United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *118th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 *No. 20*

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 5, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JERRY L. CARL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

IMMIGRATION PLAN WOULD DO IRREPARABLE HARM

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Senate released the text of legislation that would do irreparable harm to our border security.

By announcing a plan that permits thousands of illegal immigrants to enter the United States and creates new avenues for asylum, this is a bill that will only make our Nation more dangerous.

Incentivizing more illegal immigration will not address the crisis that has been created in border communities like Eagle Pass, Texas, or major cities like New York, where schools have been forced to close in order to house undocumented migrants.

Since Joe Biden took office, there have been more than 8 million illegal border crossings and 1.7 million known got-aways that have evaded our Border Patrol agents.

This massive surge has led to Border Patrol agents being forced to suspend vehicle inspections and patrols in order to handle the influx, leading to more opportunities for cartels to bring dangerous drugs like heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the United States.

It is clear that these issues are not being addressed by Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas and that his policies have contributed to a national security crisis.

Despite clear evidence that his refusal to comply with the law has led to unprecedented levels of illegal immigration, Secretary Mayorkas has implemented a catch-and-release scheme, violating detention requirements and misusing parole authority.

It is clear that the House must act to impeach Secretary Mayorkas and finally hold the Biden administration accountable for putting American lives at risk by allowing an open southern border.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during his first year in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, a decision that caused oil prices to rise and cost over 16,000 American jobs.

This decision was only the beginning of a sustained attack on American energy producers that the Biden administration has continued to carry out each and every day.

During his time in office, President Biden has ordered our Strategic Petroleum Reserve drained by over 40 percent. This reserve is meant to be used in case of a national security crisis, not to score cheap political points ahead of an election.

It is time to stop playing politics with our Nation's energy.

This week, the House will vote on H. Res. 987, which condemns the harmful and anti-American energy policies that have become the hallmark of Joe Biden's Presidency.

It is time to put an end to the failed energy policies that have led to higher prices at the gas pump across the entire United States.

It is time for Joe Biden to focus on returning to American energy dominance instead of continuing to dismantle our energy infrastructure—an infrastructure that is so vital to the strength of America.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS UNDER SIEGE

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about America's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children. That program is Social Security, our Nation's number one insurance plan. Currently, it is under siege.

Both Senator WYDEN and President Biden have, I think rightly, said that what this amounts to is a buzzword for cuts to Social Security: a fiscal commission that is designed to have backroom meetings without hearings, unamendable, yet bring to both floors of the House and Senate an up-or-down vote.

This is put together by 16 people—4 who have no vote, 6 from the Senate, and 6 from the House—with only 7 votes required to pass a bill that goes directly to the floor for a vote. That is an abomination and dereliction of duty on behalf of the House and the Senate. I strongly oppose it.

It has been 53 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security. These are your brothers, sisters, family members, neighbors, and the people you go to church with. This money comes directly back to every single congressional district and your community, and it goes to help people.

The average Social Security check is $18,000 for a male and $14,000 for a female. There are 5 million of our fellow Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from the government because Congress hasn't taken responsibility.

We have a plan to change that. We put our plan out on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, contrast that with a behind-closed-door study. How about we do something for the American people like vote, vote on something that is essential to their livelihood?

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Social Security isn't just a pension plan. More veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA, and spousal and dependent coverage, as well, that we are providing.

Even President Trump has gone so far as to criticize Nikki Haley, and say, hey, listen, this idea of raising the age, which the Republican Study Committee calls for, is cutting benefits in Social Security. You listen to Donald Trump on everything else. Let us hope that you understand what he is talking about here in terms of gutting Social Security and causing across-the-board cuts to a vital program that every single American needs.

Mr. Speaker, there are also more than 28 million Americans who the only benefit that they have in retirement will be Social Security. It is an outrage that this body, in the House and the Senate, has not taken up Social Security both to improve its solvency and also to enhance its benefits.

We have a program that does that—a 2 percent across-the-board increase for everyone. It lifts 5 million Americans out of poverty who have paid into a system all their lives and get below-poverty-level checks from the government because of Congress' inaction.

It repeals WEP and GPO for teachers, firefighters, and municipal employees. It will provide a tax break for more than 23 million Americans. It does so by simply lifting the cap on people over $400,000.

What does that do? It pays for all of these benefits and also extends solvency well into the future.

That is what we should be doing as a body. We don't need to study Social Security. We know what this program does.

If my colleagues can honestly go home and look any fellow citizen in the eye and tell them that we don't need to improve Social Security, that we need to study it, God bless them.

What we need here is a vote on Social Security 2100 to make sure that we are enhancing benefits for the citizens we are sworn to serve.

WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCERS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the ongoing war against American energy producers.

The Biden administration recently announced a pause on all pending non-free trade agreement export permit applications for liquefied natural gas export projects. This policy will no doubt have a negative impact on job growth, economic development, and energy exploration, but it will also empower America's adversaries.

By curtailing our energy dominance in the natural gas sector, we are making our economy and the world more dependent on countries like Russia and Iran for energy production. For obvious reasons, we should want to do everything within our power to hinder, not help, their cash flow.

This is more than a strategic failure. It is also contrary to the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

We know that American natural gas is cleaner than that of many other producers, especially Russia. In fact, our natural gas is 41 percent cleaner. The benefit of exporting more, not less, energy would remove hundreds of tons of emissions from entering the atmosphere. It would also pose an economic benefit here at home.

This isn't a problem just for the natural gas industry. All of America's energy producers, putting aside the renewable sector, have taken negative regulatory hits from the Biden administration. We have seen energy prices soar as a result.

On the campaign trail in 2019, then-candidate Biden vowed to end fossil fuels. This helps explain why he killed the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office. It also explains why he went on to put a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on public lands and raise taxes by nearly $150 billion on oil and gas producers. For those who don't remember, this anti-energy agenda resulted in the President of the United States begging OPEC to increase their supply.

It is important to note that we were not just energy independent during the Trump administration, Mr. Speaker. We were energy dominant and a net oil exporter.

Gas prices averaged $2.39 per gallon the day President Biden was inaugurated. Today, the average price per gallon of gas is $3.15. Let's not forget, as a direct result of this anti-American energy agenda, gas prices reached an all-time high of $5 per gallon in June 2022.

The President is also responsible for the largest-ever drawdown from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, 180 million barrels of oil over 6 months. Our reserve is supposed to be used for adverse events like weather or national security emergencies, not to combat bad policy and harmful regulations from a misguided White House. That reserve, which is now depleted by more than 40 percent, is at its lowest level since the early 1980s, when I was in high school.

In addition to the pause on natural gas permits during his administration, the President announced he would no longer hold court-ordered offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. This assault on domestic energy producers destroys any incentive for investment and growth and is going to continue to lead to price volatility at home and around the world.

House Republicans see the pinch this causes working families, like the families in my home district in Tennessee, which is why one of the first things we did after taking the majority in 2023 was to pass H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Cost Act.

□ 1215

H.R. 1 makes sense to most people. It is not radical or extreme. It would unleash American energy and get government out of the way by reforming our permitting system and removing red tape. It fosters more economic growth and job creation while lowering prices for American families.

Yet this administration seems committed to doing the opposite. Since President Biden's inauguration, his administration has finalized 812 new regulations costing the U.S. economy about $451 billion in compliance costs annually and requiring 283 million hours of additional compliance paperwork by American workers.

I continue to support an all-of-the-above energy approach to fueling our economy. In a time when prices are still hurting families and despots around the world are looking for our weak spots, we should be unleashing, not overregulating and kneecapping, American energy production.

CONGRATULATING DAVID ALCORN

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2023 Guam Business Magazine's Executive of the Year, Mr. David Alcorn.

In 1975, Dave Alcorn moved from Hawaii to Guam to help launch King's Restaurant. Ten years later, Alcorn and his wife, Lucy, bought the restaurant and became the owners of what is today one of the most successful local restaurant chains and food and beverage icons in Guam.

After his success with King's, Dave and his wife incorporated Global Food

Services, or GFS, in 2003, and began contracts with several entities, including the Department of Defense, the Guam Naval Hospital, and the Guam Department of Education.

Today, GFS is one of the largest food service contractors in Guam and is responsible for nourishing thousands of Guamanians on a day-to-day basis.

Over the years, through his leadership, GFS expanded to bring the national Ruby Tuesday's restaurant to Guam and opened Domino's Pizza inside a military installation.

In Guam, cuisine is a large part of our culture, and Dave has the immense job of bringing people together through the shared act of breaking bread.

Dave Alcorn's dedication, hard work, and determination are vital qualities that emphasize the entrepreneurial spirit of Guam and our Nation.

Guam is the embodiment of the American Dream, and a display of these qualities means anyone can succeed. Dave is certainly living the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a proud island and Nation, I send my sincerest congratulations to Mr. David Alcorn; his wife, Lucy; the staff and management of King's, and the many entities under Global Food Services for this momentous accomplishment.

FIXING NEW YORK CITY'S MIGRANT CRISIS

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

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, sending Federal dollars to New York City to pay for hotels and other free stuff for migrants will only make New York's migrant crisis worse. That is why I have offered the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

My commonsense bill will provide that sanctuary jurisdictions like New York City that refuse to cooperate with Federal law enforcement such as ICE are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such noncitizen aliens.

Mr. Speaker, the migrants aren't coming to New York City for the warm weather or the Broadway shows. The reason that migrants are coming to New York City, 10,000 per month, is for the sanctuary laws and all the free stuff—free hotels, free clothing, and free healthcare.

New York City Mayor Adams gives a heck of a lot of free stuff to migrants. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not exactly free. It is all paid for by lawful citizens, hardworking taxpayers.

Just a few days ago, Mr. Speaker, it was revealed that New York City is giving out $53 million worth of credit cards to migrants.

New York City Democrats are literally incentivizing migrants to come to New York City and then feigning frustration when they do so. Worse, New York Governor Hochul is doubling down, offering $2.4 billion in her proposed budget to New York City to give more free stuff to migrants, while she proposes to cut funding from 44 Long Island School Districts.

It is these backwards, wrong, and self-defeating policy choices which will only make the migrant crisis worse. If we as a country want to secure the border and have cities without migrant crises, we need to remove the incentives which are causing it. No more free stuff.

Until New York repeals its shortsighted and self-defeating policies, which incentivize New York's migrant crisis, it should not be entitled to Federal funds for the migrant crisis its policies are creating.

RECOGNIZING CUTTER PAPRITZ

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cutter Papritz, a remarkable recipient of the Congressional Youth Award in our district.

The Congressional Youth Award, established by Congress in 1979, stands as the highest honor conferred upon young individuals by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I was thrilled to honor Cutter for this award and the hard work that led to this recognition. Cutter has accumulated over 200 volunteer hours, including a noteworthy Eagle Scout project that involved constructing a brick plaza at Continental Elementary School.

Cutter has also invested significant time in training to become the kicker for Walden Grove High School, as well as organizing a 3-day trip to the Chiricahua National Monument.

Growing up, Cutter started operating drones at the age of 11 and volunteering as a junior member of the Mount Lemmon Ski Patrol, having spent time cross-country skiing in Washington State. As a young adult, Cutter now aspires to enter the medical field and pursue a career in anesthesiology.

I take immense pride in having outstanding individuals like Cutter and his family—who I got to spend a good amount of time with—in our district, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Arizona Sixth.

REMEMBERING U.S. AIR FORCE GENERAL EARL T. O'LOUGHLIN

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Air Force General Earl T. O'Loughlin, who passed away November 10, 2023, at the age of 93 years old.

General O'Loughlin was a distinguished four-star general, who commenced his military journey during the Cold War in 1951.

An exceptional pilot, he navigated various aircraft, ranging from the B–29 to the KC–135. Over the course of his career, he covered approximately 6,000 miles, including 224 combat hours.

Beyond his military achievements, Earl was a devoted husband to Thelma Bentley, a loving father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and a cherished friend.

The general emphasized the mantra ''freedom isn't free'' throughout his entire life.

Among his numerous accolades are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal adorned with four oakleaf clusters.

In the hearts of the Tucson community and the residents of District 6, General O'Loughlin remains a true hero. We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service, and I am eternally thankful for his contributions.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

We pray to You, O Lord, to work among and within us as we seek to serve You this day.

Open the closed doors of our hearts and encourage us to unlock all that bars us from discovering and receiving You in our lives and in this place.

Open our ears that we would hear Your voice calling us to serve You unequivocally. You have summoned us to this esteemed court of law that we would uphold Your righteousness and render Your justice.

Open our minds that we would grasp the knowledge and insight You offer us. In the most disagreeable moments, You challenge us not only to be tolerant of others, but to be open to the truths You teach us through these encounters.

Open our eyes that we will see the wonder of Your love, the spiritual beauty that resides in the souls of those whom and with whom we serve. In them, may we bear witness to Your everlasting faithfulness to all people and Your eternal presence among even the least of these.

Then open our hands that we may share the richness of the blessings You have bestowed on us. Deliver us from all selfishness and purge us from the meanness within us that desperately clings to Your grace gifts without regard for Your counsel that we have been so blessed so as to be a blessing.

All that we are and all that we have is Yours, O Lord. This day, help us to be faithful stewards of Your generous grace.

In your merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), the whole number of the House is 431.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 1, 2024, at 3:45 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1568

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1(a)(2)(A) of House Resolution 12, 118th Congress, the second order of the House of February 1, 2023, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members to the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government:

Mr. DAVIDSON, Ohio
Mr. FRY, South Carolina

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 5, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:

Mr. Jonathan Nicholas Stivers of Falls Church, Virginia

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 5, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 12.38(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), I am pleased to appoint the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission on behalf of the Speaker:

Mr. Leland Miller of Alexandria, Virginia

As previously agreed, because of the change in Congress and the presumed statutory intent of the Commission, I am appointing Mr. Miller on behalf of the Speaker. As such, I am pleased to make this appointment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

WEDNESDAY IS NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

(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, Wednesday is National Girls and Women in Sports Day, a time to highlight House Republicans' efforts to protect the right of women to compete against other athletes on an equal footing.

Last April, Republicans passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023. It makes clear that allowing a biological male to compete in a sport designated for women or girls is a violation of Title IX. The bill requires schools to only recognize a person's reproductive biological sex at birth when determining athletic eligibility.

It is simple: If you were born a biological male, you compete against biological males. In fact, the vast majority of Tennesseans call that common sense.

This weekend, my family and I attended a Lady Vols basketball game. It reminded me of how proud I am to fight to prevent them from ever having to compete unfairly against biological men.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEDO BEARCATS FOR THEIR WIN

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Aledo Bearcats for their win over Smithson Valley Rangers with a score of 51–8 to become the UIL class 5A State football champions.

The Aledo Bearcats finished the season with a record of 16 wins and zero losses.

After a season of early mornings, long hours on the field, and staying focused in school, these young men showed dedication, strength, and an unwavering commitment to victory. I am proud that all their hard work and dedication throughout the year has paid off.

As these bright and talented men and women prepare for their next endeavors, I wish them the best of luck and blessings for an even brighter and more victorious future.

Go Bearcats.

In God we trust.

MAUI'S DEVASTATING AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS

(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, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, the impact of the fires on Maui and Hawaii Island were not lost on me.

The USDA estimates that over $23 million were lost in revenue, crops, property, and livestock. With 8,350 acres of agricultural lands burned, millions in sales were lost, water and irrigation infrastructure destroyed, and everything from crops and cattle to machinery and fencing incinerated on that fateful day.

In addition to the fires, the 80 mile-per-hour winds decimated some of Maui's oldest and most iconic farms.

I walked heartbroken through Hashimoto's Persimmon Farm and saw most of the fruit that should have been part of a bumper crop year on the ground. Their branches turned and their leaves gone, the survival of these century-old trees are now in jeopardy.

Even before the fires, Mr. Speaker, agriculture was a hard life in Hawaii, but if we truly want to build back better and stronger, agriculture must and will be a part of our islands' future.

From agroforestry techniques to help prevent fires to rebuilding water infrastructure and helping our farmers, ranchers, and producers not just survive but thrive, we now have a chance to do better.

□ 1415

REIN IN BIG PHARMA

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, for patients with leukemia, doctors often prescribe Imbruvica. In 2021, Johnson & Johnson and AbbVie sold it for a combined $10 billion.

Keytruda, a drug prescribed to cancer patients, netted Merck $20 billion; and Humira, a prescription drug for arthritis, allowed AbbVie to rake in $21 billion. This needs to stop.

Big Pharma is putting profits over people. They have three lobbyists for every one Member of Congress and have spent $370 million on lobbying while making excessive profits on the backs of cancer families.

That is why Senator SANDERS and I have a bill to rein in prescription drug costs, and that is why I said let's ban PAC and lobbyist money. Americans shouldn't pay more for their drugs than the average price people in other countries are paying.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2882) to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2882

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. INVESTMENT EARNINGS.

Section 8(b)(1) of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5606(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Beginning on October 1, 2023, and thereafter, interest earned from investments made with any new appropriations to the Trust Fund shall only be available subject to appropriations and is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act.''.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UDALL FOUNDATION TRUST FUND.

Section 13 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2028'';

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2028''; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''5-fiscal year period'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2024.''.

SEC. 4. AUDIT OF THE FOUNDATION.

Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall complete an audit of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2882, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023, as amended, would reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation through 2028.

Congress passed the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation Act in 1992, intending to provide scholarships and internship opportunities for Native Americans. This program continues today and brings Native American students into the halls of government, providing opportunities for them to pursue public policy and work on issues that directly address their own experiences.

In 1998, Congress broadened the scope of the Udall Foundation and created the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. In 2009, Congress amended the act to add former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's name to the Foundation.

The Udall Foundation was last reauthorized in 2019. In that reauthorization, Congress renamed the United States Institute to the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

The Udall Foundation currently supports several programs that encourage research and study related to the environment, American Indian and Alaska Native healthcare issues, and Tribal public policy concerns.

H.R. 2882 reauthorizes the Udall Foundation through 2028. This reauthorization maintains currently authorized appropriations and has been amended to make interest income from the trust fund subject to appropriations.

The bill also requires the Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General complete an audit of the Udall Foundation within 4 years of passage. Past audits highlighted areas where the Foundation was then able to strengthen processes within the Foundation.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for his work on this bill, and I encourage adoption of the legislation.

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

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 3, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: This letter is in regard to the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Education and the Workforce (''Committee'') in certain provisions of H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023, which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, the Committee is willing to waive the right to sequential referral. By waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Education and the Workforce Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 2882 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2024.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX: I write regarding H.R. 2882, the ''Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023.'' The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and additionally to the Committee on Natural Resources, and was ordered reported, as amended, by the Committee on Natural Resources on November 15, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Education and the Workforce will not formally consider H.R. 2882 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill and will include such letters in the committee report on H.R. 2882. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2882. This bill will reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund.

The Udall Foundation was established as an independent Federal agency in 1992 by Congress in honor of Mo Udall's contributions to our Nation's public lands and natural resources and his support for Tribal self-determination. In 2009, Congress honored Stewart Udall in the name of the Foundation alongside his brother.

The Udall Foundation's impact is monumental in supporting the next generation of environmental and Tribal policy leaders. From the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution to the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, the Foundation serves a critical role in shaping public policy.

In addition, the Foundation supports several educational programs, such as the Parks in Focus program, fellowships, scholarships, and congressional internships.

