total cost of attendance at each proprietary institution of higher education, and information comparing the total cost for each program to—

(aa) the average total cost of attendance—

(AA) at each public institution of higher education; and

(BB) at each public institution of higher education that offers the same level of education degree or certification as the proprietary institution of higher education; and

(bb) the average total cost of attendance—

(AA) at all institutions of higher education, including institutions that are public and institutions that are private; and

(BB) at all institutions of higher education that offer the same level of education degree or certification as the proprietary institution of higher education, including institutions that are public and institutions that are private;

(II) total enrollment, disaggregated by—

(aa) individuals enrolled in programs taken online;

(bb) individuals enrolled in programs that are not taken online; and

(cc) individuals enrolled in programs taken both online and not online;

(III) the average retention and graduation rates for students pursuing a degree at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(IV) the percentage of students enrolled in proprietary institutions of higher education who complete a program of an institution within—

(aa) the standard period of completion for the program; and

(bb) a period that is 150 percent of the standard period of completion;

(V) the average total cost of attendance for each program at proprietary institutions of higher education;

(VI) the average cohort default rate, as defined in section 435(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085(m)), for proprietary institutions of higher education, and an annual list of cohort default rates (as so defined) for all proprietary institutions of higher education;

(VII) the median Federal educational debt incurred by students who complete a program at a proprietary institution of higher education;

(VIII) the median Federal educational debt incurred by students who start but do not complete a program at a proprietary institution of higher education;

(IX) the job placement rate for students who complete a program at a proprietary institution of higher education and the type of employment obtained by those students;

(X) for careers requiring the passage of a licensing examination, the passing rate for individuals who attended a proprietary institution of higher education and passed the examination;

(XI) the number of complaints from students enrolled in proprietary institutions of higher education who have submitted a complaint to any member agency of the Committee; and

(XII) the volume of institutional debt, number of students who owe institutional debts, and average amount of institutional debt owed by each student.

(iii) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the report described in subsection (a) shall provide information on the data described in clause (ii) for individuals using, to pay for the costs of attending a proprietary institution of higher education, Federal education assistance provided under—

(aa) chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(bb) section 2007 of title 10, United States Code; and

(cc) section 1784a of title 10, United States Code.

(II) REVENUE.—The report shall provide information on the revenue of proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations that is derived from the Federal education assistance described in subclause (I).

(C) COMPARISON DATA.—To the extent practicable, the report shall provide information comparing the data described in subparagraph (B) for proprietary institutions of higher education that are publicly traded corporations with data for public institutions of higher education disaggregated by State.

(3) ACCOUNTING OF ANY ACTION.—As used in paragraph (1)(B), the term ''any negative or adverse action'' includes—

(A) a complaint filed by a Federal or State agency in a local, State, Federal, or Tribal court;

(B) an administrative proceeding by a Federal or State agency involving noncompliance with any applicable law or regulation; or

(C) any other review, audit, or administrative process by any Federal or State agency that results in a penalty, suspension, or termination from any Federal or State program.

SEC. 7. FOR-PROFIT COLLEGE WARNING LIST FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each academic year, the Secretary on behalf of the Committee shall publish a list to be known as the ''For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students'' to be comprised of the names of proprietary institutions of higher education—

(1) that have been sued for financial relief by a Federal or State authority, or through a qui tam action in which the Federal Government has intervened;

(2) that are required to pay a debt or incur a liability from a settlement, arbitration proceeding, or final judgment in a judicial proceeding with a Federal or State agency and the case addresses misrepresentation, fraud, liability under sections 3729 through 3733 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ''False Claims Act''), or other borrower-defense-to-repayment claims;

(3) that have pending claims for borrower relief discharge under the borrower defense to repayment regulations from students or former students of the institution and the Secretary has formed a group process to consider the claims;

(4) that have had any eligibility for participation withdrawn or suspended with respect to—

(A) educational assistance in the form of a loan provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(B) educational assistance in the form of a grant provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.);

(C) educational assistance provided under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code;

(D) assistance for tuition and expenses under section 2007 of title 10, United States Code;

(E) assistance provided under section 1784a of title 10, United States Code; or

(F) Federal education assistance not described in subparagraphs (A) through (E); or

(5) that have been deemed ineligible to receive Federal education assistance for the next year or required to repay Federal education assistance previously received in an applicable report year.

(b) SUMMARY.—The For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students shall include a summary in plain language of the basis of each proprietary institution of higher education's inclusion on the list.

(c) PROCEDURES.—The Committee shall establish and apply review procedures for the For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students, including evaluation and withdrawal proceedings that provide—

(1) for adequate written specification of—

(A) the procedure for identifying proprietary intuitions of higher education for inclusion on the list; and

(B) identified deficiencies at the proprietary institutions of higher education; and

(2) for sufficient opportunity for a written response by a proprietary institution of higher education regarding any deficiencies identified by the Committee—

(A) within a timeframe determined by the Committee; and

(B) prior to the final publication of the For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students.

(d) PUBLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1 of each fiscal year, on behalf of the Committee, the Secretary shall publish the For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students prominently and in a manner that—

(A) is easily accessible to parents, current students, prospective students, and other stakeholders; and

(B) does not contain any personally identifiable information.

(2) USE OF PREEXISTING PLATFORM.—The Secretary may incorporate the For-Profit College Warning List for Parents and Students into preexisting, widely used platforms.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 540—REQUESTING INFORMATION ON AZERBAIJAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES PURSUANT TO SECTION 502B(C) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 540

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AZERBAIJAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

(a) STATEMENT REQUESTED.—The Senate requests that the Secretary of State, not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), a statement, prepared in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser, regarding Azerbaijan's human rights practices.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) All available information about the observance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan, including information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of Azerbaijan, including—

(A) unlawful or arbitrary killings;

(B) torture;

(C) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of detainees;

(D) political prisoners;

(E) arbitrary arrest or detention;

(F) the displacement of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh;

(G) restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, and movement;

(H) pervasive problems with the independence of the judiciary;

(I) forced disappearances;

(J) serious restrictions on freedom of speech, expression, and the media;

(K) severe restrictions on political participation;

(L) discrimination against women and gender-based violence;

(M) restrictions on religious freedom;

(N) serious restrictions on internet freedom;

(O) existence of the worst forms of child labor; and

(P) destruction of religious and cultural sites.