H.R. 2882 will ensure the Foundation remains an essential partner in Tribal and environmental education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, this is important legislation to reauthorize the Udall Foundation to continue supporting Native American congressional interns, as well as the research and study that goes along with that.

As I mentioned earlier, it also works with Alaska Native healthcare issues and Tribal public policy issues. This is a very important piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WESTERMAN, my good friend, for yielding me the time to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The Udall Foundation is a nonpartisan agency established by Congress in 1992, committed to the values of civility, integrity, and consensus, which are emblematic of how Mo Udall approached his 30 years of public service in this House.

Since its creation, the Udall Foundation has done incredible work. They have awarded over 1,800 undergraduate scholarships to students pursuing careers in environmental public policy, Tribal public policy, or Native healthcare. They have placed over 300 Native American and Alaska Native students in summer internships on Capitol Hill and with Federal agencies. They have conducted over 800 environmental collaboration and conflict resolution assessments, and facilitated processes and trainings across all 50 States.

My bill, H.R. 2882, extends the Udall Foundation's authority for 5 additional fiscal years, through FY 2028. This reauthorization will allow the agency to promote public service through research, education, and service programs. Moreover, they will continue to foster leadership, education, collaboration, and conflict resolution in the areas of environment, public lands, Native Nations, and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Arizona for sponsoring this important legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2882, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1727) to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1727

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 ''Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.

Section 6(g) of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y–4(g)) is amended by striking ''40'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''on October 1, 2031.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1727, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act. This bill reauthorizes the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission for 7 years beyond the Commission's current expiration date of September 2024.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, or C&O Canal, stretches over 184 miles from Georgetown in Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland. For nearly a century, the national historical park played a crucial role in the transportation of many agricultural products along the Potomac River.

Today, the park offers numerous outdoor recreation opportunities while continuing to serve as a source of economic growth through tourism and employment opportunities. In 2021, the park attracted over 5 million visitors, supported 1,360 jobs, and generated $104 million in economic output in local gateway communities surrounding the park.

The park's commission is comprised of 19 members who serve on a volunteer basis. By including the voices and unique perspective of various local stakeholders, the commission provides a critical link between the National Park Service and local communities with no cost to the American taxpayer.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1727, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act, introduced by my colleague from Maryland, Representative TRONE.

Once a transportation route from Maryland to Washington, D.C., the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park now serves as an area full of recreational opportunities, while maintaining the historical structures of the old transportation route.

The park is comprised of 184 miles along the Potomac River, hosting over 5 million visitors annually. The bill before us would reauthorize the park's advisory commission until 2031 to allow them to continue their leadership in working with their communities to enhance visitor experience and recreational opportunities.

The advisory commission is key to ensuring that local communities have a voice in the operation, maintenance, and restoration of the park.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and urge a ''yes'' vote on my bill, the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act.

Running from D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland, the park's 20,000 acres of land are home to history. George Washington himself spearheaded the efforts to navigate these waters and drive industry in our then-newly formed Republic. For nearly 100 years, the canal transported lumber, crops, and coal, crucial commerce for the many communities depending on it for their livelihoods.

Now a national park, the C&O Canal is home to thousands of native species, over 100 of which are listed as rare and threatened or endangered by the State of Maryland, all of which must be fiercely protected.

For more than 40 years, the advisory commission has served as a link between the surrounding communities and the National Park Service to manage and restore the park. The commission has a proven track record of ensuring the growth and maintenance of the land, as well as protection of the plants and animals living within it.

Every 10 years, Congress must reauthorize this commission for it to continue the vital work, which brings us here today. I am proud to lead this effort with my dear friend, Senator BEN CARDIN, to ensure Americans can enjoy, explore, and protect our park for generations to come.

□ 1615

I am honored to represent so many Marylanders who get to appreciate the beauty and rich history of the C&O Canal every day.

By reauthorizing the commission, we are showing that Congress values the investments in our Nation's natural resources.

I thank all Members from the C&O Canal region who support this legislation: Representatives BEYER, CONNOLLY, HOLMES NORTON, MOONEY, RASKIN, and WEXTON. I thank Natural Resources Committee Chair WESTERMAN for moving this bill through committee with unanimous support and Chairwoman DINGELL for her support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that promotes collaboration between Federal agencies and local stakeholders. It achieves this without adding any burden on the American taxpayer.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1727, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CLIFTON OPPORTUNITIES NOW FOR VIBRANT ECONOMIC YIELDS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2997) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2997

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 ''Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act'' or as the ''CONVEY Act''.

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO MESA COUNTY, COLORADO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLIFTON PARCEL.—The term ''Clifton parcel'' means the approximately 31.1 acres of Federal land depicted as ''31.1 Acres to be Conveyed to Mesa County'' on the map titled ''Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields (CONVEY) Act'' and dated April 19, 2023.

(2) COUNTY.—The term ''County'' means Mesa County, Colorado.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Secretarial Order dated August 26, 1902, and the Secretarial Order dated July 25, 1908, the Secretary shall convey to the County, as soon as practicable, all rights, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Clifton parcel.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The conveyance under this section shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights; and

(2) for not less than fair market value, as determined in accordance with subsection (d).

(d) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The fair market value of the Clifton parcel shall be determined by an independent appraisal obtained by the Secretary.

(2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The appraisal required by paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with the—

(A) Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance required under subsection (b), including all costs associated with any survey conducted for the purpose of accomplishing such conveyance.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM CONVEYANCE.—The proceeds from the conveyance required under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account established by the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); and

(2) available for expenditure under that Act.

(g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a map and a legal description of all land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of a discrepancy between the map and the legal description created under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the County, by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description created under paragraph (1).

(4) MAP ON FILE.—The map and the legal description created under paragraph (1) shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in each appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2997, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Representative BOEBERT's bill, the Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act, or the CONVEY Act.

H.R. 2997 conveys land from the Federal Government to Mesa County in Colorado. As the House Committee on Natural Resources considered and ultimately passed this bill through our committee last year, it was clear Representative BOEBERT had done good work to build consensus and solve an important issue in a local Colorado community.

The bill is good policy. Representative BOEBERT worked with her constituents, county leaders, and the Bureau of Land Management to draft legislation they all support.

Many of our Western States are largely owned by the Federal Government. In Colorado, over 36 percent of the land is federally owned. In Mesa County, an astonishing 72 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government, and this presents many local challenges.

As communities grow in proximity to Federal lands, there simply is not enough space for new homes, schools, hospitals, or other necessities to sustain a growing population. Large swaths of Federal land limit the tax base to support the local community. While creative solutions have been enacted by Congress to address this issue, there are still setbacks to communities lacking a strong tax base.

The growing population in this Colorado community has encouraged county leaders to seek out new land for development. The land in question is on the Bureau's disposal list, meaning the agency has determined it no longer wants to manage the land and the land does not serve the taxpayers' interest.

While both the Bureau of Land Management and Mesa County are supportive of this land exchange, the process has continued to run into bureaucratic delays. Mesa County has been working for 5 years to acquire a mere 31 acres—let me repeat that: 5 years to acquire 31 acres—all because of bureaucratic delays. We now need an act of Congress to speed up this process.

This is evidence of a much larger problem. There should not be excessive delays preventing the conveyance of land when all parties agree this land would be put to more productive use outside of Federal management and there is a willing buyer.

The House Committee on Natural Resources will continue to conduct oversight on how we can expedite the process of disposing of unwanted Federal land, especially land that could be better utilized to support small, rural communities and their economies.

While the committee continues its work to address the larger issue of Federal land management, I applaud Representative BOEBERT for her leadership in addressing this important issue for her constituents.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2997 would authorize the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, to convey 31 acres of Federal land to Mesa County in Colorado.

This parcel of land was once used by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation under the Grand Valley Reclamation Project. It has since been designated suitable for disposal by BLM, with agencies having started the withdrawal revocation process.

Following the completion of this process, BLM will engage in a direct sale with Mesa County.

The CONVEY Act is designed to facilitate and expedite the ongoing parcel conveyance process. Following the conveyance, Mesa County will use the land for economic development and growth opportunities in and around Clifton, Colorado.

I thank the majority for working with us to ensure that, under this bill, Mesa County is responsible for paying for all the costs associated with the conveyance, as is typical in these types of transactions.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), the author of the legislation.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2997, my Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act, the CONVEY Act.

This commonsense bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 31.1 acres of land that the Federal Government no longer wishes to manage to Mesa County for economic development in Clifton, Colorado. Mesa County will purchase the land for fair market value.

For over 5 years, Mesa County has been stuck in red tape as they have been diligently pursuing the acquisition of this parcel of land that is on the BLM disposal list. This land holds immense value for Mesa County as it presents a critical opportunity for economic development in Clifton, an area of the county that has struggled economically.

I have worked closely with BLM, the committee, and the Mesa County commissioners to cut through the bureaucracy and expedite this process. The Principal Deputy Director at the Bureau of Land Management, Nada Wolff Culver, said: ''The BLM supports H.R. 2997,'' the CONVEY Act, ''and the direct sale of the parcel to Mesa County.''

The economic potential of this land will allow Mesa County to attract job creators and foster an environment that encourages economic prosperity for Clifton.

Once Mesa County is able to secure the land, they will establish an economic development board to solicit input from local stakeholders.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, this bill would reduce Federal spending. It also ensures the funds from the sale of this land will be deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account, established by the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and retained by the Bureau of Land Management Colorado office, so the funds from the sale will actually be used in Colorado.

More than 55 percent of Colorado's Third District and 73 percent of Mesa County's land area is Federal land. As Mesa County continues to grow, the county is significantly limited in the land it has available to develop.

These large Federal footprints often stifle local communities that lack power in decisionmaking over the land in their own backyards from moving forward on important development opportunities.

I am proud to empower local communities and jump-start rural economies through innovative solutions that reduce our Federal footprint and cut bureaucratic red tape that is stifling economic growth with the CONVEY Act.

It has been a pleasure to work on this piece of legislation and to offer this to Mesa County to see what they come up with for their economic development.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple, straightforward bill, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Representative BOEBERT for her hard work and leadership and the effort she put into crafting this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2997, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PILOT BUTTE POWER PLANT CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3415) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot

Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3415

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 ''Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term ''Agreement'' means the agreement entered into under section 3(a).

(2) DISTRICT.—The term ''District'' means the Midvale Irrigation District located in Pavillion, Wyoming.

(3) POWER PLANT.—The term ''Power Plant'' means the Pilot Butte Power Plant and other appurtenant facilities in the State of Wyoming authorized under the Act of March 2, 1917 (39 Stat. 969, chapter 146), transferred to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation under the Act of June 5, 1920 (41 Stat. 874, chapter 235), and incorporated into the Riverton Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program under Public Law 91–409 (84 Stat. 861), including the underlying land.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

SEC. 3. AGREEMENT, CONVEYANCE, AND REPORT.

(a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into good faith negotiations with the District to enter into an agreement to determine the legal, institutional, and financial terms for the conveyance of the Power Plant from the Secretary to the District.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In consideration for the District assuming from the United States all liability for the administration, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Power Plant, the Secretary shall offer to convey and assign to the District all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Power Plant—

(A) subject to valid leases, permits, rights-of-way, easements, and other existing rights; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the terms and conditions described in the Agreement; and

(ii) this Act.

(2) STATUS OF LAND.—Effective on the date of the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under paragraph (1), the Power Plant shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project.

(c) REPORT.—If the conveyance authorized under subsection (b)(1) is not completed by the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the status of the conveyance under that subsection;

(2) any obstacles to completing the conveyance under that subsection; and

(3) an anticipated date for the completion of the conveyance under that subsection.

SEC. 4. LIABILITY.

(a) DAMAGES.—Except as otherwise provided by law and for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by employees or agents of the United States, effective on the date of the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1), the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Power Plant.

(b) TORTS CLAIMS.—Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Federal Tort Claims Act'').

SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAWS.—Before making the conveyance authorized under section 3(b)(1), the Secretary shall complete all actions required under—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(3) subtitle III of title 54, United States Code; and

(4) any other applicable laws.

(b) COMPLIANCE BY THE DISTRICT.—Effective on the date of the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1), the District shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations) with respect to the operation of the Power Plant.

SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF COSTS.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Administrative costs for the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1) shall be paid in equal shares by the Secretary and the District.

(b) REAL ESTATE TRANSFER COSTS.—The costs of all boundary surveys, title searches, cadastral surveys, appraisals, and other real estate transactions required for the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1) shall be paid in equal shares by the Secretary and the District.

(c) COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.—The costs associated with any review required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, or any other applicable laws for conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1) shall be paid in equal shares by the Secretary and the District.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3415, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3415 sponsored by Congresswoman HAGEMAN of Wyoming. This legislation would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to enter negotiations with the Midvale Irrigation District to transfer the Pilot Butte Power Plant to the district.

Under current law, the Bureau of Reclamation holds title to the power plant and related facilities, and ownership of the power plant cannot be transferred unless authorized by Congress.

This plant has not produced electricity since 2008, when the Bureau of Reclamation determined that increasing operation and maintenance costs made electricity generation at the plant economically infeasible.

The district has expressed interest in taking ownership and rehabilitating and operating the power plant and related facilities to provide power to the district's water users.

This legislation is the first step in achieving that goal. It would allow the Midvale Irrigation District to harness additional hydroelectric power resources, a carbon-free, reliable source of energy.

At a time when good stewardship of taxpayer resources and access to reliable energy are at the forefront of so many debates in Washington, I am proud that our committee advanced legislation that accomplishes both objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HAGEMAN for her leadership. I urge adoption of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to convey the title of the Pilot Butte Power Plant in Wyoming to the Midvale Irrigation District. The transfer would follow negotiation of a mutually beneficial transfer agreement that must ensure full compliance with environmental laws and other applicable laws.

Following a title transfer, the irrigation district will explore opportunities to rehabilitate the facility for improved power generation.

I am pleased to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN), the bill's sponsor.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act.

This important legislation initiates the transfer of the Pilot Butte Power Plant from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Midvale Irrigation District.

Specifically, the Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act requires the Bureau of Reclamation to enter good-faith negotiations with the Midvale Irrigation District for the conveyance of the Pilot Butte Power Plant, located in Pavillion, Wyoming. This is a critical step towards improving responsible resource management.

Several months ago, we had the privilege of learning from Wyoming's Midvale Irrigation District on this important topic in a hearing in the Subcommittee of Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.

In this hearing, we learned from both Midvale and the Bureau that this conveyance will allow the district to more easily maintain and operate the plant after the title transfer.

The message from each party involved in the conveyance was that this is a win-win for everyone involved. Transferring ownership of the power plant to Midvale will provide for greater flexibility and relieve administrative burdens for the Bureau of Reclamation.

As we all know, local communities and entities are often better equipped to understand the unique needs and challenges of their communities.

Placing control of the hydro plant in the hands of Midvale Irrigation District will empower them to make decisions that directly impact their region. This conveyance promotes a sense of ownership and accountability that will lead to more efficient operations and responsive governance.

This transfer will have positive economic benefits. Hydroelectric plants have the potential to generate substantial revenue. By allowing Midvale to control these resources, they can reinvest profits into the community. This will ultimately mean improved infrastructure and more support for local businesses.

The economic ripple effect can be profound and positively impact the lives of those living in the district.

Moreover, it is important to note that Midvale is intimately familiar with the intricacies of water management and distribution in their area. Updating and repairing this hydro plant will expand the State's portfolio, allowing for a more holistic approach to resource management.

This will help Wyoming to optimize water usage, balancing the needs of agriculture, industry, and the environment more effectively.

We have an obvious need to increase the amount of water stored through surface infrastructure and groundwater storage projects.

This particular conveyance will allow us to more effectively manage our water and provide power to our communities. Additionally, environmental stewardship is a critical consideration.

Wyomingites are more attuned to the ecological nuances of their surroundings. By placing the hydro plant under local control, we increase the practice of responsible environmental practices. This includes measures to protect aquatic life, maintain water quality, and ensure the responsible operation of the plant without compromising our ecosystems.

The Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act will empower Wyoming communities, boost Wyoming's economy, enhance resource management, and promote responsible environmental practices.

It is a decision that reflects the values of decentralization, self-determination, and self-reliance.

I thank Senator BARRASSO and Senator LUMMIS for their leadership on this issue on the Senate side, and Midvale Irrigation District manager Steve Lynn, who was critical in elevating this issue and the solution we have before us this evening.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the principle of cooperative federalism means that decisions are made at the appropriate level of government, at the Federal, State, and local levels.

H.R. 3415 embodies this principle by transferring control of the Pilot Butte Power Plant to the Midvale Irrigation District, putting local project beneficiaries in charge of resource management, harnessing additional hydroelectric power resources, and ultimately, lowering cost.

I once again thank Congresswoman HAGEMAN for her leadership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3415.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC SYSTEMS THROUGH RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCED DIALOGUE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4051) to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4051

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 ''Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act'' or the ''SHARKED Act''.

SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH PROJECTS.

(a) SHARK DEPREDATION TASK FORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a task force (referred to in this subsection as the ''task force'') to identify and address critical needs with respect to shark depredation.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Commerce shall appoint individuals to the task force, including—

(A) 1 representative from—

(i) each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

(ii) each Marine Fisheries Commission, as such term is defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802);

(iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a coastal State from each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

(iv) the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(B) an individual with expertise in the management of highly migratory species;

(C) a researcher with expertise in shark management and behavior; and

(D) a researcher with expertise in shark ecology.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

(A) develop ways to improve coordination and communication across the fisheries management community and shark research community to address shark depredation;

(B) identify research priorities and funding opportunities for such priorities, including—

(i) identifying shark species involved in interactions;

(ii) shark stock assessments;

(iii) how sharks become habituated to humans and thus lead to more interactions between sharks and humans;

(iv) how angler behavior and fishery regulatory frameworks may influence shark interactions;

(v) techniques and strategies to reduce harmful interactions between sharks and humans, including the development and use of non-lethal deterrents;

(vi) the role of healthy shark populations in the ocean food web; and

(vii) climate change impacts on shifting shark populations, prey, and shark behavior;

(C) develop recommended management strategies to address shark depredation; and

(D) coordinate the development and distribution of educational materials to help the fishing community minimize shark interactions including through changed angler behavior and expectations.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter until the termination of the task force in accordance with paragraph (5), the task force shall submit to Congress a report regarding the findings of the task force.

(5) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate not later than 7 years after the date on which the Secretary of Commerce establishes the task force.

(6) COASTAL STATE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''coastal State''—

(A) means a State of the United States in, or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long Island Sound; and

(B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

(b) SHARK DEPREDATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) Projects to better understand shark depredation, including identifying what causes increases in shark depredation and determining how to best address shark depredation.''.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the authority and responsibility

of the Secretary of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4051, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4051, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Congressman ROB WITTMAN of Virginia.

Concerns over shark depredation are increasingly common. From fishermen in the Florida Keys and throughout the Gulf of Mexico whose prized snapper or grouper catch was eaten by a shark, to charter boat captains in North Carolina's Outer Banks fishing offshore, shark interactions can be frustrating for anglers as they result in loss of catch, damaged gear, and degraded fishing experiences, and may also impact the post-release survival of target fish.

While the number of reports of depredation have increased, the underlying cause of the increase remains uncertain. It could be due to an increase in the number of sharks, as stocks rebuild, or learned behavior by sharks as they recognize motors, fishing techniques, or shark-feeding locations as a source of food.

We simply do not have enough information.

To make matters worse, shark depredation touches on many Federal and State jurisdictions, but because no single entity has a responsibility to address it, very little is being done.

H.R. 4051 would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force to address shark depredation.

The task force membership would include representatives from Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Marine Fisheries Commissions, the State fish and wildlife agencies from the States within the Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA, and shark experts from the Fisheries Service, and non-Federal experts.

During committee consideration of this legislation, the minority worked closely with two of the bill's sponsors, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. GRAVES, to make modest changes by including more engagement with the scientific community engaged in shark research and clarifying that the findings and work done by the task force do not impact the Secretary of Commerce's responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act or the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The legislation will help the Federal Government further understand, identify, and address critical needs as they relate to shark depredation.

I applaud Mr. WITTMAN for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4051, the SHARKED Act, would establish a new task force led by the National Marine Fisheries Service to identify shark conservation needs and depredation research.

Sharks are critical to healthy ocean ecosystems.

As the apex predators of the ocean, they help shape marine food webs and are a key indicator of ocean health.

Many shark species are, unfortunately, also threatened or endangered.

Oceanic sharks and rays have declined by 71 percent since 1970, and three-quarters of these wide-ranging species are threatened.

While some shark populations are recovering, scientists predict that nearly 100 million sharks are still killed each year, and current levels of fishing pressure will cause the majority of shark populations to continue declining.

According to the IUCN, half of the coastal sharks and rays are threatened with extinction, primarily due to overfishing.

A fundamental lack of understanding of shark biology and ecological importance, combined with fear, was partially responsible for dramatic increases in the recreational harvest of sharks in the United States in the 1970s and the 1980s.

Any effort to address shark depredation, therefore, needs to be considered in light of recovering shark populations and the threats that sharks face from heightened fishing pressure and climate change.

Through the committee process, we have been able to significantly improve this legislation. However, I recognize there are still some legitimate concerns about whether this legislation goes far enough to ensure good outcomes for shark populations and is not a slippery slope towards increasing shark harvests.

I am grateful that the majority worked with us to amend the original bill text, ensuring that the focus is placed on changing angler behavior and managing expectations, as well as building out the scientific understanding of shark ecology and the impacts of climate change on predators and prey in the ocean.

Recently, Australian researchers found that the use of non-lethal deterrents and simple changes in angler behavior are proven to reduce the probability of sharks taking fish by 65 percent.

NOAA has funded similar studies in the United States but admitted in the legislative hearing on this bill that depredation research is complex and requires sustained investment due to the high intelligence and adaptability of sharks.

Notably, this bill doesn't include funding. Without it, NOAA will be unable to fund much more than what they are currently doing to address shark conservation and depredation.

I hope my colleagues who support this bill will also work with us to ensure robust funding for shark conservation priorities, like increased shark stock assessments.

This bill should promote greater collaboration between the fishing community and shark researchers to reduce risks to sharks and humans from depredation events and build out our understanding of the importance of sharks and how to conserve them.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for the SHARKED Act, signed by 123 companies and organizations, including the American Sportfishing Association.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023.

Hon. ROB WITTMAN,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. GARRET GRAVES,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. DARREN SOTO,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. MARC VEASEY,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES WITTMAN, SOTO, GRAVES AND VEASEY: As businesses that have experienced the negative impacts of shark depredation, we are writing to express our support for the Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research, Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue (SHARKED) Act. Collectively we represent charter captains, tackle shop owners, equipment manufacturers, and other sportfishing-related business leaders. Saltwater recreational fishing is a major economic driver in coastal communities throughout the country, with more than 13 million saltwater anglers supporting 595,000 jobs and generating $98 billion in sales every year.

This bill brings focus to the increasing challenge of shark depredation, which negatively impacts fishing experiences, risks the safety of sharks and humans and threatens the sustainability of fish populations.

Shark depredation occurs when a shark eats or damages a hooked fish before an angler can reel in their catch. In general, the possibility of depredation occurring is accepted as a natural part of fishing. However, in recent years the frequency of shark depredation has increased rapidly in many parts of the country, likely due to increasing fishing activity, increasing shark abundance and depredation becoming a more frequently learned behavior.

As some of the nation's leading conservationists, recreational fishermen firmly believe that safeguarding our marine ecosystem is of utmost importance. Sharks play a vital role in maintaining balance in the marine ecosystem. However, shark depredation is escalating to a level that is detrimental to all involved, exposing sharks to potentially harmful fishing gear and putting anglers in dangerously close proximity to these apex predators. As the rate of shark

depredation has increased, fishermen have become increasingly frustrated by the issue and a lack of response from the fisheries management community. It is a complex issue with no simple solution, but there are policy, research, management and education tactics that warrant exploration to help mitigate the issue. Shark depredation touches on many federal and state jurisdictions. Unfortunately, because no single entity has responsibility to address it, very little is being done.

The SHARKED Act would establish a task force that would be responsible for improving coordination and communication across the fisheries management community on shark depredation, as well as identifying research priorities and funding opportunities. This bill would be a critical first step toward addressing shark depredation nationally and establishing foundational knowledge that can be used to improve future management, education and research actions.

By implementing efforts to minimize interactions between sharks and anglers, the SHARKED Act will advance conservation for the benefit of sharks, anglers, fisheries and the economy. We are grateful for your support of this bill and for providing a voice to the recreational fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Carl Abissi, National Manager, Dexter Outdoors, Southbridge, MA; Steve Atkinson, President, Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Midlothian, VA; Hunter Avery, Key Accounts Manager, Jones and Company, Stuart, FL; Eric L Bachnik, President, L&S Bait Company, Largo, FL; Will Benson, Owner, World Angling, Key West, FL; Gregory Bogdan, Owner/Captain, Permitted, Inc., North Palm Beach, FL; Bryan Boyle, Captain, Dedicated, LLC.; Jupiter, FL.

Scott Brown, Owner, Push it Good Inshore Fishing Charters, Destin, FL; Tad Burke, Captain, The Wild Side Guides, Tavernier, FL; Brandon Carter, Owner, Fathom Offshore, Wilmington, NC; Nicholas Castillo, Captain, Castillo Charters, LLC., Islamorada, FL; John Chauvin, Sr., Owner. Fin-tastic Charters, Grand Isle, LA; Louis Chemi, Vice President. Freedom Boat Club, Venice, FL; Dennis Clark, Owner, Frontier Sales and Marketing Group, LLC., Katy, TX.

Eric Cosby, Vice President, Top Brass Tackle, Starkville, MS; John Crews, President/Owner, Missile Baits, Salem, VA; Mike Cyr, Captain, C Hawk Charters, Key West, FL; Bill Dantuono, Owner, Offshore Naples, Naples, FL; Adam Debruin, Captain, Red Hook Fishing, Tavernier, FL; Mike Delzingo, Owner, Fishbucket Sportfishing, Boston, MA; GW De Pauw, Captain, Captain GW Guide Service, Tavernier, FL.

Joe Diebold, Outfitter, Bass Pro, Apollo Beach, FL; Paul Diggins, Owner/Captain, Reel Pursuit Charters, Charlestown, MA; Michael Dixon, Vice President, Engel Coolers, Jupiter, FL; Robert Dufek, Sales Manager, Shimano, Ladson, SC; Aaron Dykes, CEO & Captain, Triple D Charters, Tavernier, FL; Brian Esposito, President, Skiff Guide Charter Service, Hollywood, FL; Drue Eymann, Owner/Captain, Keys on The Fly, LLC., Key West, FL.

Bill Falconer, President/CEO, Anglers Resource, Foley, AL; Richard Fischer, Executive Director, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, Metairie, LA; Tammy Foshee, OEM Manager, GSM Outdoors, Georgetown, GA; Thomas Fote, Legislative Chairman, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Toms River, NJ; Steve Friedman, Owner, A Fishing Guide, LLC., Islamorada, FL; Patrick Gill, CEO. TackleDirect, Egg Harbor Township, NJ; Austin Glassman, Captain, Gladesman Charters, Tavernier, FL.

Alan Gnann, President, REC Components, Stafford Springs, CT; Lain Goodwin, Owner/Captain, Dirty Waters Charters, Inc., Key Largo, FL; Scott Gregg, Captain/Owner, Wreckless Sport Fishing, Mechanicsville, VA; Mike Guerin, Owner, Capt. Michael Guerin, Big Pine Key, FL; Chris Hanson, Owner, Scales 2 Tales, LLC., Key Largo, FL; Jim Hardin, Government Relations Manager, Grady-White Boats, Inc., Greenville, NC; Richard Hastings, Captain, Capt. Rich Hastings, Islamorada, FL.

Gary Hayes, Owner/Captain, Sunrise South Charter Fishing, Dulac, LA; Patrick Healey, President/CEO, Viking Yacht Co., New Gretna, NJ; Mark Hlis, Owner, Flamingo Charters, Islamorada, FL; Barry Hoffman, Captain, flatsguide.com, Tavernier, FL; Mike Holliday, Captain, Fish Tail Guide Service, Stuart, FL; Houston Hoover, Captain, Gene's Fishing Charters, Gonzales, LA; Dylan Hubbard, Owner/Captain/VP, Hubbard's Marina, Madeira Beach, FL.

Dylan Hubbard, President, Florida Guides Association, Madeira Beach, FL; Buddy Hughes, CEO, Bates Fishing Co., Celina, TX; Robbie Hunziker, Owner, RH Marine, Parrish, FL; Steven Impallomeni, Owner/Captain, Gallopin Ghost Charters, Summerland Key, FL; Rich Johnson, Owner/Operator, Scotty J's Charters, Clearwater, FL; Luke Kelly, Captain, Key Flat Charters, Summerland Key, FL; Doug Kilpatrick, Owner, Capt Doug Kilpatrick Inc, Sugarloaf Key, FL.

Frank-Paul King, President, Temple Fork, Dallas, TX; Luke Krenik, Captain, LVKFL, LLC, Key Largo, Florida; Steve Lavoie, Captain, Capt Lavoie, Tavernier, FL; Mike Leonard, Vice President of Government Affairs, American Sportfishing Association, Alexandria, VA; Phillip Lillo, President, Don Coffey Company, Orlando, FL; Patrick Lynch, CEO, Bionic Bait, Pompano Beach, FL; Putnam Maclean, Captain, Eagle Eye Fishing Co., Marshfield, MA.

Gary Maier, Chief Design Officer, DroneFisher Tackle, Tomball, TX; Michael Manis, Owner/Captain, Punta Gorda Fly Charters, Punta Gorda, FL; Spencer Marchant, Senior Manager, Don Coffey Company, Jupiter, FL; Colby Mason, Mate, Kalex, Islamorada, FL; Chase Masters, Owner, The Chase Fishing Charters, Islamorada, FL; Will McCabe, Captain, Will McCabe Charters, Islamorada, FL; James McGrath, President, Grand Slam Tackle, Riviera Beach, FL.

Daniel Medina, Captain, Salty Fishing Charters, Cape Coral, FL; Andy Mezirow, Owner, Gray Light Fisheries, LLC, Seward, AK; Daniel Miers, Owner/President, King Sailfish Mounts, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Tom Morgan, Captain, Flying Thief Charters, Big Pine Key, FL; Patrick Neukam, Owner, Offshore Addict Charters, Madeira Beach, FL; Andrew Nobregas, Captain, Fishy Business Charters, Tavernier, FL; Daniel Nussbaum, President, Z-Man Fishing Products, Inc., Ladson, SC.

Frank Ortiz, Owner, Capt. Frank Ortiz, Key Largo, FL; William Pappas, Owner/Operator, Playin Hookey Charters, Virginia Beach, VA; Jason Parker, Captain, Reel Steel Fishing, Ocean City, MD; Donald Patnaude, President, Jones & Company, Stuart, FL; Cheryl Pawlak, President, Aquatic Nutrition, Inc., Eustis, FL; David Peck, Captain, Skiligal Charters LLC, Nags Head, NC; Michael Pierdinock, Owner/Captain, CPF Charters, Plymouth, MA.

Greg Poland, Owner/Captain, Capt. Greg Poland Inc, Islamorada, FL; Matt Ponzio, Captain, Smoking Reels Charters, Fort Myers, FL; Victor Porter, Owner, Chief Charter Fishing, Islamorada, FL; Jason Prieto, President, Steady Action Fishing Charters, Ruskin, FL; Thomas Putnam, President, Half Hitch Tackle, Panama City, FL; Kellie Ralston, Vice President for Conservation and Public Policy, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, Tallahassee, FL; Sean Rice, Owner, Lawless Lures, Grenada, MS; Olden Rodrigue, Owner, Coastal Charter Services LLC, Montegut, LA.

Joe Rodriguez, Captain, Fishing Guide Fla keys, Summerland Key, FL; Paul Sabayrac, Owner & Captain, Goin' Raptor Fishing, Juno Beach, FL; Amanda Sabin, VP Marketing, Contender Boats, Ormond Beach, FL; Jonathan Schrier, Owner/Operator, Shake Your Tail Feather, LLC., Marathon, FL; Peter Schulz, President, Schulz Brothers Fishing Headquarters, Jupiter, FL; Perry Scuderi, Owner/Operator, P.S. Fishing Inc., Islamorada, FL; Robert Shamblin, Vice President, JL Marine Systems, Inc., Valrico, FL.

Anthony Solmo, Owner, Got 'Em on Sportfishing Charters, Key West, FL; Ron Stallings, PR/Marketing, TTI-Blakemore, Wetumpka, AL; Brandon Storin, Owner, Bean Sportfishing LLC, Islamorada, FL; Gary Stuve, Captain, Native Guide Jupiter, Jupiter, FL; Larry Sydnor, Captain, Capt. Larry Sydnor, Islamorada, FL; Andrew Tipler, Owner/Captain, Last Cast Charters, Cudjoe Key, FL.

Georgios Toris, Owner, Salta Americas, Inc, West Palm Beach, FL; Chris Trosset, Owner/Operator, Reel Fly Charters, Key West, FL; Brandon Vaughan, Owner, Salty Dog Charters, LLC, St. Petersburg, FL; Russ Walker, Owner/Captain, Tide Walker Charters, Cape Coral, FL; William Walsh, Captain, PJ's Enterprises, Tavernier, FL; Jeff Watkins, Owner, Anchors Away Charters, Port Charlotte, FL.

Ashley Weber, President/Owner, Ashley Weber Art, Inc., Rockledge, FL; Leonard Weinbaum, Owner, L. W. Fine Arts, Keystone Heights, FL; Nathan Weinbaum, President, KeysXplorer, Islamorada, FL; Bryan Williams, Sales Representative, Shimano, Wilmington, NC; Holly Williams, President/CEO, Cablz, Birmingham, AL; Chris Wilson, Owner, Rivers End Outfitters, LLC, Belle Chasse, LA.

Edward Wilson, Owner/Operator, Captain Ted Wilson Charter Fishing, Islamorada, FL; Jerry Winton, National Sales Manager, Winton Electronics, Manasquan, NJ; Billy Wood, Captain, Mine Time LLC, Key Largo, FL; Shane Wood, Owner, Shane Wood Charters, Sugarloaf Key, FL; Alex Zapata, Owner, Silver King Charters, Miami, FL; Ed Zyak, Captain, Captain Ed Zyak Fishing, Jensen Beach, FL.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of my bill, H.R. 4051, the Supporting the Health of Aquatic Systems through Research Knowledge, and Enhanced Dialogue Act, also known as the SHARKED Act.

Picture this: A charter boat fisherman takes a group of excited anglers 90 miles off the coast in hopes of reeling in a yellow fin tuna, a snapper, or grouper, or even ensure reeling in a tarpon.

One of the individuals hooks the first fish and starts to fight to reel it in. However, before the fish ever gets to the boat, sharks have completely consumed the fish, all the way up to the gill plates.

This phenomenon is called depredation, which occurs when sharks interfere with fishing activities.

Shark depredation is accepted as a natural part of fishing, but it has become a widespread issue in our waters and has increased rapidly in recent years.

During the House Natural Resources Committee hearing for the SHARKED

Act, we heard from experts discussing the impact of this phenomenon.

According to the American Sportfishing Association, 52.4 million people went fishing in the United States, supporting 826,000 jobs and contributing $129 billion to the economy.

The American Sportfishing Association also found that 87 percent of charter guides surveyed said they experienced depredation with clients, resulting in negative impacts on their businesses.

Anglers are losing their catch and tackle to sharks at alarming rates, and they are understandably becoming increasingly frustrated by it.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the SHARKED Act to study this issue, evaluate how we can improve sportfishing conditions for anglers while protecting sharks.

This bill establishes a fisheries management task force to focus on identifying research opportunities, recommending management strategies, and developing educational materials for fishermen.

□ 1645

This legislation will help fishermen understand which species of sharks have higher rates of depredation and where you are most likely to run into that species.

It will serve first as a major step in improving communication and coordination among fisheries managers in addressing shark depredation nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing this bill through the committee and further consideration on the floor, which is where we are today. It has been a great process.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have experienced what Mr. WITTMAN was talking about; you know, excited to be reeling in a fish, and you get it to the boat, and you maybe have a couple of lips and an eyeball and part of a gill. That is all that is left. I don't get to fish offshore that much, but I can tell you it can be disappointing, and that is why it is important to do this research.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing the bill before us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is quite the fisherman himself.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, nothing ruins a great day like the tax man. Nothing ruins a great day like the tax man, and I am not talking about the IRS. I am talking about when you are out there fishing, and you have this big shark that just comes up and takes your catch.

You have great fishermen like Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. WESTERMAN, and maybe it is not that big of a deal; your next cast you are going catch another one. But you have people out there who don't know what they are doing, like Mr. JOYCE of Ohio; it is a whole other thing. You just ruined his day.

What happens is—as Mr. WITTMAN clearly laid out—you will be out there, and you may be on a red snapper, you may be out there in some mangrove, and you are just catching fish; that is dinner.

This is an amazing experience. As Mr. WITTMAN noted, this is about economic activity all across the coastal United States. One of the biggest gaps, one of the biggest voids in our ability to properly manage fisheries is knowing more, knowing better about the impact of this apex predator, the shark.

I want to be very clear. This bill is not about culling species. It is not about killing sharks. What it is about is simply ensuring that we have the right data, that we have the right understanding to build properly managed fisheries, and to be able to ensure we can promote avoidance techniques to prevent this depredation from occurring.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia, who is an expert in this field, Mr. WITTMAN, and I thank Mr. SOTO and Mr. VEASEY, some of the cosponsors on this legislation, for their support, but this is all about improving the accuracy of fish management.

It benefits recreational fisheries, it benefits commercial fisheries, and, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it benefits the sustainable fisheries, the sustainable stocks of some of these important areas like the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico, and other areas.

Again, I thank my friend from Virginia for his hard work on this legislation. I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for working with us and some of the great staff on his team, Vivian and Sandra. I thank Anderson on our staff, as well as Rachel on Ranking Member GRIJALVA's staff for their work in coming together to make sure that we have the right balance here.

This is all about ensuring that for generations to come that our children and our grandchildren can enjoy the same experiences that we have for many, many years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am sure living in Florida you have probably stood on the edge of a boat and asked that question: Why? Why did a shark eat my fish? What was it that motivated it? Is it because there are too many sharks? Is it something I did? It leaves you with this empty feeling.