(2) A description of the steps that the United States Government has taken—

(A) to promote respect for and observance of human rights in Azerbaijan and by the Government of Azerbaijan, including in the context of the conflict with Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh);

(B) to discourage any practices in Azerbaijan that are inimical to internationally recognized human rights; and

(C) to publicly or privately call attention to, and disassociate the United States and any security assistance provided for the Government of Azerbaijan from, any practices described in subparagraph (B).

(3) An assessment from the Secretary of State, notwithstanding any practices described in paragraph (2)(B), whether extraordinary circumstances exist that necessitate a continuation of security assistance for Azerbaijan.

(4) If such circumstances exist, a description of the circumstances and the extent to which security assistance should be continued (subject to such conditions as Congress may impose under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304)).

(5) Other information, including—

(A) an assessment from the Secretary of State of the likelihood that United States security assistance (as defined in section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d))) has or will be used in support of Azerbaijani activities related to the conflict with Armenia, aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), and the blockade of the Lachin Corridor;

(B) a description and assessment of the actions that the United States Government is taking to ensure end use monitoring protocols for all weapons sold or transferred to Azerbaijan;

(C) an assessment of the impact of United States assistance provided to Azerbaijan over the past 10 years has had on the balance of power between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and on efforts to negotiate a durable and lasting peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan;

(D) a description of the United States Government's efforts in Azerbaijan to adhere to the prohibitions in section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code, against the provision of foreign assistance to security units against which there are credible allegations of human rights violations (commonly referred to as the ''Leahy laws'') and to ensure that no units implicated in gross violations of human rights receive United States assistance, including information on which units have been rejected in the Leahy vetting process;

(E) an assessment from the Secretary of State of whether ethnic cleansing or genocidal acts have taken or are taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh; and

(F) a determination, within 30 days of passage of this resolution, as to whether Azerbaijani officials found to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, human rights abuses listed in paragraph (1) meet the criteria for sanctions and—

(i) a description of any actions that the United States Government is taking to implement sanctions, including sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) and section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 (division G of Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 2864), to hold accountable Azerbaijani officials responsible for gross violations of human rights or significant corruption; or

(ii) a justification for why sanctions have not been imposed on individuals found to meet the criteria for sanctions under existing law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 541—SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING ON FEBRUARY 1, 2024, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND OPPOSITION TO, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BUTLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 541

Whereas the United States abolished the transatlantic slave trade in 1808 and abolished chattel slavery and prohibited involuntary servitude in 1865;

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting individual freedom, there is a national imperative to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery, which is commonly considered to mean—

(1) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of an individual through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjecting that individual to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; or

(2) the inducement of a commercial sex act by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the individual induced to perform that act is younger than 18 years of age;

Whereas forced labor and human trafficking generates revenues of at least $150,000,000,000 annually worldwide, and there are an estimated 50,000,000 victims of human trafficking and modern slavery across the globe;

Whereas victims of human trafficking are difficult to identify and are subject to manipulation, force, fraud, coercion, and abuse;

Whereas children and youths experiencing homelessness are vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation, making them a prime target for the lucrative criminal industry of human trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice has reported that human trafficking and modern slavery has been reported and investigated in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the Department of State has reported that the top 3 countries of origin of federally identified human trafficking victims in the United States in fiscal year 2021 were the United States, Mexico, and Honduras;

Whereas, to help businesses in the United States combat child labor and forced labor in global supply chains, the Department of Labor has identified 159 goods from 78 countries that are made by child labor and forced labor;

Whereas, since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 82,301 situations of human trafficking involving 164,839 victims;

Whereas there are known risk factors that contribute to youths running away, including domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and neglect, and runaway youths who experience homelessness are potential targets for human trafficking;

Whereas, in 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 18,400 reports of possible child sex trafficking;

Whereas, of the more than 28,800 missing children reported to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2023, 1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking;

Whereas today, the average age of child sex trafficking victims reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is only 15 years old;

Whereas youth experiencing homelessness experience high rates of human trafficking, and 1 in 5 homeless youths is a victim of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or both;

Whereas 22 percent of youths who experience homelessness were approached for paid sex on their first night of homelessness;

Whereas LGBTQ youths are disproportionally affected, accounting for 33.8 percent of sex trafficking victims;

Whereas youths facing homelessness have a lower probability of being trafficked if they have a supportive adult in their life;

Whereas the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services reports that American Indian, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander women and girls have a heightened risk for sex trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice found that studies on the topic of human trafficking of American Indians and Alaska Natives suggest there are—

(1) high rates of sexual exploitation of Native women and girls;

(2) gaps in data and research on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native victims; and

(3) barriers that prevent law enforcement agencies and victim service providers from identifying and responding appropriately to Native victims;

Whereas, according to the Government Accountability Office, from fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2016, there were only 14 Federal investigations and 2 Federal prosecutions of human trafficking offenses in Indian country;

Whereas, to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in the United States and globally, the people of the United States, the Federal Government, and State, Tribal, and local governments must be—

(1) aware of the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery; and

(2) dedicated to stopping the horrific enterprise of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas the United States should hold accountable all individuals, groups, organizations, governments, and countries that support, advance, or commit acts of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas, through education, the United States must also work to end human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms in the United States and around the world;

Whereas victims of human trafficking deserve a trauma-informed approach that integrates the pursuit of justice and provision of social services designed to help them escape, and recover from, the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma they endured;

Whereas combating human trafficking requires a whole-of-government effort that rests on a unified and coordinated response among Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies and that places equal value on the prevention of trafficking, the identification and stabilization of victims, and the investigation and prosecution of traffickers;

Whereas laws to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and modern slavery have been enacted in the United States, including—

(1) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);

(2) title XII of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4; 127 Stat. 136);

(3) the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 227);

(4) sections 910 and 914(e) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125; 130 Stat. 239 and 274);

(5) section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114);

(6) the Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–392; 132 Stat. 5250);

(7) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–393; 132 Stat. 5265);

(8) the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–425; 132 Stat. 5472);

(9) the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–427; 132 Stat. 5503);

(10) the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–103; 136 Stat. 840);

(11) the Abolish Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–347; 136 Stat. 6199);

(12) the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–348; 136 Stat. 6211); and