This legislation is here to answer that question. It is simple legislation. It creates a task force that would be responsible for improving coordination and communication across the fisheries management community on shark depredation, as well as identifying research priorities and funding opportunities.

Again, I commend Congressman WITTMAN for his tireless work on fisheries issues and for his work on this bipartisan legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4051, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4385) to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4385

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 ''Drought Preparedness Act''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.

(a) DROUGHT PROGRAM.—Section 104(c) of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2028''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) is amended by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2028''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members will have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4385, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4385, sponsored by Congressman NEGUSE of Colorado. This legislation extends authorities granted to the Bureau of Reclamation under the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act, which provided Reclamation emergency authorities to make water available for users outside of a project's area, offer loans to water

users to build drought mitigation infrastructure and make water available for fish and wildlife restoration efforts, among others.

Since 1992, when this legislation was enacted, Reclamation has relied on these authorities to assist communities across the 17 Reclamation States and territories to effectively manage water resources and mitigate impacts posed by droughts and natural disasters.

As the western United States responds to drought events and with the cost of these events posing ever greater financial burdens, it is critical that Reclamation continues to utilize these important authorities to pursue its vital mission, helping to support local economies and ensuring access to water resources.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4385 introduced by my colleague from Colorado, Representative NEGUSE.

Over the past several years, we have seen higher temperatures—with 2023 having been the hottest year on record—and reduced precipitation, snowpack, and stream flow due to climate change.

As ongoing impacts of climate change intensify, it is imperative we advance policies that would enhance climate resilience, restoration, and conservation—particularly when it comes to the quality and quantity of our available water resources.

The Drought Preparedness Act helps to do just that by reauthorizing a key program to support the development of drought contingency plans and mitigate climate-related drought impacts, including emergency response for communities grappling with water shortages for human health and safety needs.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from Michigan for yielding. I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his leadership and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for his support of this bill—my bill, the Drought Preparedness Act—and for being willing to consider it through the Natural Resources Committee and help us to bring it to the floor today.

Finally, I thank my colleague, Representative CISCOMANI, who co-chairs the Colorado River Caucus here with me in the United States and is a co-lead of this particular bill.

As has been mentioned, throughout the West and certainly in my home State of Colorado, we have seen continuing drought conditions threaten the lives and the livelihoods of so many of our communities. These ongoing drought conditions are shrinking the region's many, many water lifelines.

I will just say as someone who represents the Second Congressional District of Colorado and has the privilege of representing the Headwaters of the Colorado River, we know in my district and our communities know firsthand just how important that critical water supply is for our State.

That is why we created and formed the bipartisan Colorado River Caucus, a forum for Members located in Colorado River Basin States to discuss the various issues facing the Colorado River, upper basin and lower basin States.

As the Bureau of Reclamation, States, Tribes, and stakeholders are working toward long-term solutions, it is necessary that we continue to provide States and agency partners with every tool possible to mitigate its impacts, and that is exactly what this bill does.

As Representative DINGELL and Chairman WESTERMAN just articulated, the authorities that the Bureau has used in the past include drought contingency planning, resiliency projects, and emergency response actions. It is critical that we empower the Bureau to be able to utilize these tools into the future.

The Bureau of Reclamation testified during the legislative hearing during this particular bill as to just how important these tools are and how critical it is for Congress to ensure that they continue.

I am excited that this bill passed unanimously out of the House Natural Resources Committee and has strong bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this bill here on the floor so we can get this across the finish line and to support Colorado and States across the Rocky Mountain West and the 17 Bureau of Reclamation States as we continue to deal with this crisis.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, when President George H.W. Bush signed the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, he said that the legislation would help us serve as good neighbors in times of need.

The Drought Preparedness Act reauthorizes vital authorities that the Bureau of Reclamation has relied on for more than three decades to do just that—help communities respond and to prepare for droughts, ensure effective management of water resources, and encourage fish wildlife restoration efforts. These efforts are critically important.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4385.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5009) to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5009

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 ''Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act'' or the ''WILD Act''.

SEC. 2. PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 5 of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3774) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

SEC. 3. AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for African elephants and the habitat of African elephants.

''(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

SEC. 4. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for Asian elephants and the habitat of Asian elephants.

''(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

SEC. 5. RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.

(a) RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for rhinoceroses or tigers and the habitat of rhinoceroses or tigers.

''(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

SEC. 6. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4(j)(1) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303(j)(1)) is amended by inserting ''of up to 5 years'' after ''multiyear grant''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

SEC. 7. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

''(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises and the habitat of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

''(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(a) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606(a)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5009, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1700

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5009, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE JOYCE of Ohio. The programs this bill reauthorizes are decades old and have had proven results. This bipartisan piece of legislation will continue our longstanding efforts to promote responsible conservation efforts in the country and internationally.

First, H.R. 5009 authorizes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which allows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to partner with private landowners to preserve habitat for at-risk species on private lands. Over the past 35 years, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has helped around 30,000 landowners complete more than 50,000 habitat restoration projects totaling more than 6.4 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat.

In February 2023, the service reported that two-thirds of federally listed species have at least some habitat on private land, and some species have most of their remaining habitat on private land. Voluntary, collaborative conservation efforts like the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program help to empower private landowners to aid these species.

Lastly, this bill reauthorizes the programs which make up the multinational species conservation funds. These programs provide grant funding to conserve some of the world's most iconic species, such as elephants, lions, tigers, rhinos, and great apes.

Since their inception, these programs have provided over $92.5 million in grants and cooperative agreements for conservation projects in 54 countries, while leveraging $200 million in private matching contributions. These grants and cooperative agreements are vital to reducing illegal trafficking and poaching, decreasing conflict with humans, and improving habitat for these iconic species.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. JOYCE for his work on this bill, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be the co-lead of H.R. 5009, the WILD Act. I want to start by thanking my partner, Representative JOYCE, for his hard work on this bipartisan bill. The WILD Act would authorize and amend several wildlife conservation laws, making it easier to support long-term conservation in the United States and abroad.

The multinational species conservation funds, which are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, support five programs that help conserve iconic wildlife species, including elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and turtles.

Grants awarded through these programs can be used to secure additional matching funds, increasing the impact of U.S. dollars. Awards made through these funds support synchronized aerial surveys, increasing habitat connectivity, reducing poaching and wildlife crime, community engagement activities, and breeding and reintroduction programs.

The WILD Act also would reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which supports habitat restoration efforts across the United States and territories.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs biologists who work with private landowners to help them conserve and improve wildlife habitat.

Program staff provide free technical and financial assistance to plan, design, supervise, and monitor customized habitat restoration projects ranging in size from a few acres to hundreds of thousands of acres.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is an important component of our Nation's collaborative conservation efforts for endangered and threatened species.

Mr. Speaker, the WILD Act is a bipartisan win for conservation. I urge a ''yes'' vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), who is the bill's sponsor.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage support for the Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act, also known as the WILD Act.

Like many in northeast Ohio, some of my fondest memories are from growing up connected to the Great Lakes, especially in the wildlife area. However, our Nation's wildlife and habitats are facing unprecedented challenges. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to protect and preserve these habitats for future generations.

By reauthorizing the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the multinational species conservation fund, this critical legislation will not only safeguard the diverse ecosystems of our 50 States and territories, but also ensure the preservation of some of the world's most iconic species.

From the elephants in Africa to the turtles in Lake Erie, we must do everything we can to protect our world's rich biodiversity. For decades, these programs have garnered bipartisan support and have proven to deliver tangible results. Commonsense, community-centered conservation efforts like these help restore habitats and endangered species and wildlife and lift up economies and make communities more secure.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the WILD Act. I also thank my colleague, my dear friend, Michigan, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, for her support on this bill and for leading the bipartisan efforts with me.

Together we can ensure that our children and grandchildren will inherit a world rich in wildlife and abundant natural wonders. The time to act is now for the sake of our planet and all who call it home.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am

prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself a conservationist. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has long been a critical tool to help advance collaborative conservation on private lands, and the multinational species conservation funds have been essential to conserving some of the world's most iconic species, as we discussed.

I, again, applaud Congressman JOYCE's bipartisan efforts on this legislation that will continue our longstanding efforts to promote responsible conservation efforts in the country and internationally.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5009.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WINNEBAGO LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1240) to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1240

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 ''Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to all valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest (including improvements and appurtenances) of the United States in and to the Federal lands described in subsection (b), those Federal lands—

(1) are declared to be part of the Winnebago Reservation created by the Treaty between the United States and the Winnebago Tribe in 1865; and

(2) shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska subject to the same terms and conditions as those lands described in the Treaty with the Winnebago Tribe, 1865 (14 Stat. 671).

(b) FEDERAL LANDS DESCRIBED.—The Federal lands described in this subsection are the following:

(1) That portion of Tract No. 119, the description of which is filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (Western Division), Civil Case No. 70–C–3015–W, executed May 11, 1973, said tract being situated in Section 8 and the accretion land thereto, the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, the West Half of Section 16, the East Half of Section 17, Township 86 North, Range 47 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Woodbury County, Iowa, lying Easterly of the Nebraska/Iowa State Line and Southerly of the Easterly extension of the North line of the Winnebago Reservation.

(2) Tract No. 210, as described in Schedule ''A'' of the ''Declaration of Taking, Legal Description of Tract 210 and Judgment on Stipulation and Order of Distribution'', filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (Western Division), Civil Case No. 70–C–3015–W.

(3) Tract No. 113, as described in the ''Judgment on Declaration of Taking and Legal Description of Tract 113'', filed in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska, Civ. No. 03498.

(c) GAMING PROHIBITION.—Class II and class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) shall not be allowed at any time on the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1240, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1240, the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023, would replace approximately 1,600 acres of land into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is one of the federally recognized Tribes of the Ho-Chunk people. Their reservation encompasses 117,000 acres of land located in Thurston and Dixon Counties in Nebraska and Woodbury County in Iowa.

The treaties of 1865 and 1874 between the Tribe and the U.S. Government established the land that is now known as the Winnebago Tribe's reservation.

In 1970, the Army Corps of Engineers condemned tracts of land on the eastern boundary of the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska and Iowa through eminent domain for the use of the Snyder-Winnebago Oxbow Lake Recreation Complex project. The Tribe challenged this taking in Federal Court. In Nebraska, the District Court ruled in favor of the Tribe, and the parcels in the State were returned.

That was not the case in Iowa. A failure to properly preserve a right of appeal meant that the Eighth Circuit Court could not return the land to the Tribe through a court order, even though they won their case. The land would have to be returned to the Tribe through an act of Congress.

H.R. 1240 would right the wrong that occurred in 1970 by returning the land and placing it into trust. An additional 60-acre tract that was condemned by the Army Corps of Engineers would also be placed into trust as it would be landlocked by the main parcels being placed into trust.

The land is currently woodland and marsh and has recreational, hunting, and fishing values. The Tribe testified they intend to manage the land under their Winnebago Wildlife and Parks Department and plan to make few, if any, changes to the conservation measures currently in place. Under this legislation, the land would be ineligible for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) for his work on the bill, I encourage adoption of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1240, the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023, introduced by my colleague from Iowa, Representative FEENSTRA.

This bill would return two tracts of land acquired through eminent domain by the Army Corps of Engineers back into the trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

In 1865, the Winnebago Tribe and the United States signed a treaty promising the Tribe their reservation in Nebraska along the Missouri River for the cession of their Dakota lands.

The United States violated this treaty in the 1970s when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired land from the reservation for flood control by invoking eminent domain without congressional approval or approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has since held that the Army Corps of Engineers lacked the authority to exercise eminent domain over trust lands. Despite the court's decision, the land has never been returned to the Tribe and remains in the possession of the Army Corps of Engineers.

H.R. 1240 seeks to rectify this wrong by returning and reintegrating the land into the Winnebago Tribe's reservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to right this wrong and vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for bringing this important bill to the floor.

The Winnebago Reservation was established by two treaties in 1865 and 1874 and has been the home of the Winnebago Tribe ever since.

In 1975, more than 100 years later, the Army Corps of Engineers took two

small pieces of land within the Missouri River away from the Winnebago Tribe. Since then, the Federal Government has ignored the land and has not made any plans to develop it. The bill would make things right by returning the land that was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers and give it back to the Winnebago Tribe.

During this process, I have gotten to know many of the people of the Winnebago Tribe. I have learned about the great work and the things they do in agriculture, business, and community development.

It is wonderful to see several of them in our gallery today, and I thank them for coming.

This is so important to them and for our land. From my conversations with them, the Winnebago Tribe plans to use this land for conservation that will be open to the public, and I am excited to see their plans for how they will improve this land.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to lead this effort in the House, I encourage my colleagues to support this important bill, and I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as has been stated, the Winnebago Tribe has been working for more than 50 years to have these approximately 1,600 acres restored to their reservation. I am hopeful that in this Congress we can finally get it done.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, want to thank Congressman FEENSTRA and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska for their hard work on this legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1240, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

ENHANCING DETECTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 443) to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 443

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 ''Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

In this Act, the term ''human trafficking'' means any act or practice described in paragraph (11) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall implement a program to provide the training and periodic continuing education described in subsection (b) to employees of the Department of Labor whom the Secretary determines should receive such training or education based on their official duties. In making such determination with respect to employees of the Wage and Hour Division, the Secretary shall consider the training and education needs of such employees operating in a State with a significant increase in oppressive child labor (as defined in section 3(l) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(l)).

(b) TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION DESCRIBED.—The training and continuing education provided under the program referred to in subsection (a)—

(1) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities; and

(2) shall include—

(A) training or continuing education that—

(i) is most appropriate for the particular location or professional environment in which the employees receiving such training or continuing education perform their official duties;

(ii) covers topics determined by the Secretary of Labor to appropriately reflect current trends and best practices for such location or environment; and

(iii) includes—

(I) the provision of current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking to the extent relevant to the official duties of such employees, and consistent with privacy laws;

(II) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and parties who may be suspected of the trafficking activity; and

(III) a clear course of action for referring potential cases of human trafficking to the Department of Justice and other appropriate authorities, in accordance with best practices for protecting the rights of victims of human trafficking, including appropriate collaboration with victim advocacy organizations, Federal agencies, and State and local officials; and

(B) an evaluation of the training or continuing education by such employees after the completion of such training or education.

SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 1 year after the Secretary of Labor first implements the program under section 3(a), and each year thereafter, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report on—

(1) the training and continuing education provided under the program for the preceding year, including—

(A) an evaluation (including the overall effectiveness) of such training and continuing education; and

(B) the number of individuals who have completed such training or continuing education; and

(2) the number of cases related to the detection of human trafficking, which were referred to the Department of Justice and other appropriate authorities during the preceding year by the Department of Labor, and the processes used by the Department of Labor to accurately measure and track the response of the Department of Justice and other appropriate authorities to such cases.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 443.

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

There was no objection.

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

Trafficking is modern-day slavery, period.

Trafficking goes against our country's founding values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, so it is all the more heartbreaking and frustrating to know this crime is happening in our own country.

According to the Polaris Institute, experts believe that worldwide labor trafficking—the illegal exploitation of an individual for commercial gain—is more common than sex trafficking.

This grotesque form of servitude knows no geographical limits. From the Mariana Islands to my home State of Michigan, cases of trafficking can happen anywhere to anyone. Victims of labor trafficking can be young children, teenagers, or adult men and women.

While a lot of work has been done over the years to raise awareness about this terrible crime, sadly, events over the past year have demonstrated that more measures are necessary. Statistics from the Justice Department indicate human trafficking in the United States is on the rise. This is unfortunate but not surprising, given the lawlessness at our southern border.

As one columnist put it, ''The absence of border security, in conjunction with nonexistent interior enforcement, has made the U.S. a fertile breeding ground for human trafficking.''

The Biden administration's open-border policies have led to more than 450,000 unaccompanied alien children crossing the southwest border on Secretary Mayorkas' watch. Given this surge, the Department of Health and Human Services, under guidance from the administration, lowered the standards for sponsors to take these unaccompanied children. Simply put, HHS knowingly transferred these children to the possession of others who were not their parents without ensuring that the child was healthy or that the transfer was necessary.

The result? Mr. Speaker, 85,000 children can't be found. There have been reports of sponsors having 20 of these children in one home, being used for forced labor.

Mr. Speaker, this breakdown in Federal agencies' ability to keep children out of harm's way underscores the need to ensure that Federal officials are properly educated on the signs of human trafficking.

While I am sure there is more work to be done at other Federal agencies, the Committee on Education and the Workforce has jurisdiction over the Department of Labor. Specifically, Wage and Hour Division and Occupational Safety and Health Administration employees, through the course of inspecting workplace safety and labor law compliance within the United States, often have a frontline opportunity to identify patterns of forced labor. Providing these employees with the proper education on how to detect and respond to the signs of human trafficking is an important part of the larger comprehensive effort to eradicate this unthinkable crime.

Specifically, H.R. 443 would direct the Department of Labor to educate appropriate staff on how to effectively detect instances of human trafficking; ensure personnel regularly receive information on current trends and best practices; allow flexible education options, including in-class and virtual learning options; establish a clear course of action for referring suspected instances of human trafficking to law enforcement; and require a report to Congress on the implementation of the education and the processes used by the Department to measure and track its agencies' and law enforcement's responses to human trafficking.

An earlier version of this bill passed the House unanimously in 2017, and this bill passed the Education and the Workforce Committee by a vote of 42–0.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 443 so we can give folks on the front lines of identifying labor trafficking tools and the tools to stop it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 443, a bill to assist the United States Department of Labor in identifying and preventing cases of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WALBERG for his leadership and partnership on this issue and for introducing this legislation, of which I am an original cosponsor.

Human trafficking is a scourge that preys on the most vulnerable, subjecting more than 27 million people around the world—and thousands here in the United States—to abhorrent working and living conditions.

Eradicating all cases of human trafficking first requires an awareness of where it exists. As the Federal agency that oversees labor laws, the Department of Labor is uniquely positioned to identify patterns of labor exploitation.

That is why Representative WALBERG and I reintroduced H.R. 443, the Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act. This bipartisan, no-cost legislation directs the Department of Labor to train appropriate Department staff on how to detect human trafficking and ensure that personnel of the Department of Labor are provided with screening tools to identify and detect trafficking activities.

The bill requires the Department to report back to Congress within a year on the progress that is being made by such efforts.

Unfortunately, this horrible crime occurs in every part of our country, including in my own district in the Northern Mariana Islands. In the past, several construction companies have lured non-U.S. workers to come to the Marianas with false promises and misrepresentations about pay and conditions. They didn't come through the southern border, I will assure you of that. They came by airplane. The companies then withheld the employees' wages and confiscated their passports.

The workers were subjected to inhumane working conditions and crowded, unsanitary barracks with barely enough food and water. They were forced to work in unsafe conditions, forced to look up to the community for food and food assistance, some suffering serious injuries without access to adequate medical care. There was even a workplace fatality.

To their credit, the Department of Labor's OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Wage and Hour Division have worked to address these crimes, issuing fines and citations and recovering wages.

These grave injustices that rob people of their freedom, and sometimes their lives, are preventable. Congress can and must do more to hold human traffickers accountable. H.R. 443, the Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, is an important step toward ensuring that the Department has the tools and resources it needs to combat human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of the House, especially Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT of the Education and the Workforce Committee, for moving this bill to the floor. Again, I thank my friend, Representative WALBERG, for his leadership in combating human trafficking.

One reason we should vote for this bill is because it is a good bill. Another good reason we should vote for it is because Mr. WALBERG's team got the national championship. He deserves this win here.

Last month, this bill gained overwhelming support in committee with a vote of 42–0. It passed the House unanimously in the 117th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill today and support this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the Representative from the Northern Mariana Islands. We have worked on this a long time, and it is worthy of the time spent.

Let me close with some heartbreaking statistics to remind my colleagues of why we have done this.

The International Labor Organization estimated there were roughly 78 million victims of forced labor across the globe on any given day in 2022.

In 2021, more than 10,000 trafficking cases in the U.S. were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of international crime.

Roughly one in six endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is likely a victim of child sex trafficking.

Clearly, more needs to be done to combat this form of modern-day slavery.

One of the biggest obstacles we face in this fight is awareness. H.R. 443 will ensure Department of Labor employees are equipped with knowledge and processes to catch traffickers and keep them from inflicting more harm and abuse on individuals.

Lastly, I thank my colleague, Representative SABLAN, and his team for their strong partnership and advocacy over the years on this bill. I thank my colleague, and I certainly thank him for Go Blue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 443, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 443, the bipartisan Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, sponsored by Representatives WALBERG and SABLAN.

Human trafficking is a blight upon civil society—everyone can agree, and it is an issue that remains one of the greatest challenges of our time.

According to the International Labor Organization, in 2022, an estimated 27.6 million victims are trafficked on any given day.

Roughly one in six endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is likely a victim of child sex trafficking.

These horrid crimes are committed by those who prey on the innocent and vulnerable.

We have seen stories right here at home of human trafficking operations taking place at our own southern border.

When our nation's borders are left wide open, the cartels are emboldened—and act with impunity—as they enslave innocent boys and girls.

H.R. 443 offers a viable avenue to equip Department of Labor personnel with the necessary information and tools to identify and report human trafficking cases—as well as cases of forced labor and sexual exploitation—because they investigate employment law violations.

It also requires the Department of Labor to provide an annual report to Congress regarding its own efforts to combat the scourge of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking must be stamped out, and this bipartisan legislation can help move us towards achieving that end.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 443.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 443, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 2882; and

H.R. 443.

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

UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2882) to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 58, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 32]

YEAS—350

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

NAYS—58

Arrington
Banks
Bean (FL)
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Brecheen
Buck
Burchett
Burlison
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Crane
Davidson
DesJarlais
Duncan
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Grothman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Houchin
Hunt
Jackson (TX)
Joyce (PA)
LaMalfa
Luna
Massie
Mast
McClintock
McCormick
Miller (IL)
Mills
Moore (AL)
Nehls
Norman
Ogles
Palmer
Perry
Posey
Rose
Rosendale
Roy
Self
Spartz
Steube
Tenney
Timmons
Van Duyne
Waltz

NOT VOTING—22

Biggs
Costa
Curtis
Donalds
Garcia, Mike
Green, Al (TX)
Kim (NJ)
Lee (NV)
Luttrell
Molinaro
Mooney
Nadler
Nunn (IA)
Phillips
Pingree
Rogers (KY)
Scalise
Sewell
Tiffany
Titus
Van Orden
Wexton

□ 1856

Messrs. BURLISON, JOYCE of Pennsylvania, GOODEN of Texas, DESJARLAIS, DUNCAN, SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, JACKSON of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Messrs. HIGGINS of Louisiana, MCCORMICK, and WALTZ changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mses. TLAIB, GARCIA of Texas, and MALOY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENHANCING DETECTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 443) to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 33]

YEAS—407

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

NOT VOTING—23

Biggs
Cartwright
Chu
Costa
Curtis
Green, Al (TX)
Kim (NJ)
Lamborn
Lee (NV)
Luttrell
Molinaro
Mooney
Moore (WI)
Nunn (IA)
Phillips
Pingree
Rogers (KY)
Scalise
Sewell
Tiffany
Titus
Van Orden
Wexton

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1902

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 32, H.R. 2882—Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023, as amended and "yea" on rollcall No. 33, H.R. 443—Enahncing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, as amended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, during roll call votes on H.R. 2882 and H.R. 443, my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 32 and "yea" on rollcall No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes today due to a 12,000 foot altitude flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 32 and "yea" on rollcall No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret I was not able to be present to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 32 and "yea" on rollcall No. 33.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 5408

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 5408, the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative BRIAN HIGGINS of New York, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2025:

Mr. Cliff Sims, Birmingham, Alabama

RECOGNIZING AFC CHAMPIONS KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 2024 AFC champion, the Kansas City Chiefs.

Chiefs Kingdom was so proud to watch our team hoist the Lamar Hunt Trophy once again.

The haters and naysayers said the Chiefs couldn't win on the road. They

said that the Ravens defense would stifle Patrick Mahomes. They said we couldn't stop Lamar. They even said Travis Kelce would be too focused on Taylor and not on football.

Well, Mr. Speaker, shake it off. You see, Mr. Speaker, nothing can stop the Chiefs—not Tucker's helmet placement, not Flowers' taunting, and especially not Lamar's throwing into triple coverage.

As Mitch Holthus said: ''You can doubt the Chiefs. You can dislike the Chiefs. You can disrespect the Chiefs. You are going to have to deal with the Chiefs being the AFC champions for the fourth time in five seasons.''

Missouri is rooting for you. Go Chiefs.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SHEILA Y. OLIVER

(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 honor the late Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey, Sheila Y. Oliver.

Ms. Oliver was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She was the first Black woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor in the State's history. She was the first Black woman to be elected to statewide office in New Jersey. She was the first Black woman to serve as speaker of the general assembly. She was only the second Black woman to lead a legislative chamber in American history.

I knew her before she made history. I knew her as my neighbor on Bock Avenue in Newark, New Jersey. She became my mentor, my friend, and someone I respected. Her oratory skills were second to none. You felt honored when she spoke on your behalf.

It was her endorsement that helped propel me to my seat in the United States Congress. The Positive Community magazine will publish a tribute to Sheila Oliver this month, and it is well-deserved.

ATTACKS IMMINENT ACROSS AMERICA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my heartfelt warning today is for all families of all political parties in America.

I had been excusing the irresponsible Biden open borders as recruiting millions of low-information voters to perpetuate Democrat elitist power. This weekend, well-respected Members of Congress clarified open borders is purposeful insanity, putting American families at risk everywhere of murderous attacks.

With terrorists and unknown millions of illegal aliens, more 9/11 attacks will lead to a growth of government for elitist power. This ''ends justifies the means'' concentrates power in their worship of government run by elitists.

American families, having full gas tanks, should prepare with an attack rally point when communications are going to be cut. Congressional offices today have rally points. Families should have a pre-chosen refuge of safety to face the threats of terrorists.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists.

It is sadly clear that there will be more 9/11 attacks across America imminent in the country, as finally revealed by the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers go out for the three Georgia National Guard members murdered by Iranian puppets.

□ 1915

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF RABBI RACHLIS

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of my dear friend, Rabbi Arnie Rachlis, who is retiring after 35 years as the spiritual leader of University Synagogue in Irvine.

From serving as a White House fellow, to delivering an invocation for President Obama, to growing University Synagogue into a place of worship that now serves over 600 Orange County families, Rabbi Rachlis has created a legacy that will resonate for generations to come.

Rabbi Rachlis has been a beacon of wisdom, compassion, and inclusivity, and his teachings foster a spirit of unity and understanding. I am particularly grateful for the Rabbi's dedication to civic engagement and his deep understanding of that as a part of Jewish life. I am honored that Rabbi Rachlis often welcomed me to engage with his congregation in thoughtful dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Rabbi Rachlis so much for his service to University Synagogue and our community. Mazel tov on a well-deserved retirement.

LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS IS CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, AND RELIABLE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in staunch opposition to President Biden's ban on liquefied natural gas export projects.

Under the guise of a pause, President Biden has taken complete control of an important piece of the American energy sector.

Do not be fooled. This is, in fact, a ban on LNG exports and a massive gift to Putin.

Our European allies are desperately seeking American energy to counter Russia's weaponization of its natural gas exports. But instead of being the leader Americans in the rest of the world need, he is being the puppet that far-left climate activists want.

If President Biden were serious about his rush-to-green agenda, he would unleash the production and export of clean, affordable, and reliable American LNG, which has roughly 40 percent lower life-cycle emissions than Russian LNG.

Mr. Speaker, these policies are entirely out of touch and widely unpopular.

We should be diverting our attention to fixing the economy, solving the question of the national debt, closing our southern border, and aiding our ally, Israel. This White House needs to get its priorities in order. It is causing the American people to suffer.

FIGHTING INSURANCE COMPANIES TO HELP PREMATURE BABIES

(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, in 2011, our twins, Clara and Wilson, were born 14 weeks premature. They weighed a pound and a half and a pound and fifteen ounces. We spent 99 days in the NICU before coming home.

No journey through the NICU is easy. The fear, the ups and downs, and the helplessness that comes with having your babies in someone else's hands, that is only made worse when you have to fight the insurance companies—like my wife, Chris, and I did—to get your preemies the nutritional support they need to grow out of the NICU.

We were lucky. We won our fight with the insurance company, and we made a promise that if we could, we would do everything we could to help other families, as well. That journey took us to the Kentucky State Senate where I passed the first insurance mandate in over two decades.

Now it is time to go national. That is why I have introduced the Supporting Premature Infant Nutrition Act, so every family and every preemie is given the best chance to thrive.

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION IN OIL CITY

(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 the Young Women's Christian Association of Oil City, in Venango County, or more widely known as the YWCA, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

In 1922, Olive Bailey Shaffer proposed the idea of establishing a YWCA in Oil City. Two years later, on June 24, 1924, with 450 charter members enrolled, the Oil City YWCA was founded.

To sustain the organization and their mission, members of the YWCA raised more than $10,000 in their first year. Following these efforts, the Oil City YWCA received their national charter on December 24, 1924.

Over the years, the YWCA continued to grow and establish strong roots in the community. What started as humble beginnings led the chapter to the Samuel L. Maxwell Home at 109 Central Avenue, which remains the current home.

This location continued to grow with the chapter with multiple renovations and additions over the 100 years. The group now uses this location to host programming and advocacy to generate institutional change in three key areas—racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement, and health and safety of women and girls.

Today, the YWCA stands true to their mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the women of the Young Women's Christian Association of Oil City on this monumental anniversary. May they continue their good work for the next 100 years.

LOWERING EVERYDAY COSTS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, from day one, I promised the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District that I would do everything I could to lower everyday costs.

Due to high costs, too many families in Ohio's 13th District and across the country are lying awake at night trying to figure out how to pay their bills, put food on the table, and provide for their children. Hardworking Ohioans need relief, and they need it now.

I am proud to have supported the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. This progrowth, profamily, bipartisan bill delivers lower costs for families and small businesses in Ohio's 13th District. I am especially excited that this bipartisan bill expands the child tax credit, a policy I have consistently championed throughout my time in public service, including my time here in Congress, where last year I introduced my Lower Your Taxes Act, which also includes expansions to the child tax credit.

While the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act does not go as far as to fully restore the American Rescue Plan's child tax credit expansion like my legislation, this bipartisan bill will still make a significant difference for 37,000 children in Ohio's 13th Congressional District whose families are struggling to pay for medicine, school supplies, and other childcare expenses.

This is only the start of what Congress should pass to support our families. I will keep fighting for additional policies like my Lower Your Taxes Act, which will expand the child tax credit even more and expand the earned income tax credit.

IT IS EASY ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO COME HERE LEGALLY

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, obviously the biggest issue facing America today is the huge volume of people coming across our southern border. We recently had 1 month in which 370,000 unvetted people crossed the southern border.

In debating this topic, I sometimes hear people say it is important and the United States has an obligation to let some new people in our country every year. That is true, but what is not talked about enough is that we just got done with a year in which 950,000 Americans were legally sworn in.

This is a number that goes up and down over time, but over the last 4 years, the average number of people who are sworn in as new American citizens, and find a way to do it legally, is over 800,000. It is the highest ever in this country's history.

If you go back to when I was a child in the 1960s and the 1950s, it was more likely to be 200,000.

Throughout most of my life, we have had 200,000 to 250,000 people being sworn in every year. We are now over 800,000 in an average month. Last year, we were up to 950,000. It is easy enough for people to come here legally.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE YVONNE B. MILLER

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise today to recognize the legacy of the Honorable Yvonne B. Miller, who became the first Black woman to serve in the Virginia General Assembly when she was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates 40 years ago. Four years later, she became the first Black woman to serve in the Senate of Virginia. As a young member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I had the opportunity to work with Senator Miller when I was in the house until her untimely death of stomach cancer in 2012.

I was proud to build on her legacy in the senate, and one of the habits that I took from Senator Miller was whenever she would have visitors come to her office, whether they were interns, students, university presidents, she would have them sit at her desk for a picture and she would say: This seat belongs to you as much as it belongs to me.

She treated everyone the same whether you were a Governor, an intern, or anyone in between. You would often hear her shout in her loud, booming voice: You look gorgeous. She was a lifelong educator. She was a champion for those underprivileged and underserved communities, including her own in Norfolk, that she proudly represented.

As the first Black woman elected to Congress from Virginia, I stand on Yvonne Miller's shoulders. I join my former colleagues in the Virginia General Assembly who recognized her with a commemorating resolution last week and are working on a tribute to her in our State capitol, where as a child she often did not feel welcome, but she broke barriers to ensure that Black women everywhere knew they belonged in that capitol. I honor her today and miss her very much, but I still hear her voice saying: You look gorgeous.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FURTHERED THEIR ASSAULT ON AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Biden administration furthered their assault on American energy production, deciding to essentially slash all pending and future liquefied natural gas export permits.

Limiting these permits and these exports doesn't do anything to curb natural gas usage here or around the world. Instead, it will be replaced by adversaries around the world. It kills U.S. jobs and processing and has the opposite, so-called climate-smart agenda, results than were intended.

The U.S. and the rest of the world will be forced to depend even more on global adversaries, such as Iran and Russia who have significantly looser emission standards than us, while lining their pockets, giving the ability in the case of Iran to fund terrorism, such as in Yemen, with weapons that have Iran's name on them.

The Biden administration has been doing this since the President's first day in office and look what we have got: Russia invaded Ukraine. Iran-backed terrorists launched an attack on one of our closest allies, Israel. They are wreaking havoc blasting missiles at U.S. vessels in Middle Eastern waters, such as the Red Sea; cutting commerce; and have killed three of our U.S. servicemembers this weekend in Jordan; and Yemen is wreaking havoc.

Energy security is national security. This decision jeopardizes our national security and global energy markets.

SALUTING ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(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, I rise to salute Black History Month. The month of February is the time that we spend on issues and icons and heroes and sheroes that have contributed to the history of America and to the African-American community.

Throughout this month, I will talk about great heroes and sheroes, but at the same time, I will raise topical issues that are very important to us.

I will first acknowledge the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, an enormously important legislative fix on the criminal justice system that all of America rallied around, thousands and thousands, maybe millions marched, because we came together as a Nation to be able to address the fairness in that system. That means that we were against the choke hold being a part of the system of law enforcement; no-knock not being a part of law enforcement; providing more funding to ensure that there was training and professional development to our law enforcement community; and to instruct our communities as well to be better.

At the same time, we have a stop human trafficking bill at school zones because human trafficking impacts the African-American community.

These are issues that affect all of us, but I want them to be noted this month as we work together during Black History Month.

□ 1930

DELTA SIGMA THETA INSPIRES POSITIVE CHANGE

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the centennial legacy of empowerment and service embodied by the Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, celebrating 100 years of unwavering commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action.

Chartered in the heart of the 13th Congressional District on January 24, 1924, Tau Chapter stands proudly at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, the inaugural Black Greek letter organization on the campus.

Founded 111 years ago at Howard University by 22 visionary women, Delta Sigma Theta set the standard for service and advocacy. Boldly standing for women's rights in the women's suffrage march shortly after its inception, Delta Sigma Theta continues to inspire positive change.

AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ASKED FOR SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan Senate bill that would strengthen our national security, secure our borders, and support allies across the globe.

The American people have asked us for solutions, and this bill is packed with solutions, solutions to address the border and the fentanyl crisis. I was at one of the busiest border crossings on Friday, and this bill gives those folks the staff and the reforms that they need and the administration and the authority they need to close the border when it is overwhelmed.

The bill also provides solutions to support our allies, to stop Putin from pulling the world into a much larger, deadlier war in Eastern Europe, to provide funds to Israel and vital humanitarian aid to Gaza. We must end this war, and we need the assurance of stability and prosperity for Israel and Gaza.

I believe there is bipartisan majorities in both Chambers for these solutions if leadership gets behind them. The American people want this. The Speaker works for us, not Donald Trump. Bring us this bill.

INACTION EMPOWERS ENEMIES OF LIBERTY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, why would a Speaker of this House choose to enable the aims of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin?

Why would any Speaker of the United States House of Representatives use his power to stop and dawdle for months and months, delaying critical supplemental defense funding to defend America against all its enemies at home and abroad that impose tyranny and terrorism?

All of us take an oath to protect and defend our people against all enemies, so why give Vladimir Putin comfort and license as he salutes himself in the mirror?

The manner in which House leadership is behaving by not bringing up a key defense bill month after month after month fails liberty where she is being most tested. Our Nation must move with our allies to defeat terrorism and tyranny wherever it exists—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the Pacific, and even sometimes inside our own borders.

Inaction by House leadership empowers enemies of liberty. It rewards Putin, Khamenei, Xi, Kim Jong Un and their chessboard.

Move the long delayed supplemental defense bill, Mr. Speaker. Liberty awaits.

CONGRATULATING DR. HENRY SMITH ON HIS WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Henry Smith of Cone Health upon his retirement.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Smith has been saving lives in our community as an interventional cardiologist. His passion for cardiology and his desire to improve quality of care has shaped his legacy of being a committed, patient-focused physician. Those who have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Smith will tell you he treats his patients as if they were his own family.

As the director of the Moses Cone Hospital cath lab, and with his role in Cone Health's early use of 3D/AI-driven imaging, Dr. Smith has been an innovator for 30 years. Dr. Smith has also served as chairman of Cone Health's board of trustees and is a member of the board where he was a steadfast advocate for expanding access to healthcare.

Outside the hospital, Dr. Smith is known for his involvement in his church and as a founding member of the Black Investments in Greensboro—or BIG—Equity Fund, at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

Dr. Smith is an exceptional cardiologist, fierce leader, and a remarkable advocate for a more equitable healthcare system and community.

I congratulate Dr. Henry Smith on 30 years of excellence and his well-deserved retirement.

VSOS ARE HEROES

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater way to learn how to help those who have fought for our country than to talk to a veteran and those who fight for them every day.

I was glad to discuss the most pressing challenges facing our veterans and their families in eastern North Carolina at a Veteran Service Officers roundtable. Participants shared the barriers for veterans who live in rural communities and their legislative priorities.

Consequently, I signed onto H.R. 196, the Expediting Temporary Ratings for Veterans Act, and H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act.