(13) the End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–211; 136 Stat. 2248);

Whereas the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 227) established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to provide a formal platform for survivors of human trafficking to advise and make recommendations on Federal anti-trafficking policies to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established by the President;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration issued a final rule (80 Fed. Reg. 4967) to implement Executive Order 13627, entitled ''Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts'', that clarifies the policy of the United States on combating trafficking in persons as outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation by strengthening the prohibition on contractors from charging employee recruitment fees;

Whereas, although such laws and regulations are currently in force, it is essential to increase public awareness, particularly among individuals who are most likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, regarding conditions and dynamics of human trafficking and modern slavery, precisely because traffickers use techniques that are designed to severely limit self-reporting and evade law enforcement;

Whereas January 1 is the anniversary of the effective date of the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas February 1 is—

(1) the anniversary of the date on which President Abraham Lincoln signed the joint resolution sending the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the States for ratification to forever declare, ''Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction''; and

(2) a date that has long been celebrated as National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code; and

Whereas, under the authority of Congress to enforce the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States ''by appropriate legislation'', Congress, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), updated the post-Civil War involuntary servitude and slavery statutes and adopted an approach of victim protection, vigorous prosecution, and prevention of human trafficking, commonly known as the ''3P'' approach: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to recognize the vital role that the people of the United States have in ending human trafficking and modern slavery;

(2) marking the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities, culminating in the observance on February 1, 2024, of National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code;

(3) urging continued partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, as well as survivors of human trafficking, social service providers, and nonprofit organizations to address human trafficking with a collaborative, victim-centered approach; and

(4) all other efforts to prevent, eradicate, and raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HIGH-POTENCY MARIJUANA

Mr. RICKETTS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas the use of high-potency marijuana has become increasingly prevalent across the United States;

Whereas the average potency of delta–9–tetrahydrocannabinol (commonly known as ''THC''), the major psychoactive component in marijuana, increased by 287 percent between 1995 and 2021, from 3.96 percent potency to 15.34 percent potency;

Whereas adolescent and teen marijuana abuse increased by 245 percent from 2000 to 2020;

Whereas the perceived risk of weekly marijuana use decreased from 47.5 percent to 27.4 percent among adolescents in the past decade;

Whereas cannabis use disorder among teens increased by 25 percent after the enactment of recreational marijuana legalization;

Whereas increased potency levels correspond with greater health risks, with research showing that daily use of THC with a potency greater than 15 percent results in a 5 times increased risk of psychosis;

Whereas only 3 States have enacted potency caps on marijuana flower or concentrates;

Whereas the use of high-potency marijuana has been linked to potential adverse health effects, including mental health disorders and cognitive impairment;

Whereas education and awareness programs are essential to inform the public about the potential risks associated with the use of high-potency marijuana; and

Whereas a bipartisan effort is necessary to develop evidence-based policies to address the increasing prevalence of high-potency marijuana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the ''Randy's Resolution''.

SEC. 2. RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HIGH-POTENCY MARIJUANA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, should conduct and support research on the health effects of high-potency marijuana and its impact on vulnerable populations such as youth.

(b) RESOLVING MATTERS.—Congress—

(1) supports the development of educational programs at the Federal, State, and local levels to inform the public about the potential risks associated with the use of high-potency marijuana, especially among youth; and

(2) urges Federal, State, and local governments to collaborate with public health organizations, medical professionals, and community stakeholders to develop evidence-based policies that address the public health and safety concerns associated with high-potency marijuana.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of our team be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Steven Mapes, Jordan Harrington, and Janelle Conrad.

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

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 529.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 529) recognizing January 2024 as ''National Mentoring Month''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 529) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 18, 2024, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 541, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 541) supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 541) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024, THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 5; 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 proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Campbell nomination; further, that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Laroski nomination at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator DUCKWORTH.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

IRAN

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, if you listen closely right now, you can hear the drums of war gain momentum. I know that sound. It is the same sound that led me to deploy to a dusty desert outpost in Iraq 20 years ago, where I served alongside some of the bravest men and women you could ever meet. It is the same sound that, ultimately, led me to run for office, a decision I only made after I was shot down in Iraq, when I found myself searching for a new mission to serve my Nation.

I found that mission in giving a voice to every veteran who had willingly sacrificed so much answering their Nation's call to serve, and I found it in speaking up for the Active-Duty troops still waking up in dusty base camps throughout the Middle East, still serving tour after tour, bleeding—even dying—thousands of miles away because they had sworn an oath to defend a country they loved, no matter what it cost them.

And that sound is why, a few minutes ago, I wheeled myself to this desk with the same purpose that took me first to battle, then the campaign trail: And that is to help keep America as strong as she can be and to try to look out for the troops who never stop looking out for the rest of us.

Today, I am here in this beautiful chamber with privilege all around me to beg of my colleagues one simple thing: As tensions in the Middle East escalate, please, from this place of safety and comfort, think of the sacrifices our servicemembers make every single day. Please, as the drums of war grow louder, honor our servicemembers by thinking of what we would be asking them to risk if we risk an expanded conflict with Iran.

On Sunday morning, we all woke to the tragic, horrific news that three American soldiers were killed in an Iran-backed attack in Jordan. I imagine many who saw the news may not have even known that we had U.S. servicemembers stationed in Jordan, but I was acutely aware of it. In fact,

just 24 hours earlier, I had woken up in Illinois and helped to send almost 300 Illinois National guardsmen off to start their mission in the CENTCOM area of operation, the exact AO where this attack took place.

And since Sunday, I don't think I have gone a waking hour without thinking about the brave servicemembers who lost their lives—SGT William Jerome Rivers, SGT Kennedy Ladon Sanders, and SGT Breonna Alexsondria Moffett—and each of them was willing to sacrifice the unimaginable to keep our Nation safe. They are our heroes.

During this impossible time, my thoughts are with their families, who will never be able to say ''I love you'' in person to them again. And my thoughts are with the more than 40 other servicemembers who were wounded in the blast, with at least three among them having severe enough injuries that they had to be evacuated to Germany.

It is clear that we must forcefully and swiftly make those responsible pay for the devastation they have wrought and send a message that these attacks against our servicemembers will not be tolerated. But we must do this with clear eyes, a steady hand, and a clear, strategic end goal in mind, seeking justice and, ultimately, a swift end to these threats to our troops.