Our VSOs are vital in assisting veterans with claims, identifying State benefits, and facilitating their transition from Active Duty. VSOs are heroes.

LNG BAN HURTS AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EZELL). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day to see an administration choose party over country, radical views over the common good, and leftwing environmentalists over the American people. However, that is what happened a week and a half ago when President Biden halted permitting additional liquefied natural gas export facilities.

Let's be clear, this is not a pause. It is the first step of a process to ban outright any future export of LNG. This was a political decision to pander to the far left that will increase energy prices for American households. It will abandon our allies in their time of energy need. It will harm family-sustaining jobs, and it will relinquish American global energy leadership.

We will hear tonight from my colleagues of the many ways LNG exports strengthen our economic well-being and how this ban will weaken American security around the world.

First, before we get ahead of ourselves, let's quickly discuss the LNG industry, what it is, and why it is so important. LNG stands for liquefied natural gas. In a process where natural gas is cooled to a temperature of minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit, the gas becomes a liquid with a volume of one-six hundredth of its original size. This decrease in volume is what creates the possibility for LNG to be shipped around the world.

The exportation of LNG is only possible because of two incredible American technological achievements. The first took place in 1959 when an American proved that you could successfully and safely ship liquefied natural gas. The second was the shale revolution of the 2000s, and suddenly States like Pennsylvania, Texas, North Dakota, and Louisiana were able to produce huge amounts of natural gas.

This production dropped energy costs for Americans and led to our Nation being a net exporter of energy for the first time in 60 years. It was the technological innovation of extracting natural gas from shale that dramatically increased production. That, paired with our ability to liquefy natural gas and ship it, has allowed all of this to happen.

The American people have benefited significantly from these advances. The ability to export natural gas has driven investment to continue increasing natural gas production. This means more jobs in districts like mine in Pennsylvania and across rural America. It means more jobs in the pipeline industry, as companies invest in infrastructure to get the resources from the gas fields to the processing facility. It means more jobs on the coasts, where LNG export facilities are being operated and new ones are being built.

Important for all Americans, more production means more supply in the market, so natural gas prices have stayed lower and less volatile for American families. Finally, and ironically, given LNG's environmental detractors, it is better for the environment. American LNG is one of the cleanest baseload power fuel sources on the planet. President Biden's own Department of Energy trumpets the fact that U.S. LNG exports are 41 percent cleaner than competing Russian natural gas.

In summary, if exporting LNG leads to lower prices, more family-sustaining American jobs, and lower emissions, why would President Biden attempt to ban it? That is the question that we are struggling with tonight.

This action reeks of shortsighted election year politics that will have harsh, long-term effects on America. Along with all of my colleagues this evening, I urge President Biden to reverse this decision.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration just announced a total pause on new export permits for liquid natural gas, all in the name of climate change.

I am from Michigan, the Great Lakes State. We all love clean air and clean water. Michigan is the home of the automotive industry, and the longest coastline of any place in America with our Great Lakes, protecting both our table stakes. To those ends, LNG is one of the cleanest energy fuels on the Earth, mined with American labor according to the strictest environmental and safety standards in the world.

However, this administration has decided to play politics with not just our energy security but also our national security. Let me be clear. This administration does not hate oil and gas; they hate American oil and gas.

Since he has been sworn in, Biden has waged war on American industry. He has crippled the very industry that our prosperity and security rely on and the very reason the U.S. dollar is the currency of global trade, yet he has made us dependent on our adversaries, including Russia, China, and Iran.

If we had just done what President Trump asked of our allies in shutting down Nord Stream 2, Putin would not have been able to fund his war against Ukraine in the first place, but I digress.

Mr. Speaker, this war on LNG is going to impact my State specifically. Michigan has the most underground natural gas storage in the entire country, with 1.1 trillion cubic feet of underground storage. That is one-eighth of the Nation's natural gas storage capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's energy policies are insane. We cannot allow this administration to continue relying on dictators and despots from Tehran to Caracas to keep our supply chain moving and our homes heated. That would be like asking the fox to lock up the chicken coop at night or Secretary Mayorkas to watch the border.

By pursuing energy independence using safe, American-made energy, we lower prices, grow jobs, and reshore domestic manufacturing.

□ 1945

That is why I voted in favor of H.R. 1 alongside 225 of my Republican and Democratic colleagues. H.R. 1 would unleash American oil and natural gas while securing our critical supply chains. It would ensure that America is energy independent, prepared for threats down the road.

This makes certain that America has the resources necessary to defend and protect herself while also assuring that blue-collar families in my district can afford to keep their lights on and their gas tanks full without breaking the bank.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to champion energy that is made in America and hold Biden accountable for the foolish games he is playing with our future.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Granholm's policies crushed the State of Michigan. I will not stand idly by while Energy Secretary Granholm's policies crush the United States of America.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Joyce for organizing this Special Order tonight.

I thank the Biden administration, actually. I thank the Biden administration because they came out a week from Friday and admitted what we knew all along. They paused American energy.

Mr. Speaker, it is consistent with what we have seen out of this administration for the last few years. They go out there and say, yes, Russia should be able to build the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to facilitate Russian energy, but the Keystone pipeline in the United States can't be built. It is pro-Russia; it is anti-U.S.

It is not just that, Mr. Speaker. Let's look at what is happening. Since Putin has invaded Ukraine, the European Union is still dependent upon Russian natural gas today. Mr. Speaker, 14 percent of the natural gas being supplied to the European Union is coming from Russia. Let me say it another way: It is a billion dollars a month. Of course, it was twice or three times that before the invasion.

What is happening is this billion dollars a month today is actually funding the Russian war against Ukraine. At the same time, this administration is out there banging on Congress to give them $60 billion in aid for Ukraine.

I have an idea: Stop funding the Russian war. How do you do that? Dr. Joyce said this a little while ago. You can look at the National Energy Technology Lab analysis looking at U.S. natural gas. Compared to Russian gas, Russian gas has 41 percent higher emissions.

Mr. Speaker, let me say it another way: If we had taken 1 year of Russian gas that was supplied to the European Union and supplanted it, replaced it with U.S. gas, it would have reduced emissions to the tune of 218 million tons of emissions.

Do you know what? It would have been for free. We could have just supplanted U.S. gas with Russian gas. We could have kneecapped Vladimir Putin and those billions of dollars he received. We could have helped the economy in the United States. We could have strengthened our economic ties with our allies.

This doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker, but this is what we are seeing out of this administration over and over again. Their policies are resulting in Iran profiting $60 billion—$60 billion to Iran as a result of this administration's flawed energy policies.

We lost three servicemembers and had 30-plus more injured because we are funding Iran that is funding the Houthis that is funding Hezbollah that is funding Hamas that is funding the Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations.

This is unbelievable. Higher costs for American families, higher emissions, and lower energy security—this makes no sense. It lacks common sense, and it is simply not in America's interests.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for hosting this tonight. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have to bring common sense back to American energy policy.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his passionate presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Dr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my very serious concerns over the Biden administration's misguided, out-of-touch decision to pause pending approvals of liquefied natural gas exports, the latest assault by this President on American energy.

I represent the Ninth District of Pennsylvania, which encompasses a large portion of the Marcellus Shale natural gas region, one of the largest reserves of natural gas in the world. Not only does the natural gas industry support over 125,000 jobs in Pennsylvania, Mr. Speaker, but it also contributes $25-plus billion to the Commonwealth's GDP, meaning Biden's continued assault on American energy, including on the natural gas industry, is truly an assault on Pennsylvania's workforce and economy.

The President's gas-backward energy policies directly impact companies in my district like Coterra, Seneca Resources, Chesapeake, Southwestern, and the many thousands of people they employ, including their families.

Yet, Joe Biden doesn't seem to care. Since taking office, he has issued a moratorium on natural gas leasing activities on various of the United States' resources, increased regulatory building codes that disincentivize the use of natural gas, issued an ESG rule hindering investments in natural gas companies, and implemented a new $8 billion tax on companies that produce, process, transmit, or store natural gas. He significantly raised requirements for assessing proposed natural gas pipelines.

The list goes on. He has proposed overly stringent natural gas infrastructure project reviews and proposed a rule to severely restrict power generation at new and existing gas-fired power plants. Outside of that, he is wonderful.

Now, on January 26, the Biden administration announced its most harmful and inexplicable energy decision yet—to pause all approvals on LNG exports, which threatens our economy, our national security, and our ability to reduce carbon emissions.

On an economic front, the benefits of natural gas for America cannot be overstated. The U.S. natural gas industry is a powerhouse, supporting over 10 million American jobs and contributing $1.8 trillion in U.S. GDP.

By fostering a robust natural gas industry, we stimulate investment, drastically enhancing domestic American-made goods and manufacturing and, of course, creating well-paying jobs across various industry sectors.

The Biden administration's decision will hinder all of this. This heavy-handed, Big Government approach is going to cause a great disruption to long-term LNG infrastructure initiatives.

At a time when we should be growing the industry, increasing production, and boosting exports, the Biden administration instead wants to limit our ability to be a world leader on the natural gas stage.

Beyond the economic implications, resuming the consideration of LNG export applications is crucial to our national security and strategic interests. Our allies depend on a secure, reliable source of LNG. By withholding these approvals, we risk pushing them into the arms of less stable, potentially adversarial suppliers like Russia, as my colleagues have been bringing up.

LNG export projects are indispensable for ensuring that we continue to function as the economic arsenal of democracy during geopolitical incidents, such as the war on Ukraine. Simply put, energy security is national security.

Mr. Speaker, while this administration claims to want to reduce carbon emissions, their actions related to natural gas are doing the exact opposite.

Clean natural gas emits almost 50 to 60 percent less carbon emissions than other fossil fuels. Let me tell you, the way we extract and process natural gas here in the United States of America is far cleaner than it is in Russia, Iran, China, or Venezuela. Does anybody doubt that? Of course not.

Joe Biden's crusade against the natural gas industry is not only detrimental to consumers and producers, but it is detrimental to America's ability to regain the energy dominance we secured under President Trump.

We must embrace an all-of-the-above and all-of-the-below energy solution. The only people who benefit from Joe Biden's anti-American policies are our adversaries overseas.

Joe Biden, Mr. Speaker, is choosing Moscow over communities in my district like Montrose, Pennsylvania. He is choosing Tehran over Towanda. He is choosing Venezuela over Pennsylvania and Saudi Arabia over Sayre, Pennsylvania. This makes absolutely no sense.

The global uncertainty caused by Biden's pausing of LNG export hinders our ability to bring American natural gas to the world markets and limits our strategic advantages that the United States can provide to our allies.

We must support our economy. We need to be looking out in a serious way for our national security. We want to support Pennsylvania's workforce. I urge the Biden administration to reverse its pause.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, the administration needs to check their extreme ideology at the door and focus on outcomes, not ideology. We need to wake up and woke down.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for taking this opportunity tonight to remind us that on January 26, inexplicably, President Biden announced an indefinite ban on pending LNG export projects.

I wish it were indefinite, but I believe this is just another shot over the bow, showing that fossil fuels are going away—in his mind. Even for a President known for inflation and global instability, this is an inexplicable move.

Last week, during the international events surrounding the National Prayer Breakfast here, I even had comments from Baltic representatives, Balkan representatives, and others from the EU incredulous that that was going on when they need more LNG terminals, not less, more exports, not less.

American LNG has been a lifeline to our allies while wars rage. This decision is beyond the wildest hopes and dreams of Putin and the Ayatollah, who have capitalized on this opportunity to further finance their terror on this Earth.

I have yet to hear from any American clamoring to drive our allies to Russia and Iran, which is exactly what Biden's LNG export ban will do.

Maybe the White House needs a simple lesson: Cutting the supply of a product does not magically erase the demand or need for that product. However, cutting the supply does raise prices and forces consumers to look elsewhere. In this case, the consumers are our allies. They will look to Russia and Iran.

Ironically, these countries' energy production is far dirtier than our clean LNG. Due to this, from a climate and emission standpoint, Biden's decision will actually lead to more pollution.

American LNG has over 40 percent lower life cycle emissions compared to Russia and its compressed natural gas, which will help fill the void created by the Biden administration. American LNG has been one of the greatest tools used to reduce emissions. Instead of indefinitely banning LNG exports, we should be increasing them and touting our LNG success story, which has led to a decrease in energy-related emissions by 15 percent since 2005, beyond any of our closest allies.

The Biden war on domestic energy accomplishes a rare trifecta. It empowers our adversaries, raises energy prices, and increases pollution. Wow.

President Biden is once again putting politics over the American people and disregarding any semblance of common sense.

Mr. Speaker, this policy from the executive branch is unreasonable and indefensible, but I assure you this body will not allow the Biden administration to sacrifice energy security for America and our allies. This moratorium puts climate activists at TikTok above the energy needs of the world. We must do everything we can to reverse it.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has been blessed with abundant natural gas reserves, and thanks to the shale revolution, the resources under the feet of my constituents have been unlocked. The boom in natural gas production has brought jobs and hope back to small towns throughout Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

□ 2000

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman JOYCE for leading the Special Order this evening.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 3 years, we have seen the Biden administration oppose American energy production at every turn. Biden's most recent announcement not only undermines our energy sector, but also endangers our allies overseas.

Since Putin began his invasion of Ukraine, our European allies have raced to transition away from Russian energy by importing clean American LNG.

The administration's shortsighted, dangerous decision accomplishes one thing and one thing only: empowering Russia.

Claiming that this decision is based solely on protecting the environment is just absurd. Because of natural gas, the United States has reduced its own emissions more than any country in the world over the last 20 years.

The President's ban on new LNG export projects is not an environmental decision, it is a political decision.

Rather than holding countries like China and Russia accountable, President Biden would rather appease climate activists who are determined to ban fossil fuels at all costs.

This latest announcement hurts producers here in America, in Ohio, the thousands of men and women working to keep our lights on every day, and throttles investment in clean American energy.

Simply put, by freezing LNG export permits, the President is putting election year politics ahead of the interests of American workers, consumers, and allies abroad.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the graph beside me tells an incredible story. It talks about the volatility that occurs in natural gas prices. We see the spikes, but those spikes have diminished because of the shale revolution.

The access to natural gas has actually leveled off the price. This allows families to sit at their kitchen table and make budget plans because they know that next month they are not going to pay double or triple the cost of natural gas.

The shale revolution, the ability to utilize the resources that are under the feet of so many Americans, has allowed American financial stability to occur for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the Biden administration's shortsighted policy, and I thank Dr. Joyce for bringing it up.

Mr. Speaker, this is another one of those examples of promises made, promises kept.

When this person was running for President, he couldn't stop telling people how we were no longer going to rely on our own energy. We were going to do something completely different. We were going to protect the environment.

He has actually kept those promises.

He has crippled the American economy. He has made the rest of the world dependent on people who they should not be depending on, and the rest of the world has awakened to just how far to the left this current administration is.

We are talking about jobs, an unbelievable amount of jobs. We are also talking about not being dependent on any foreign country to supply us with the energy that we need.

How in the world could anybody sit back now after 3 years of watching this wrong-sided approach to how we would run the greatest Nation the world has ever known and reduce it down to what it is today?

We are talking about jobs. We are talking about the cost of energy. We are talking about reliability, not on some foreign supplier, but on our own domestic energy, people.

Why would anybody under this current administration think that somehow my future is drilling for natural gas; my future is looking at oil fields; my future is based on the ill-fated thinking of this current administration?

This goes so far beyond what any normal thinking person would say: Good idea, good idea. Let's continue to do that.

I know some people will say: Well, you shouldn't be speaking that way.

My answer to that is: Maybe more of us should be speaking this way.

How can our fellow American citizens sit back and watch the devastation to our own economy; walking away from domestic energy and thinking that somehow this is a move in the right direction?

Candidate Biden said he would cut back on all these environmental absolute disasters that were taking place in America. He has kept his promise to the American people. He continues to make his promise kept to the American people.

The question is: When will the American people wake up from this slumber? When they will forget about being woke and wake up to what is happening to America today and happening to us every single day?

For the President of the United States to make a statement like he is making today about domestic energy, and what LNG will no longer be permitted: You won't be allowed to do it in the future. We are going to cut back on your permits—why in the world would anybody stay in this business and say: I think I have a shot.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to stand up, not just our colleagues on the Republican side but everyday Americans.

We are talking about jobs. We are talking about American energy. We are talking about clean energy. We are talking about the future of the greatest Nation the world has ever known, and the fact that she does not have to depend on anybody else in the world for her energy, nor do other countries have to depend on Russia for their energy when they can actually get it from their friends in America.

Promises made, promises kept. This is another one of those promises that leads to the complete disaster and destruction of America.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his passionate presentation.

Mr. Speaker, as we discuss this issue, it is important to recognize that liquefied natural gas actually has a positive impact on emissions rather than a negative one. Because of the clean power that natural gas provides, the United States continues to lead the world in carbon emission reductions.

In the last 20 years, natural gas has led to a 32 percent reduction in carbon emissions right here in the United States. As I said before, President Biden's own Department of Energy trumpets the fact that U.S. liquefied natural gas exports are 41 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas.

Our continued innovation, our continued development has helped lead to new technologies that have made our energy sources cleaner and more affordable.

As we look around the world, no other Nation has matched our work in this area. If the Biden administration is truly serious about reducing carbon emissions, then a ban on LNG exports is truly a massive mistake.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this administration's latest attack on the American energy industry, and I thank my very good friend, Congressman JOYCE, for holding this Special Order.

President Biden's LNG export ban is nothing more than a political stunt simply to appease the far-left activists. It has become abundantly clear that President Biden and his administration lack a competent understanding of global energy markets. This export ban will fuel higher costs for families here at home and push our allies abroad into the hands of our adversaries.

Hoosiers watching at home won't be fooled by false claims of environmental stewardship.

American LNG is the cleanest form of natural gas available and has allowed the U.S. to lead the world in emission reductions.

Since day one, the Biden administration has led our Nation into an energy crisis of their own making, and we have arrived:

Energy costs are through the roof. Our electric grid is on the brink of failure, and all forms of reliable baseload power are retiring at an alarming rate, leaving us perilously afraid of the future.

House Republicans are not alone in our concerns. Engineers, grid operators, refiners, and the rest of our energy industry are saying in unison: This will not work, and it is not working right now.

It is past time this administration paid attention to the experts and not radical environmentalists.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a point that cannot be missed today: That we have Members of Congress from North, South, East, and West, from all corners of the U.S., questioning the Biden administration's reckless ban on the export of liquefied natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my colleague and another member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Dr. JOYCE, for organizing this Special Order on the Biden administration's indefinite de facto ban on LNG exports.

While this is a clear election year stunt by President Biden, the real policy impacts will be profound, unfortunately, putting the national security of the U.S. and our allies at risk, increasing global greenhouse emissions, and unduly jeopardizing American economic prosperity. What a shame.

Perhaps the greatest winner of the LNG permitting pause is Russia and its maligned allies and coconspirators.

Even before its invasion of Ukraine, Russia weaponized its natural gas exports to extract concessions that undermine the rules-based international order.

In response, the United States provided our allies and the world a much-needed check against those threats to democracy, to reliable and accessible energy, but no more.

President Biden is abandoning our allies, and choosing to enrich despotic regimes, such as Russia and Iran. This decision will also decrease available alternatives to less clean forms of energy.

Many countries were relying on American LNG to help in their green transition. Instead, the Biden administration will leave countries like Germany, India, and Japan all needing to reopen previously shuttered, high-emission power plants.

China, a major LNG importer, is already building new high-emission power plants, and President Biden's decision will only encourage that trend, unfortunately.

Finally, this decision will cost Floridians jobs. Florida is a growing LNG exporter, and the President's pause will see significant economic benefit and opportunity evaporate due to a political stunt. No common sense.

Mr. Speaker, America and its allies deserve better.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 26 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that every shipment of LNG that does not come from the United States has to come from somewhere else. Often that means that gas is being sold by our adversaries, including Russia and Iran.

At a time when Iranian-backed terrorists are killing American troops, the Biden administration is voluntarily opening up avenues for the Iranian Government to profit on the sale of liquefied natural gas.

Sadly, this is business as usual for an administration that fails time and time again to understand how its decisions can impact our national security.

We saw this when President Biden telegraphed his plan to withdraw from Afghanistan ahead of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, emboldening the Taliban.

We saw this last week when the President failed to respond quickly to strikes carried out by Iranian-backed terrorists. We are seeing President Biden's failed foreign policy on display once again with this decision to withhold American liquefied natural gas from our friends and from our allies who need it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Dr. Joyce, for hosting this Special Order on such an important topic.

Simply put, President Biden's liquefied natural gas export ban puts politics over people and America last.

The Biden administration states that they must put a pause on the LNG permits to conduct more studies to better understand the effects of U.S. LNG exports.

Let's be honest, how many more studies do we realistically need?

The Department of Energy has already commissioned five studies on this very subject. Let us not forget that previous administrations did these studies without blocking export permits.

Really, what this administration is doing is creating additional uncertainty in an industry that is already under constant assault by the Biden administration. This pause will have and is starting to have a chilling effect on investment and discouraging foreign governments from signing long-term contracts.

Furthermore, this will undermine America's position as a global energy leader and exporter of LNG.

Stopping U.S. LNG exports will stifle economic growth by limiting revenue streams and job opportunities associated with LNG production, liquefaction and export infrastructure.

For those unfamiliar, the LNG industry is not one you can turn on and off like a light switch. It requires constant investment and development. You can't stop on a whim. There are billions of dollars at stake, jobs at risk, and allies' trust that is now compromised, allies who are looking for the United States to be a reliable partner to fuel their economies.

Instead, the White House seems more interested in taking domestic energy

advice from TikTok influencers who are just in it for clicks, shares, and impressions.

□ 2015

Indeed, the Biden administration agreed to meet with TikTok influencers at the White House after a trend slamming and targeting the LNG industry went viral. President Biden said in the aftermath: ''This pause on new LNG approvals sees the climate crisis for what it is: the existential threat of our time. . . . We will heed the calls of young people and frontline communities who are using their voices to demand action from those with the power to act.''

The consequences to the economy or our national security be damned, because, clearly, this is about getting votes, and, in particular, the youth vote, of which President Biden has suffered tremendous losses.

This is not about saving the planet, clearly, because denying the development of domestic LNG is not scientifically sound. Stopping LNG exports does not make the climate any cleaner or safer. In fact, the opposite happens. Ultimately, this restriction will curtail innovation, investment, and the overall competitiveness of the United States energy sector in the global market and in the process keep our allies dependent and reliant on dirty fuel from energy-producing nations that, let's face it, just don't give a damn about the environment.

We need to follow the science. How about we look to the data and not to social media influencers. Let's work to keep this industry strong. In return, we get a strong economy, robust national security, and job opportunities for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration must reverse their decision and lift the ban on LNG export permits.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her words.

Mr. Speaker, from my home State of Pennsylvania to the Gulf Coast, natural gas creates family-sustaining jobs that are vital for our communities. From 2005 to 2019, more than 1.4 million manufacturing jobs were created in the natural gas industry.

When President Biden stops the flow of LNG, he is sending a message to American families that are supported by these jobs. Biden is sending a message that his political welfare is more important than American families' livelihoods. Biden is sending a message that keeping his far-left base happy is more important than American families' financial stability. It is shameful. It is shameful for the President to pretend to care about the American workers and then make decisions that directly harm them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN).

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I thank him for leading us here together in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden's decision to indefinitely pause LNG export approval permits is misguided and wrong. It prioritizes radical activists over American energy security and the security of our allies abroad. This pause is economically and strategically dangerous and unnecessary.

The Department of Energy has consistently found that American LNG exports serve the public interest by providing positive economic benefits and strengthens our energy security.

Mr. Speaker, our European allies are seeking American energy leadership to counter Putin's weaponization of Russian natural gas exports. In December 2023 alone, over 87 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to the EU, U.K., or Asian markets.

Any action that slows or halts the U.S. ability to export LNG would weaken global energy security. In Congress, and within this administration, we should be doing everything in our power to incentivize reliable natural gas and to grant the export permits that allow access to markets around the world. Policies that encourage LNG exports create good-paying jobs here in America and strengthen our allies abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Biden administration to end this pause.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that our allies rely so heavily on American-made liquefied natural gas is because of its reliability.

In recent years, we have seen billions of tax dollars used to prop up failing energy producers like wind turbines and solar farms. While wind and solar should certainly be available, the fact is they are unable to sustain major electric grids. Without battery technology to store the energy collected by renewable energy sources, the United States and our friends and our allies will continue to rely on natural gas.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOYCE for hosting tonight's Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, just 2 weeks ago, in yet another example of President Biden caving to leftwing activists, this administration announced that they would pause all pending approvals of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, export terminals.

Under the guise of climate change, this blatantly political decision will only serve to eliminate American jobs, increase costs for American consumers, and further jeopardize U.S. energy security, all to appease climate extremists and prop up President Biden's rush-to-green agenda.

Let me remind the American people that just 3 years ago, our Nation was energy independent for the first time in our history. We controlled the price of a barrel of oil. We dominated the world energy economy.

Studies show that LNG exports could increase the U.S. economy by over $73 billion by 2040 and could create more than 453,000 American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the President should please listen.

It is no surprise that this reckless announcement was met with bipartisan backlash when a recent study showed that only 3 percent of Americans believe climate change is the most pressing issue facing our country.

I hear constantly from my constituents how high energy prices are. Indefinitely banning exports of LNG will not lower the cost of energy. We need to open our markets and domestic energy production to lower costs for the American people.

Now, more than ever, we need to embrace an all-of-the-above energy strategy and unleash the production and export of clean, affordable, and reliable American LNG to further reduce emissions.

Finally, President Biden's war on American energy is undermining our national security. As Chair RODGERS said, this is nothing more than a gift to Putin.

Mr. Speaker, if this administration wants to end the war in Ukraine and bring peace to the Middle East, then give us the permits for the pipelines and the LNG facilities, and we will power Europe. This will cripple Russia and Iran. In fact, Europe, like the U.S., would be burning their energy 42 percent cleaner.

I thought we wanted to reduce the carbon footprint and at the same time promote world peace. I proudly stand with my colleagues in calling out this political charade.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, from New Jersey to Florida, from Pennsylvania to California, liquefied natural gas, its production and export, has a positive effect on so many Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is constantly putting his Green New Deal ideology ahead of the American people when it comes to the U.S. energy sector. From canceling the Keystone pipeline to ending Federal drilling projects, the President has weakened our domestic energy production since his first day in office, leading to sky-high oil prices across the country and a loss of nearly 11,000 American jobs.

Now, the administration is performing the same song and dance in the name of climate change by halting exports of liquefied natural gas abroad. It is lunacy.

I am proud to join 150 of my Republican colleagues, led by Chair CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, in a letter to the President expressing our concerns and our opposition to this decision.

LNG is a clean energy source. By cutting off American exports, we are forcing our allies into the arms of nations

often hostile to America. By the way, they often have zero environmental regulations.

Over the last 2 years, the EU has been forced to import 40 percent more LNG from Russia, directly funding Russian aggression in Ukraine with roughly $21 billion in 2022 alone.

If kept intact, our LNG industry is projected to bring up to 452,000 additional jobs to hardworking Americans by 2040, adding some $50 billion to $73 billion to our economy. Plus, we gain the economic leverage as an economic exporter of energy to other nations.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 987, Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, I urge my colleagues to put an end to Biden's war on the U.S. energy sector. It is time to prioritize the well-being of Americans over the flawed ideologies of the Green New Deal.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho, a fellow member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for his insight and comments.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we have stated, the impact of stopping the export of liquefied natural gas affects all Americans.

We have had individuals from all over, Representatives, who know the impact financially to their constituents. They know the impact on jobs to each one of the Americans who are in the natural gas industry. We understand, and this is not lost on us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. JOYCE leading this Special Order here tonight. It is very important that we shed the positive spotlight on energy production that natural gas is and also shine the spotlight on what a horrific decision it is by Mr. Biden and his administration to shut down export, as well as the ongoing efforts to shut down capacity, exploration, and production of natural gas in this country.

Through the miracle of hydraulic fracturing, not that many years ago, it put the U.S. on the map internationally as a gigantic energy source in the world.

I remember about 20-plus years ago, we were looking at how we could find a way to import more liquefied natural gas, set up our ports for that so the big ships can come in from somewhere else and bring us this energy source. Hydraulic fracturing has made it possible that we are a gigantic source of energy around the world, and indeed other countries are looking to us and would look to us more if we were giving more of a positive signal.

This is the chart showing usage from about 2010 up to current. If you look at that on a global scale, energy usage on a global scale is going to increase massively as more and more countries come on board and become less Third World and more of a modern economy.

Oil and gas is going to be extremely important, so the U.S. should be leading the way. We should be stronger partners for our European allies. We have seen the debacle that the Russian pipeline is going to be and has been for Germany, in one case, and the reliance on Russian gas.

□ 2030

Don't they look back at how these alliances haven't been strong enough to rely on a neighbor like that for so much of your energy?

In Germany just 1½ years ago people were going out to the woods and cutting firewood to make sure they were going to get through the cold season. This was on top of their destroying so much of their nuclear generation.

So the Biden administration's approach to natural gas is very wrong-headed. So as you see, Mr. Speaker, increased demand in just a short amount of time of low-cost domestic energy has been, indeed, miraculous.

My next chart will show that the cost of natural gas, although peaking some years ago in the early 2000s, was getting quite expensive. This is right where hydraulic fracturing came in and made it a very, very low-cost and very clean form of energy. It was helping get us to energy independence until the Biden administration decided to come along and say: No, we are not going to do it here. We want Germany and Europe to rely on Russian gas, and we are going to be somehow more green than everybody else here.

So it is very dangerous for us. It is dangerous to our allies. As we have seen, it empowers those in Russia and in Iran to do the types of things that they are doing around the world to upset peace. Indeed, Iran is a major sponsor of terror helping out Yemen.

As I mentioned earlier, so many of the weapons that you will find, Mr. Speaker, missiles that maybe didn't completely fire or explode, what have you, you will find that Yemen has been using them and they have Iraqi signatures on them. So every time the rest of the world patronizes Iranian gas or Russian gas, it just helps them to undermine Western countries and those who are trying to be good neighbors.

So the more we go the wrong direction on this and follow the Biden model, the bigger trouble we will be in. Indeed, natural gas has been a miracle in how important it has been to our economy up until recently with the Biden crew.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the Members who have joined us this evening to hold this Special Order to address President Biden's policy failure on liquefied natural gas. Since his first day in office, President Biden has worked to dismantle our Nation's energy production, revoking permits, stonewalling new development, and using red tape to harass our energy producers.

The decision to halt the permitting of LNG exportation facilities is the next step in an agenda that puts Green New Deal policies ahead of American families.

The Biden administration has continually passed the buck for high prices by blaming domestic energy producers. Biden's regulatory assaults destroy any incentive for domestic energy producers to invest in building our natural gas infrastructure.

Now, most recently, President Biden announced that his administration would no longer hold court-ordered offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska.

Liquefied natural gas is safe, affordable, and easy to transport. That is why this week 150 of my colleagues and I were led by E&C Chair RODGERS and Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON to demand that President Biden overturn this terrible decision. We know that this energy source, which is underneath the feet of my constituents, will help power our allies, it will help create American jobs, and it will help reduce emissions.

Instead of embracing this technology, President Biden has caved to his far-left base who refuse to recognize the benefits that LNG has for America. A single shipment of LNG can power an entire city, and, yet, the Biden administration has refused to allow these shipments.

Tonight, we have heard about the dangerous impacts that the cutting of LNG exports have from raising prices here at home to funding our adversaries by forcing European nations to rely on energy from Russia and from Iran.

Let's be clear. President Biden is choosing to cut American jobs and fund our enemies. When it comes to our energy security, appeasing liberal activists can have long-lasting and very dangerous consequences. We all must continue to urge the Biden administration to reverse this disastrous decision and allow liquefied natural gas exports to continue and to power communities around the world.

It is time to return to American energy dominance, and it is time to stop using our energy security as a pawn in political games.

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

BIPARTISAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I have the incredible privilege of representing El Paso, Texas, which is a vibrant, wonderful, and generous community of goodwill that is right on the U.S.-Mexico border. My community has seen firsthand the challenges that come with a significant number of people fleeing their homeland and seeking refuge in the United States. We have opened up our pantries, we have opened up our wallets, and we have opened up our hearts, but it is time for Congress to act.

I am so proud to be spending this Special Order hour talking about the first bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill introduced in Congress in a decade. In fact, even today, it is the only bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that exists in Congress. It is a bill that addresses the border and beyond. It is a national security bill. It is an economic bill. It is a bill that finally forces Congress to do its job.

While we are seeing a large number of migrants arriving at our Nation's front door, at the same time, we have 8 million unfilled jobs in our country. If we want to be a competitive nation and if we want to make sure that we are at the forefront of having a bold economy, then, frankly, we need immigrants. However, we also need order and humanity at the border. President Biden has repeatedly asked Congress to do its job and find a legislative solution.

Now, the Senate has just introduced their own bipartisan bill. We don't know the fate of that, but what we in the House know is that we have a wonderful bipartisan coalition that has introduced a real solution, and that real solution is the Dignity Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce and yield the floor to one of my cosponsors who herself is an expert on immigration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN).

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last week I joined my colleagues from all corners of the country on a trip to the southern border to El Paso, hosted by my good friend, Congresswoman ESCOBAR. This wasn't my first trip to the border.

Before coming to Congress, I worked on this issue for close to 20 years as a social worker, walking alongside immigrants and refugees who were new to this country, also as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice enforcing our immigration laws at the Nation's highest law enforcement agency. I also worked at a community legal aid organization in west Michigan. I have also helped employers try to get the workers that they need. I have worked on all aspects of this issue.

What I saw on the border was truly horrific. We are in a crisis mode. During our trip we talked to Border Patrol agents, we met with individuals at holding facilities, talked to the immigrants themselves, and we talked to humanitarian aid workers. Across the board everyone was unified in this one belief: the border is broken. Our immigration system is broken. There has never been a more important time to come together with bipartisan solutions to fix it.

There is truly a crisis at our border. It is a humanitarian nightmare, a national security red alarm, and an economic disaster.

We visited a holding facility just outside of El Paso. The number of immigrants crossing the border every single day is far too many for the El Paso Del Norte Processing Center to contain in just 1 day, so they are held at a detention facility. It costs our United States Government, our taxpayers, $1.2 million every single day to run this facility just to hold people. This cannot be.

Now is the time for action, not the time for pointing fingers. Now is the time not for kicking the can down the road but picking it up and solving this problem.

We don't have to start from scratch for a new bill, a bill that would get bipartisan support. We already have that bill. It is bipartisan, and it is called the Dignity Act. It is the only bipartisan comprehensive reform bill in Congress right now.

Instead of infighting and pointing fingers, Mr. Speaker, why not put it to a vote on the floor and see how many individuals would support it?

What are we afraid of?

That it might actually work?

That it might actually solve this problem?

The immigration crisis in our country is at a fever pitch. It has evolved over many years of inaction, of moments just like this where we are compelled to act but we refuse to do so.

The immigration crisis in our country is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted response.

Just insisting that we are going to close the border is not a magic wand that would wave and fix the vast number of individuals who are finding their way across our border every day.

It doesn't automatically provide the funding necessary for the Border Patrol agents who would be required to enforce this border closure, and it doesn't provide the pathways to the legal workforce that is so desperately needed in this country.

Moreover, it surely does not address the root causes of the increase in migrant flow that we are seeing over the years.

However, the bipartisan Dignity Act does.

The Dignity Act provides for an immediate infusion of $25 billion to help secure our border, and the bill pays for itself through fees generated from visas for qualified workers.

If we put this bill to a vote on the floor tomorrow, billions of dollars would begin to start flowing to our border communities to give them the help that they need.

This bill also addresses the source of the flow by creating new, regional in-country processing centers, taking the pressure off the border and helping individuals determine their eligibility ahead of time—or lack thereof—and immigrate here to the U.S.

The bill also addresses the fact that our immigration crisis does not exist in a vacuum at the southern border. Our years of failed policy have resulted in millions of individuals living in the shadows of the United States, again, a national security red alarm, an economic disaster, and a humanitarian crisis that must be addressed.

This bill provides a means to identify these individuals and the means to remove those who have violated our laws and pose a threat to our country. Those who pass a background check and qualify and who pay a fine will immediately receive permission to work and be provided a pathway to lawful citizenship, supporting our growing economy and enhancing all of our communities in a multitude of ways.

Why wouldn't we take this moment to address this immigration crisis?

Why wouldn't we put this bipartisan bill on the floor?

This is not a perfect bill by any stretch of the imagination. It is a compromise bill. Republicans are not getting everything they want, and Democrats are surely not getting everything they want, I can tell you that, Mr. Speaker, but it is a compromise. That is not a dirty word.

The last time we had comprehensive immigration reform in this country was over 40 years ago. Think about how much our world and our economy have changed in that time. We are not always going to get exactly what we want, but if we work hard and we work together, then we can provide for the good of this country.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, HILLARY SCHOLTEN. I so appreciate her leadership and her support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I was born and raised on the U.S.-Mexico border. I am a third-generation border resident. My children are both adults. My son, Cristian, and my daughter, Eloisa, are fourth-generation border residents.

□ 2045

No one wants a solution to the border more than those of us who live there, who have made our lives there, raised our kids there, and know that we will spend the rest of our days there.

We need to come together and find areas of compromise. There is so much

disunity, but we can find unity, and the Dignity Act provides us with that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD), a cosponsor of the Dignity Act, a dear friend, and an incredible leader.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be joining the gentlewoman from El Paso, Texas, to address one of the most pressing issues facing our Nation: our broken immigration system.

I am from Pennsylvania. We are not a border State, but I hear an awful lot about what is happening at the southern border. I am deeply concerned about it, as are my constituents. It is something that we, this group of us who are speaking this evening, are committed to fixing.

For far too long, both parties have played political games with the crisis at our southern border rather than pursuing real solutions to restore order. That is why I am so proud to be a cosponsor of the Dignity Act, a bipartisan bill that would tackle the crisis at our border and reform that badly broken immigration system.

Let me tell you just a few things about what the Dignity Act would do.

Number one, and most pressing to many, many of my constituents, it addresses border security. It increases the hiring of CBP personnel. It provides funding for border infrastructure and equipment. It makes it a crime to transmit the location of law enforcement personnel at the border for the purpose of trying to defraud the immigration laws. It also requires employers to verify the immigration status of their employees using an E-Verify system.