I don't have all the details yet, but based on initial reports, it seems that President Biden's planned response will do just that. It looks like it will be a well-thought-out, strong rebuttal that aims to deter Iran from supporting further attacks on U.S. troops without risking boiling tensions even further, because this is a uniquely dangerous moment, and the message we send to Iran must make war less likely, not more.

After all, after decades of forever wars in the region, the last thing we want is to send those who volunteer to serve our country into another endless, senseless conflict. And if we want to adequately honor the sacrifices of the three servicemembers killed last week, we must remain focused on preventing their brothers and sisters at arms from dying in a preventable war on foreign soil.

Sadly, over the past few days, some of my Republican colleagues have been making reckless, irresponsible comments that risk dangerously escalating tensions. They have been throwing rocks, chest thumping over social media, beating the drums of war, demanding that the President ramp up the temperature, that he ''hit Iran now and hit them hard.''

Look, I ran for Congress so that when those drums of war started beating, I would be in a position to make sure that our leaders in Washington fully consider the cost of war—not just in dollars and cents but in the sacrifices and blood of our troops. So I have come to the floor today, as those drums echo louder than they have in years, to keep my promise to do our troops justice, to beseech my colleagues to let cool heads, common sense, and sound strategy prevail over reckless impulses.

And, if necessary, I will come back to this Chamber day after day after day, speaking from this wheelchair that I earned the last time Congress rashly sent our sons and daughters into another endless, senseless war, ensuring that, this time, we do right by our troops by fully, soberly, considering the consequences of these decisions on those who serve and their families.

Listen, I am no dove. After all, I volunteered to fight in a war that I deeply disagreed with. So I am certainly not opposed to war when it is necessary to defend this great Nation. And I am not opposed to striking Iranian assets, if our approach is smart, limited, and strategically calibrated to end the spiral of violence that threatens our servicemembers.

But I will also do everything in my power to remind those who, today, are so eagerly pushing us down the path to war that there are serious repercussions involved for the Americans who would actually be in harm's way, even if they may not be filled by politicians here in Washington.

Under both the Federal law known as the War Powers Act and article I of the Constitution, only Congress has the solemn responsibility of deciding when and how the United States sends its troops into war.

So if Republicans really want to risk war with Iran, then they owe it to our troops to bring an authorization for use of military force to the floor. Instead of hiding behind social media accounts and television interviews, bring that debate to this Chamber so we can actually fulfill our duty and begin the serious business of considering the merits and drawbacks of such a conflict.

So that as we ask them to sacrifice so much, our troops downrange would at least know what their mission is, what their goals are, and that their leaders in Washington both have their backs and are following the Constitution that they are willing to die to protect and defend.

Whenever Republicans are ready—if they are ever ready—I am here to participate in that debate. And if their arguments for war are strong enough, I owe it to my constituents to consider and vote on the merits of them.

I, myself, would be the first to volunteer, if they could have use of a gimpy former Black Hawk pilot, but I will go. I can pack my ruck in 15 minutes, if needed. But for now, with those drums pounding once more, I just want to ask each of my colleagues to take a moment to think about the true cost of war for all those servicemembers still at risk at dusty desert bases thousands of miles away.

I personally cannot go a moment without forgetting them.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:54 p.m., adjourned until Monday, February 5, 2024, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ROSE E. JENKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ELIZABETH CREWSON PARIS, TERM EXPIRED.

KASHI WAY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MARK VAN DYKE HOLMES, TERM EXPIRED.

ADAM B. LANDY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE DAVID GUSTAFSON, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

AMIR H. ALI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE BERYL ALAINE HOWELL, RETIRING.

MELISSA R. DUBOSE, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, VICE WILLIAM E. SMITH, RETIRING .

SUNIL R. HARJANI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE THOMAS M. DURKIN, RETIRED.

ROBERT J. WHITE, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE PAUL D. BORMAN, RETIRED.

JASMINE HYEJUNG YOON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE MICHAEL FRANCIS URBANSKI, RETIRING.

REBECCA SUZANNE KANTER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE WILLIAM Q. HAYES, RETIRED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 1, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

LISA W. WANG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HAYDEN THOM

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, Hayden Thom. Hayden has been involved with the Scouts since the second grade and has been a very active member in the years since. Throughout his journey, he has held several leadership positions, earned thirty merit badges, and completed almost 200 hours of community service. His trail to Eagle Scout culminated with his Eagle Scout project where he helped design and install a new display for a World War II Anti-Tank Gun for American Legion Post 452 in Mullica Hill, South Jersey. This display included a new concrete pad, lighting, new flag poles, protective bollards for the gun, and decorative stone. He hopes to stay involved with the troops and give back by volunteering with his scout troop as an adult leader. In June of 2026, Hayden will graduate from Gloucester County Institute of Technology and plans to attend the Universal Technical Institute to further study the automotive industry. I know this young man will do big things, and I am incredibly proud of him for this accomplishment. God bless Hayden and God bless the United States of America.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Let's be clear about what this tax deal is: just another Republican handout to big corporations and oil companies. Congressional Republicans are claiming victory with this bill, touting the $600 billion in tax cuts for corporations if the corporate tax cuts in this bill are made permanent.

The 2017 Trrump-GOP tax scam has added $1.9 trillion to the deficit. Republicans voted to raise taxes on the middle class to pay for their deficit-exploding giveaway to big corporations and billionaires. Thanks to the Trump-GOP tax scam, big corporations and oil companies have enjoyed lower taxes and have taken advantage of tax credits. Big corporations like Amazon, Google, Facebook, and Marathon Petroleum already pay far too little in taxes each year. H.R. 7024 would give them access to even more tax cuts. Congress should be ensuring big corporations and oil companies pay their fair share rather than helping them get a leg up.

I support the Child Tax Credit and voted for it in the American Rescue Plan, but H.R. 7024 is eighty-two pages long and only three pages pertain to the credit. In those three pages, the Child Tax Credit provisions fail to replicate the success of the improved Child Tax Credit provided to families by the American Rescue Plan. Under H.R. 7024, fewer families will be eligible, and the credit will be received as an annual refund. We heard from families who said the monthly payments are what made this credit so helpful to them in 2021 to pay their monthly bills, keep healthy and nutritious food on the table, and manage a mortgage or rent. I look forward to working with NETWORK, Save the Children, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, and other advocacy groups to put forward a tax bill that accomplishes all our goals with the Child Tax Credit.

I strongly opposed the Trump-GOP tax scam when it was rushed through Congress in 2017. Donald Trump and the GOP promised increased tax revenues to offset the massive debt they created, but it never materialized. Instead, the tax scam ballooned the deficit. I've been outspoken in the past about how harmful those tax cuts were, and I believe H.R. 7024 is another Republican scam to give big corporations a break while the rest of America picks up the tab. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 7024.

RECOGNIZING CHAIRMAN KEITH ANDERSON OF THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate outgoing Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Chairman Keith Anderson on a successful four years as Chairman of SMSC's Business Council.

Chairman Anderson served for five terms on SMSC's Business Council. I'm thankful for our strong working relationship during his time as Chairman and it is a privilege to represent the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Congress. In particular, I'm proud to have secured $2.5 million in federal funding to help complete a clean water reclamation system at SMSC's new organics recycling facility, Dakota Prairie Composting.

Chairman Anderson continued SMSC's strong national presence having served as co-chairman of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, advocating for native farming practices and serving as board chairman for Koda Energy, a partnership between Rahr Malting and SMSC that creates energy by burning dry biomass fuels. As a member of the Business Council, he also helped oversee the construction and opening of Hocokata Ti, SMSC's cultural center and museum. I'm grateful for our partnership and wish Chairman Anderson the best.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE CORPS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January it was my pleasure to attend the Middle Township Ambulance Corps Installation of Officers Dinner in Cape May Court House, South Jersey. During this dinner we recognized members for their outstanding achievements, honored those who displayed exceptional bravery during the pandemic, and celebrated the installation of these officers. It was my honor to celebrate the following new officers as they took their oath of office: Deborah A. Rue as President, Theodore Bohn as Vice President, Deborah Brannon as Treasurer, Julie Mounts as Secretary, Joseph F. Eagan, IV as Chief, Gary Seabridge, Jr. as Assistant Chief, Brian Mounts as Captain, Zachary Lex as First Lieutenant, Andrew Raniszewski as Second Lieutenant, and Charles Roach Third Lieutenant. Middle Township Ambulance Corps, Inc. is the sole volunteer ambulance corps in Middle Township, covering over 89 square miles. Our South Jersey community feels safer knowing this group of amazing people will always be there to answer their call. I want to thank them for their unwavering dedication and their invaluable contributions to our community. God Bless Middle Township Ambulance Corps and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA ARCHER OF CANTON CITY PUBLIC HEALTH

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amanda Archer from Canton as the Ohio–13 Champion of the Week. Amanda is the first woman to lead Canton City Public Health as Health Commissioner in its 175-year history. In addition to working for the health department since 2014, she also worked as an epidemiologist in the Stark County Coroner's Office as an epidemiologist to inform decisions and policies to help prevent disease in the community.

This experience made her an easy fit as the lead epidemiologist for Canton's COVID–19 response in 2020, helping Canton residents understand critical information about the virus. Amanda has dedicated herself to the health and wellbeing of her community, and I am excited to see how she leads Canton City Public Health in her new role.

Congratulations once more to the Ohio–13 Champion of the Week, Amanda Archer.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TONY JUNIOUS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a trailblazing public servant and pillar in the Summerton, South Carolina, community. Mayor Tony Junious tragically passed away on January 27, 2024. He was loved by everybody who knew him and will be sorely missed.

Born and raised in Summerton, Tony embodied the spirit of the town. Attending Clarendon County schools, he had an insatiable desire to learn and graduated from Scott's Branch High School as class President in 1995. Though Tony became a successful entrepreneur, it was his passion for education that led him to public service. The community elected him to serve on various Clarendon County School District Boards of Trustees. During his tenure, Tony increased high school graduation rates, began career readiness programs, volunteered at school events, mentored young leaders, and organized scholarship dinners for Scott's Branch High School Seniors. He was especially committed to younger students and ensuring they had a strong foundation to prepare them for the future.

After spending two decades advocating on behalf of Summerton's children, Tony ran for Mayor of Summerton with a bold vision of moving the town forward bolstering economic development, improving the water system, and bringing more healthcare options to the area. On April 5, 2022, Tony was elected the first Black Mayor of Summerton. In his first year, Mayor Junious achieved significant milestones; securing a $25,000 Hometown Grant, securing $12 million in infrastructure grants, initiating a Hood zone study, participating in the Broadband Internet Access Survey, establishing a Community Clean-Up Group, and passing an ordinance on firearms safety.

While Mayor Junious had big visions for Summerton, he had an even bigger heart. He had a gift for making every person in the town feel they belonged and that their voice was heard. With an infectious smile and a heart of gold, he emanated a sense of pride for Summerton that rippled through the entire community. Even during difficult times, his warm presence and astute leadership reassured everyone that no challenge was too big to overcome. Whenever Mayor Junious set his mind to something, rest assured he would achieve it.

A man of deep faith, Tony attended various churches throughout his life and was ordained an Elder and Minister. He recently received his Doctorate under the leadership of Apostle Elizabeth Gipson at the Open House of Prayer Healing and Deliverance Ministries, where he served as Chair of the Pastor aide committee.

Left to cherish Tony's memory is his loving wife, LaShenda Miller Junious, his mother, stepmother, grandmother, four sons, three daughters, stepdaughter, adopted daughter, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the life of Mayor Tony Junious. In his honor, the people of Summerton have committed to moving forward with the vision Mayor Junious put in motion, a testament to the enduring impact of his legacy that will resonate for many years to come.

HARVEY AND MADALYN ROVINSKY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past December, I had the honor of celebrating Harvey and Madalyn Rovinsky and their retirement after almost 60 years in the jewelry business. Through their hard work and dedication over the years, Harvey and Madalyn have cemented their names in the luxury jewelry industry. Harvey joined the jewelry business at a young age, working with his father as a watchmaker. In 1966, he joined Bernie Robbins Jewelers, working for his future parents-in-law. He learned vital business lessons from Bernie, emphasizing credibility and customer relationships. In 1992, Harvey and Madalyn transformed the company, creating an exquisite jewelry destination that now has three locations spread over Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Under their leadership, Bernie Robbins has become a highly decorated business, receiving countless recognitions and awards. In 2022, they received the National Jeweler Retailer Hall of Fame Award and Bernie Robbins Jewelers was recognized as a New Jersey Top Workplace for employee engagement. Because of their hard work, Bernie Robbins has become synonymous with expertise and exceptional customer experiences in a welcoming atmosphere. I hope Harvey and Madalyn enjoy their retirement, and I know their legacy will continue to shine brightly for years to come. God Bless Harvey and Madalyn and God Bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANEELAH AFZALI

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Aneelah Afzali, who is stepping down after over seven years of service as the Executive Director of the American Muslim Empowerment Network of the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS–AMEN).

Aneelah founded MAPS–AMEN in December 2016 to combat rising islamophobia and empower the Pacific Northwest Muslim American community. I was proud to bring Aneelah as my guest to the 2017 State of the Union Address during my first year in Congress. Her story as a Muslim American woman of color is truly the American story. Aneelah's presence demonstrated to President Trump that he could not silence the patriotism and resolve of people in this country based on their race, religion or country of origin. Her continued organizing over the next seven years impacted the lives of thousands and exemplified her commitment to the realization of a just world.

Throughout her career, Aneelah's work with faith and non-faith communities has built bridges across religious, racial, cultural and political divides. Aneelah currently serves on a number of governing and advisory boards. Through this service, she emphasizes intersectionality and equity within the contexts of a wide array of issues such as gun violence prevention, racial justice, immigration reform and educational equity. She also continues to work with the Washington State Refugee Coordinator to welcome and resettle of Afghan refugees. She is a true community activist, interfaith leader, and civil rights advocate.

Aneelah's particular combination of brilliance, commitment to organizing and community, tenacity and strategic ability has been a true gift to our region and our people. She has inspired and celebrated the leadership of countless others, and of regular community members taking action and recognizing the power of their voices. Her integrity and values underlie everything, and she has never wavered from those no matter how challenging the situation. I have been continually inspired by Aneelah's work to combat hate and create a more equitable society.

As she continues her work to empower communities in new ways, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Aneelah's many accomplishments and contributions to our country. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Aneelah for her partnership, service to the people of the Pacific Northwest and dedication to the fight for justice.

RECOGNIZING AARIT KOUL OF JACKSON MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Aarit Koul (Air-it Cool) from Jackson Memorial Middle School in Massillon as the Ohio–13 Champion of the Week. Aarit is the winner of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge for Ohio's 13th Congressional District. As part of the 2023 Congressional App Challenge, Aarit designed an app called ''CareCivic,'' which is designed to encourage young people to become civically engaged.a

CareCivic includes information about our government and important events in United States history, as well as games like ping pong and trivia so you can learn while playing. Aarit's app is an impressive combination of technical skill and passion for civics rolled into one. Aarit's app helps teach younger generations just how precious our democracy is and why it's important they make their voices heard to create change on the issues they care about.

Congratulations once more to the Ohio–13 Champion of the Week, Aarit Koul.

RYAN SIMPKINS

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, I had the honor of celebrating Ryan Simpkins and his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in the Boy Scouts of America. During his time in the Scouts, Ryan has learned valuable lessons in leadership, friendship, and service and will carry these lessons with him for the rest of his life. For Ryan's Eagle Scout project, he assembled "Little Libraries", which are a free book exchange where people can take a book or share a book. His noble goal was to encourage literacy in his home area of Hopewell South Jersey and Bridgeton South Jersey. The Scouting experience has left an indelible mark on Ryan, and he will continue his scouting experience as an adult leader in scouting later in life. Congratulations to Ryan on achieving this milestone, and I wish him all the best. God Bless Ryan and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise today to celebrate Black History Month and its 2024 theme—African Americans and the Arts. This year's theme reflects on the important work of African American artists throughout the country who preserve history, enrich communities, and create empowerment through the visual and performing arts including literature, film, music, fashion, culinary, architecture, and more.

History has shown that the artistic contributions of African Americans have been minimized, excluded, and even denied. African American artistic movements such as the Black Renaissance, the Black Art Movement, and the introduction of the Hip-Hop music genre, to name a few, have been crucial in bringing about change, equality, and social justice to the African American community in the United States and all over the world.

Throughout the years, Northwest Indiana has been home to many successful and noteworthy art-based organizations and programs that are truly inspiring. I would like to take a moment to recognize a few of them, past and present, including Vee-Jay Records, West Side Theater Guild, Gary International Black Film Festival, Gary Theatre Ensemble, Marshall J. Gardener Center for the Arts, Glen Theatre, the Gary Public Murals and Statues Program, the Miller Beach Arts and Creative District, and the Gary Public Art Competition, among others. For their unwavering dedication to preserving and honoring African Americans and the arts, each organization, program, and its members are worthy of the very highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating Black History Month and honoring the countless African Americans who have played such a critical role in enriching our culture through the arts. Let us commend each of them for their profound passion, creativity, and perseverance as they have enhanced the quality of life for all Americans.

HONORING CALEIGH GUMBINER'S SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Caleigh Gumbiner for five years and more than two full sessions of Congress as a member of my district office staff.

Caleigh has been with my office from the very beginning. They started our casework operation in 2019 with virtually no resources and have elevated to the role of Director of Constituent Services. For years, Caleigh has worked tirelessly to serve the constituents of Minnesota's Second District.

They've overseen the building up and training of a constituent services team that has returned more than $4.5 million to constituents and closed over 4,200 cases. Caleigh's been vital to training other congressional offices having worked with the CAO Coach program. They led our district office team through the pandemic and all the various programs Congress passed to serve our constituents and have worked day and night during global conflicts to ensure constituents' safety.

I'll always be grateful for Caleigh's service to my team and our constituents in their various roles over the years and wish them the best in their new role with Second Harvest Heartland—I'm confident they'll continue to serve Minnesotans with exceptional service.

MAYOR ALDO PALOMBO

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, we come together with heavy hearts to honor the life and legacy of former Mayor Aldo Palombo, a passionate and caring man who dedicated his life to service. Mayor Palombo served as the 15th Mayor of North Wildwood from 1994 to 2005 and in his capacity as mayor, completely turned the city around. What was once a rundown city was transformed into a desirable family destination under his leadership. Mayor Palombo was a beacon of optimism and boundless energy during these trying times. His leadership breathed new life into the city of North Wildwood at the time it needed it most. He was a tireless ambassador for North Wildwood, always eager to promote the community and his efforts and commitment left an indelible mark on the city. As we bid farewell to Mayor Aldo Palombo, I extend my deepest condolences to the entire Palombo Family. His memory will live on for generations to come in the city that he cared for so deeply and helped shape. We are forever grateful for his dedication, optimism, and enduring impact on North Wildwood. May he rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. BEULAH JACKSON

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of an impactful community leader, Mrs. Beulah Jackson.

As a life-long New York resident, Mrs. Jackson spent her life leading her community of Beacon where she resided for 75 years. She worked alongside politicians and organizations to promote an inclusive and equitable community for those around her.

Her advocacy roles have included being a civic leader of the African American community and a long-time member of the NAACP. She was inspired by the Civil Rights movement recognized leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Jesse Jackson. With such significant role models, Mrs. Jackson worked alongside contemporaries such as Mayor Clara Lou Gould, Peter Seeger, and Rev. Barbara Baker to promote critical relationships between community members and their leaders throughout Dutchess County and the larger New York State.

Mrs. Jackson's legacy has truly made a mark on her local and larger communities. Her incredible dedication to various programs created for uplifting communities, specifically in Poughkeepsie and Beacon, has always been inspiring to those around her and for years to come.

As the first African-American bookkeeper in Poughkeepsie and the first African-American Director of the Anti-Poverty Program in Beacon, Mrs. Jackson was a trailblazer who should be honored for her service. Even her work with scholarship programs at the local schools or in youth clubs, she has touched the lives of the young and the old, truly contributing to the social fabric for the county.

I am truly honored to say that the district I represent had such a strong leader to show all of us the importance of service and community engagement. Her leadership will remain admirable as I hope we all can learn from the accomplishments of this amazing woman.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL JOSEPH REED

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr Speaker, I rise today in sadness and in joy to celebrate the life of a good man and a friend of longstanding, Mr. Michael Joseph Reed. Sadly, Michael transitioned from labor to reward on January 15, 2024, at the age of 69. A private service will be held on Friday, February 2, 2024, among family, friends, and loved ones. While his passing leaves in its wake many heavy hearts, upon prayerful reflection, the pain we share must melt into joy. For Michael

Reed leaves a remarkable legacy of service to humanity as a public servant, mentor, confidant, husband, and friend to many.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Michael earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. He also earned a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Michael's career in public service began as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Budget Policy. This experience led him to his first Capitol Hill position as an intern for former Congressman Louis Stokes of Ohio, who was a member of the House Appropriations Committee. After leaving Congressman Stokes, he joined the staff of Congressman William Gray, Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee, as Legislative Director. After leaving Congressman Gray's office, he was Vice-President for Marketing at the United Negro College Fund. He was also the Director of Regional Card Marketing and Vice-President for Government Affairs for the American Express Company.

When I was selected to serve on the House Appropriations Committee in 2003, I needed a seasoned specialist and adviser. I was blessed to have Michael Reed join my team—starting as a Policy Adviser and Special Assistant, later becoming my Deputy Chief of Staff, and finally my Chief of Staff where he served until his Capitol Hill retirement in 2021.

For 18 years I matriculated in the ''Michael Reed School of Budgetary Policy''. He was a master of the appropriations process and its nuances. He was also constantly growing and expanding his expertise. Initially unfamiliar with agriculture issues, he quickly became steeped in the knowledge of the field. He was an invaluable asset to me and was respected by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

It was no surprise that upon leaving Capitol Hill, Michael was honored by the communities and industries whose lives his work touched, most notably the University of Georgia (UGA) and the Georgia Peanut Commission. UGA's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences bestowed its Medallion of Honor on Michael in 2021. This award recognizes outstanding individuals for their dedication to the college's mission and is an expression of the University's gratitude for the time, advice, support and impact awardees have provided. The Georgia Peanut Commission presented Michael with its Distinguished Service Award in 2022, which is a testament to the decades of work Michael Reed did to help protect our peanut farmers and grow the peanut industry.

Upon his retirement from the public sector, Michael decided to re-enter the private sector and utilize his extraordinary skills and talents to make a meaningful contribution to mankind's efforts to confront the challenges of the environment and climate change. In 2021, he joined the American Forest Foundation as Vice President of Policy, exploring the pivotal role our nation's forests play and the potential they have in meeting this global challenge.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: ''You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give.'' Michael gave so much to so many for so long and truly lived a complete and full life. His public service, his devotion to his family, and his service to his community and nation, reflect the legacy he leaves and the joy we must celebrate. Truly the world is a better place because of the life Michael led.

Michael Reed accomplished so much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God, the love and support of his loving wife, Attorney Diane Fields Reed, his late father-in-law, Judge Richard Fields, their beloved dog, Alexandra, and a host of family and friends that will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the Nation in saluting and honoring Mr. Michael Joseph Reed for service to his community, to his country, and to humankind; and in extending our deepest condolences to Michael Reed's family, friends, loved ones, and all those who mourn his loss. We pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

JASON FETROW

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past January, I had the pleasure of attending Jason Fetrow's Eagle Scout Court of Honor to celebrate his achievement of the highest honor in the scouting world. Jason started his journey with the scouts at just six years old when he joined Cub Scout Pack twelve. At age eleven, he moved up to the Boy Scouts who have allowed him incredible experiences such as the opportunity to attend the World Jamboree in 2019. For his Eagle Scout Project, Jason decided to give back to the fields where he played baseball for eleven years by expanding the trophy case at Gabriel Memorial Baseball Fields by three feet so it can better accommodate the growing number of trophies on display. Just last year, Jason graduated from Cedar Creek High School and he now studies Exercise Science at Stockton University. It was my honor to celebrate this milestone with Jason and wish him all the best in his future. God Bless Jason and God Bless the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my resolution condemning the ethnic violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Dr. King famously said, ''injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere''. The United States, credible human rights organizations, and civil society have documented and published reports and findings that implicate the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in aiding and collaborating with armed groups and militias, including several that are designated for United Nations sanctions due to human rights violations.

Militias engage in illicit mining activities to finance and sustain themselves, often exploiting child labor and engaging in environmental degradation practices that undermine the DRC's economic interests and international treaty obligations.

My resolution condemns all acts of violence perpetrated against ethnic minorities by members of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and armed groups operating throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It reaffirms that the United States has held and continues to hold the Government of the DRC responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, in accordance with the DRC's international obligations.

My timely resolution also holds accountable all state security forces that perpetrate atrocities against the civilian population by conducting transparent investigations and prosecutions and taking all additional necessary measures to prevent further atrocities continue progress toward the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, reparation, and resettlement of armed groups in coordination with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2666 (2022). Last, it calls on the President Joe Biden to appoint a Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region of Africa, which will be vital to addressing the enduring regional security crisis emanating from eastern DRC.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in condemning the ethnic violence in the DRC.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week across the Nation, we come together to recognize and honor the profound impact of Catholic education. On January 31st, we marked National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, a day that acknowledges the enduring commitment of these institutions to educate not only the mind but also the soul. Catholic Schools, like St. Ann's in Wilmington, Delaware where my grandchildren attend, instill faith, academic excellence, and service in their students. Together, we are not just celebrating a week; we are celebrating the noble mission of Catholic education, to educate the whole child and transcend the boundaries of traditional learning. God bless our Catholic Schools and God Bless the United States of America.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S325–S351

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3719–3732, S.J. Res. 57–59, S. Res. 540–541, and S. Con. Res. 27. **Pages S342–43**

Measures Reported:

S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1840, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S342**

Measures Passed:

National Mentoring Month: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 529, recognizing January 2024 as ''National Mentoring Month'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S350**

National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 541, supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery. **Page S350**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the situation in the West Bank, including in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–36) **Pages S341–42**

Laroski, Jr., Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Pages S327–28, S328–31**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. EX. 32), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S327–28, S328–31**

Campbell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Page S331**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Page S350**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S331**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S331**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, February 5, 2024; and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade at 5:30 p.m. **Page S350**

Baggio Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Amy M. Baggio, of

Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Pages S331–35**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Pages S331–35**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S331**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S331**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 53 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 33), Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Pages S325–28, S329–31**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 31), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S325–28**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Rose E. Jenkins, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Melissa R. DuBose, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Rebecca Suzanne Kanter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Page S351**

Messages from the House: **Page S342**

Measures Referred: **Pages S341, S342**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S343–44**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S344–50**

Additional Statements: **Page S341**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S350**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S350**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—33) **Pages S327–29**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 3:54 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S351.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, Jr., USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Department of Defense, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Hirono, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

SCAMS AND FRAUD IN THE BANKING SYSTEM

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine scams and fraud in the banking system and their impact on consumers, including S. 2669, to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, S. 3554, to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to provide the Financial Stability Oversight Council with duties regarding artificial intelligence in the financial sector, S. 1481, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and S. 869, to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to reauthorize and improve the community development financial institutions bond guarantee program, after receiving testimony from Carla Sanchez-Adams, National Consumer Law Center, Paul Benda, American Bankers Association, and John Breyault, National Consumers League, all of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 36 public bills, H.R. 7181–7216; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 109–111; and H. Res. 991–993, were introduced. **Pages H386–88**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H390**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Williams to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H367**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Dr. Michael Cramer, New Life Church, Osceola, Indiana. **Page H367**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H367, H373**

Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act: The House passed H.R. 6976, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable, by a yea-and-nay vote of 274 yeas to 150 nays, Roll No. 31. **Pages H369–73**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–22 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. **Page H369**

H. Res. 980, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5585), (H.R. 6678), (H.R. 6679), and (H.R. 6976) was agreed to Tuesday, January 30th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 p.m. on Monday, February 5th for morning-hour debate. **Page H385**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Higgins, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Twenty-Sixth Congressional District of New York, effective at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 2, 2024. **Page H374**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Greene (GA) announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Page H377**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President declaring a national emergency to deal with the threat posed by the situation in the West Bank, including in particular high levels of extremist settler violence, forced displacement of people and villages, and property destruction—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–102). **Page H385**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H373.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SALT MARRIAGE PENALTY ELIMINATION ACT; DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 7160, the "SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act"; and H. Res. 987, denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–5, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 7160, the "SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act", and H. Res. 987, Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden Administration, and for other purposes. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7160, the "SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act", under closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. 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 for one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 987, Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden Administration, and for other purposes, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of the resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 987. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. Testimony was heard from Representatives Burgess, Castor of Florida, Lawler, and Schneider.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through January 31, 2024

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	17	14	..
Time in session	79 hrs, 39′	47 hrs, 6′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	324	366	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	104	..
Public bills enacted into law	2	1	3
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	20	38	58
Senate bills	3	3	..
House bills	2	24	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	1	..
House joint resolutions	..	1	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	1	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	..	..
Simple resolutions	13	8	..
Measures reported, total	*15	32	47
Senate bills	15	..	..
House bills	..	28	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	1	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	..	..
Simple resolutions	..	3	..
Special reports	..	2	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	249	19	..
Measures introduced, total	187	323	510
Bills	160	269	..
Joint resolutions	3	2	..
Concurrent resolutions	2	6	..
Simple resolutions	22	46	..
Quorum calls	..	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	30	25	..
Recorded votes	..	4	..
Bills vetoed	1	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 8 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 34 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through January 31, 2024

Civilian nominees, totaling 186 (including 78 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	10
Unconfirmed	176

Other Civilian nominees, totaling 953 (including 745 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Unconfirmed	953

Air Force nominees, totaling 772 (including 111 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Unconfirmed	772

Army nominees, totaling 2,030 (including 1,906 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Unconfirmed	2,030

Navy nominees, totaling 50 (including 7 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Unconfirmed	50

Marine Corps nominees, totaling 127 (including 6 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Unconfirmed	127

Space Force nominees, totaling 8 (including 2 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Unconfirmed	8

Summary

Total nominees carried over from the First Session	2,855
Total nominees received this Session	1,271
Total confirmed	10
Total unconfirmed	4,116
Total withdrawn	0
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, February 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

At 5:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Monday, February 5

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E107
Carson, André, Ind., E108
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E106
Craig, Angie, Minn., E105, E107
Jayapal, Pramila, Wash., E106
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E105
Mrvan, Frank J., Ind., E107
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