All of those are things that we have been hearing about from the GOP for ages. This bill also provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers who came here as minors and have lived here for years in the shadows, unable to fulfill their lives, unable to become meaningful members of the workforce and to pay taxes.

These people, these Dreamers, need a pathway to citizenship. We have been talking about this for way too long. It gives good, law-abiding people an opportunity to pursue the American Dream, which, by the way, so many of our parents, grandparents, and ancestors pursued. That is what this country is all about.

There is absolutely no question about it: We need comprehensive immigration reform, and that means we have to bolster border security and ensure that law-abiding, tax-paying immigrants are treated with humanity and respect.

We need enhanced infrastructure and funding for our Border Patrol agents to help enforce our laws and keep dangerous drugs off of our streets. We also need to strengthen those pathways to citizenship, which, by the way, will help build our workforce in critical industries and will boost our American economy.

I have heard from employers, HR managers, manufacturers, and all sorts of businesses in my community that face workforce shortages. They want us to find ways to expand opportunities for legal immigration.

Immigration reform is also a national security issue. Comprehensive immigration reform, as contemplated by the Dignity Act, would help us keep the drug dealers, terrorists, and other bad guys out.

The best way to get things done in Congress is something that we don't do nearly often enough. It is for Democrats and Republicans to work together. We know that. We all know that. We have seen it historically. As I said, we don't do nearly enough of that.

I am so proud that the Dignity Act has broad bipartisan support. I will continue to work to find ways that I can engage more of my friends across the aisle to support this commonsense immigration reform.

Let me be clear. Our country needs the Dignity Act. This bill would allow us to bring order back to the southern border. It would surge resources to help enforce our laws and to support border communities like El Paso and so many others.

It would help take back power from those who seek to abuse and overrun our asylum system. It would allow us to efficiently process those who are eligible for legal immigration and asylum.

We must bring the bipartisan Dignity Act to the floor for a vote. It is the only truly bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill. We need to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in leadership to put aside partisan politics and consider the best interests of the American people.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine if we came together and actually solved the most politically divisive issue facing our Nation today? The American people would be incredibly relieved. They would be so grateful. We could check this key issue off our list and move on to all the other issues that our Nation faces.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), another wonderful colleague who is a cosponsor of the Dignity Act.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Representative ESCOBAR, for yielding time to me and also for her tireless work on this incredibly important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the last time Congress passed comprehensive immigration reform was in 1986. That was nearly 40 years ago—before laptop computers, before cell phones, and before the internet became available to all.

In so many ways, our economy and our need for workers has changed and grown. In fact, we have a workforce shortage at all skill levels, from farm and factory workers to nurses and physicians to high-tech and other STEM workers.

Even though we educate the best and the brightest of foreign students, we send them home to compete with us because there simply aren't enough visas to accommodate them. Our immigration system hasn't changed to accommodate our needs. It is hampering our economic growth.

While other countries, like Canada, are encouraging immigration, we are allowing our partisan disputes to get in the way of creating a system that is in our own best interest.

Even worse, we have failed to update our system to tackle the rapid growth of migrants fleeing persecution and hazardous conditions in their own countries and seeking to enter our country by claiming asylum at our southern border.

As one of my hometown immigration attorneys recently wrote in our hometown newspaper, many of these people would come in other ways, seeking legal visas if we had visa categories that accommodated them.

Despite record levels of people seeking refuge in our country, we have failed to pass legislation that would address this crisis. Our processes are inhumane, slow, and simply don't work. Dreamers and asylum seekers deserve better. Border towns deserve better. Americans deserve better.

That is why I joined a bipartisan group of women in the House to work on serious immigration reform. Alongside my friends, Representatives VERONICA ESCOBAR and MARIA SALAZAR, I was proud to help introduce the Dignity Act.

This bill would finally address the country's workforce needs, strengthen the economy, provide pathways to citizenship for Dreamers and asylum seekers, and secure the border.

The Dignity Act finds common ground between Democratic and Republican immigration priorities. It is not perfect. There are things that I love in the bill, and there are things I don't love. But if we don't find compromise and common ground, we will never solve this challenge.

The Dignity Act strikes the right balance. It offers tough but creative solutions to our Nation's most pressing immigration challenges.

Over the past few months, we have seen House Republicans spend an enormous amount of time on the House floor, in hearings, and, frankly, on TV talking about the border crisis and demanding action. We have heard the administration call on Congress to pass legislation to address the border crisis as well as other immigration challenges. For weeks, a bipartisan group of Senators had been working on legislation, on an immigration deal, but the extreme House Republicans recently described that deal as dead on arrival even before the text of the bill was released.

They didn't reject the deal because it was bad policy. They didn't know what the policy was. They rejected it because former President Trump told them to.

He doesn't want a solution. He wants a border crisis that he can run on. Extreme Republicans are falling in line

with him. They don't want a solution. They want a problem that will rile up their voters. This is shameful.

Our country deserves better. Our country deserves real solutions. That is why I am here with my fellow Democratic co-leads of the Dignity Act to say: Stop the whining and get to work.

We all know the border issue needs to be addressed. We all know we have a workforce shortage. We all know we need an upgraded immigration system that works for all of us. We have a solution crafted right here in the House by Democrats and Republicans working together on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting the Dignity Act. Let's work together to solve this problem and build a stronger future for all.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Ms. MANNING's powerful voice.

Mr. Speaker, many of the sponsors of the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill, the Dignity Act, are relatively new to Congress, including Ms. SCHOLTEN and Ms. MANNING, who you heard from.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORENSEN).

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ESCOBAR for hosting this important discussion.

I would be remiss if I didn't say that your home State of Texas is the only State that I have ever lived outside of my own home State of Illinois. So, I have a soft spot for the Lone Star State.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here proud to cosponsor the Dignity Act tonight, which is the only bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that currently exists in the House of Representatives.

This legislation is critical. It does just what we need. It secures our border, strengthens our economy, creates an orderly and humane path to legal status for those who follow U.S. law, and gives law enforcement the tools they need to stop the flow of fentanyl that is hurting and killing members of our families and our neighbors.

Make no mistake, I am deeply concerned with what is happening at the southern border. It is now Congress' time to act.

Since the moment I was sworn in, I have tried to work as hard as I can with both sides of the aisle to find solutions to complex problems. I have proposed legislation to increase the number of Customs and Border Protection officers that patrol our southern border. I have proposed legislation that would help identify the fentanyl that is coming into our country. I found Republican colleagues, Republican friends, to come together because we need to work together.

Unfortunately, House GOP leadership has rejected all of the bipartisan ideas.

I am a believer that to get things done here in Congress, we need to listen to the perspectives of both sides. In this Congress, the bipartisan path has been the only way that we have gotten results.

□ 2100

That is how we have been able to fund the government, prevent a catastrophic debt default, pass a bill to lower taxes for businesses and working families.

We have tried the partisan-only path to solving the immigration and border problem, but that does not work. Securing our border and fixing our immigration system must be done on a bipartisan basis.

Now, there are Members of Congress, especially my colleagues here on the floor right now, who want to solve the problem, but there are some in the House and the Senate GOP who want to strong-arm us, using the border as a political football in the ultimate display of gamesmanship.

Just yesterday, a bipartisan group of Senators released a plan to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system.

This compromised proposal is aggressive about tackling the challenges that we see at the border without straying from our Nation's core values.

The Senate plan makes our country safer; it makes our border more secure; and it treats people fairly and humanely.

But less than a day after its release, before most Members have even had a chance to read it, House GOP leadership said it is dead on arrival in the House.

Now, let's call it what it is: It is a display of inaction that puts politics in front of any solution.

The choice is clear: Do we choose to solve the problem in a bipartisan way, or do we allow Members across the aisle just to continue to refuse to consider the solution at all?

The latter is not what the people sent us here to do. In my district, in central and northwestern Illinois, my neighbors expect us to come here and solve problems, not to ignore them for political gain.

I have families in my district who have an empty seat at their dinner table because they lost a loved one to fentanyl.

And the House GOP leadership's response to that family is: Let's put the upcoming election in front of hurting families. That, Mr. Speaker, is as pathetic as it is selfish.

But the good news is, Speaker JOHNSON has another chance. He can work with us to put the Dignity Act up for a vote. Passing a bipartisan bill will show the American people we are serious about solving this problem.

I can think of few other examples where Democrats and Republicans have come together on such a difficult topic to propose bipartisan legislation that will secure our border, reform our immigration system, and put us on a sustainable path to solving the issues.

We can be the Congress to do it. We can create security for our Nation and for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Speaker JOHNSON to give us the chance to do what we need. Bring the Dignity Act to the floor. Let us debate it, let us vote on it, and let's work together to solve the problem.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SORENSEN so much. I am so grateful for his leadership and support.

Mr. Speaker, there are diverse groups and organizations that support the Dignity Act, from the evangelical community, to the American Chamber of Commerce, to ABIC, the American Business Immigration Council.

It is remarkable that once we put up our bill, our bipartisan bill, people from every corner of this country have been clamoring, asking us when it is coming to the floor, when will it get a vote because they are in support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), who is an incredible leader here in Congress and a colleague, a classmate that I was elected to Congress with, another cosponsor of the Dignity Act.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I came out today to address the issue that is top of mind for so many Americans: Immigration.

We find ourselves at this existential moment on the issue. As a Nation of immigrants, where nearly every single one of us has our own immigration story to tell, we know in our bones that our immigration system is broken. It is not working for, literally, anyone.

When I say ''anyone,'' I mean, everyone. It is not working for our businesses, who desperately need vetted immigrant labor. It is not working for the immigrants who are walking a thousand miles in some cases to cross our border. It is not working for our border agents and for our customs and border folks who are trying to manage an astounding number of people coming over the border. It is not working for our communities who are having people bused to them. It is not working for the strain on those cities and the services. It is not working for anyone.

We can say with clarity and certainty that immigration system in a Nation of immigrants is broken, and there is blame enough to go around.

Democrats, Republicans, multiple White Houses, multiple administrations, Congress plays a big part in this, Washington departments and agencies over many, many years have used this issue to play politics rather than actually doing anything about it.

Finally, as you can see from the speeches here tonight, there is agreement that we have a problem, right?

The first step you can take to dealing with your problem is admitting you have a problem, but the fundamental question is: What are we going to now do about it?

I am a national security person by trade. I am a former CIA officer, a former Pentagon official. I did three tours in Iraq alongside the military.

My whole life before I came to this body was about protecting the homeland from external threats.

Not only that, but I come from Michigan, a northern border State. I was just at our border in Detroit this past week where I got to see a healthy, functioning border and what it looks like.

There is no greater responsibility for those of us who are elected than to protect our citizens, and no greater responsibility than to work on solutions that do just that.

Two months ago in December, I thought we finally had gotten over a major hump. We were at a moment where Democrats and Republicans here in the White House, in the Senate, across the country were all saying that we needed to work on immigration.

The Speaker of the House, the Speaker of this body, wrote to President Biden personally, saying that if the President wanted more things on Ukraine, it was ''dependent upon enactment of transformative change to our Nation's border security laws.'' Those were his words.

In the Senate, a group of Democrats and Republicans did what people pay them to do, what they actually expect them to do, which is sit in a room, negotiate, argue, debate over policy to deal with the extreme pressure on the border, and they came to a solution.

Yesterday, we got our first look at what that proposal actually is, but no sooner was it out, than it is now sailing down the river like a dumpster fire, being trashed by the very people who negotiated it, being trashed by the very people who asked for it, being trashed by the Speaker of the House who desperately said: I won't consider any future assistance without border security.

No piece of legislation is ever perfect, but it does help us curb who is coming in. It gets people working legally in our businesses like on our farms, which desperately need that labor. In the meantime, these people would be paying taxes, paying into Social Security, paying into Medicare.

I can't understand why we continually refuse to take up bipartisan solutions like the one that is being debated in the Senate and the one that we are presenting on today, the Dignity Act. We need something to move the ball forward.

I know that all of us are willing to work with anyone across the aisle on solutions, but you have got to come to the table and acknowledge we have a problem and say you want to work on the solution.

Just two months after the Speaker laid out this existential problem with border security where he said: What is happening at the border is nothing short of a catastrophe and demanded immediate changes to the administration policy and to our laws.

He has now reversed course. He did a complete 180, changed his views and now we can't talk about the border.

Why? Because former President Donald Trump told him to.

He is out there saying that I am in control of my caucus. If you have to say you are in control of your caucus, you are not in control of your caucus.

□ 2110

Donald Trump told him he didn't like the bill. He told MITCH MCCONNELL he didn't like the bill. The thing we have been working on as a healthy bipartisan negotiation falls apart in a day because Donald Trump wants to make ads about it; he wants to do political rallies about it; he wants to use it as a club against Joe Biden; he wants to use it for himself instead of doing what the country expects, which is dealing with the crisis at the border.

The leaders who were elected to protect their constituents are bowing to this pressure with barely a bat of the eye. It is embarrassing actually. It is sad to watch, but definitely embarrassing, and another sign of how toxic and ill our politics have become.

I was trying to think about what would happen when I was a CIA officer or at the Pentagon if I had identified a real national security crisis with facts and data, if I had said this is a threat to our country, talked about it publicly, constantly came back to it to raise attention to this issue, and then refused to do anything about it? There is a term for this in the military. It is called dereliction of duty. It is a fireable offense.

The next time I hear one of my colleagues railing about the border, railing about immigration in the same breath that they are refusing to actually do anything about it, I am going to remember that in other places other than this body, that is completely unacceptable, that it is a joke to care about something and then ignore it.

Remember this, our colleagues had the chance to work on this issue. If they don't like that bill, come and talk to us about the Dignity Act. Come to the table to negotiate, but stop choosing yourself instead of your constituents and the safety of the country.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. SLOTKIN for those very powerful words. She mentioned something that I think is so important to repeat. As I have been talking to colleagues on both sides of the aisle about the Dignity Act, they have pointed out things they don't like or things that they consider imperfect.

I have said two things in response: Please give me a suggestion on how you would change whatever provision it is that you don't like and how you would accomplish that in a bipartisan way. That is the first thing I say. The second thing I say is, if this bipartisan bill that to date has about 30 bipartisan cosponsors, a really great coalition of bipartisan support, if this isn't the bipartisan immigration bill you like, I would be happy to look at yours.

If folks don't like this bill, they can either introduce their own after working hard to produce a bipartisan product like we did or they can even offer suggestions on provisions they would like to see changed as long as those changes reflect the bipartisan compromise that we worked so hard to create in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), who was just in my district and my hometown this weekend.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ESCOBAR for not only yielding her time but also for welcoming me and many others to her community just a few days ago.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit our southern border by way of El Paso. This was my second time to the border. Very similar to the op-ed that I published in Newsweek earlier today, I share a little bit of my reaction to this very important and eye-opening congressional delegation that I was able to participate in.

If you are a Pennsylvanian like I am, you know that we just observed Groundhog Day, and Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow, so we can all expect an early spring. At our country's southwest border, it feels like every day is Groundhog Day. Like so many Americans, I am a combination of angry and frustrated and heartbroken by what continues to happen there day after day and year after year and decade after decade.

We know that our immigration policies have to align with the shared values of our country. We are a country that was built primarily by immigrants, and we must welcome new arrivals compassionately while also protecting and securing our safety and our economy.

My community is, indeed, thousands of miles away from the southern border, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. We face unique challenges every day regarding immigration, but what is not unique about my community, indeed about every community, is that we have felt the impact in some way of our fractured and broken immigration system.

My visit to the southern border last week was not my first. Previously, I had the opportunity to go to Brownsville, Texas, and these trips have taught me that our system is broken but, indeed, can be repaired.

I have seen the efforts firsthand of important changes that Congress here has made and implemented since my first visit. Gone are the dehumanizing cages and the literal smell of humanity. In their place is a clean and dignified environment, centered on the health and the well-being of the migrants and of the incredibly dedicated Americans who work on behalf of our country. There is still clearly an enormous amount of work that needs to be done to secure our border, with enhanced processes, more staffing, and better systems, but the difference is palpable.

Most significantly, though, what has not been improved is the volume of migrants and the fact that there is still no other path than this desperate one for people who seek a better life in this vibrant and healthy economy. We don't need more of the same expensive Band-Aids but, rather, we need real reform, with more legal pathways to come here and to participate in our Nation's next 250 years.

I am committed to bipartisanship and to securing our border, and I am asking the very same of Congress. Specifically, I am asking the very same of our Speaker. The message that I share today is this: Our Republican leadership in Congress needs to commit to bringing bipartisan immigration reform bills like VERONICA ESCOBAR's bipartisan Dignity Act to the floor for a vote and now.

As an example, here is what the Dignity Act would do:

Number one, it would provide more money for CBP and border infrastructure to prevent illegal immigration.

Number two, it would require employers to verify the immigration status of workers and to ensure that they are here lawfully.

Number three, it would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, who are the children of immigrants who came here when they were very young.

Number four, it would establish a path to permanent residency status for eligible individuals without lawful immigration status who meet various requirements, including paying into a fund to provide training for U.S. workers.

Let us pause and think about what I have just shared—policies that the vast, vast majority of Americans agree on. If we, as a Congress, are not passing legislation that the vast, vast majority of Americans agree on, I truly believe, as my colleague Representative ELISSA SLOTKIN mentioned, we are derelict in our duties.

Efforts like the Senate bipartisan bill that was just introduced yesterday must also be considered and be voted on. While I am still reading through the details of the 370-page bill, I am encouraged by the very summary that I have seen. While the path forward on immigration reform will likely not be straightforward, this much is true: We must reach a compromise with real solutions to this complex conversation and issue right now.

Again, I am calling on Speaker JOHNSON to change his deeply cynical position that ''now is not the time'' for immigration reform. I couldn't disagree more. Most people in most communities across America couldn't disagree more.

No solution will be perfect, but we cannot let that keep us from making progress for both the American people and for those who seek refuge here.

Not too long ago it was, indeed, my own family seeking shelter. My father and my grandmother survived the Holocaust. They left war-torn Poland after World War II and sought a better way of life here in the United States. I saw my young dad and grandmother in the eyes of frightened, desperate, and hopeful migrants that I was able to meet last week.

One small family unit in particular struck me. He was a young man of probably no more than 20 years old with his beautiful, curly-headed toddler, who reminded me of my youngest child. He told me about traffickers taking pictures of his son to intimidate and extort the father into conformance with their threats and demands. We can do better.

A lot has changed since my own father and grandmother took a ship across the Atlantic Ocean to New York City, and our immigration laws must also change as well.

I honor the souls, both migrant and American, whose lives collide with each other every day at our borders, and I again urge Republican leadership to bring a bipartisan border bill to the House floor. We must seek the hope of fresh opportunities. The shadows that burden us must all be lifted. That is possible, but only if we here in Congress understand that this Nation depends on us to act and to act now.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan immigration reform.

□ 2120

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of my colleagues and so incredibly honored and privileged to be working alongside them toward this very noble purpose. I am so proud of my Republican colleagues, as well, and honored they are on this bill.

It is a strange thing to say, but it actually takes a lot of courage for people to compromise in this place. The U.S. Congress today, unfortunately, is in some ways set up to ensure that our divisions are even more deeply rooted and that the chasm between us is made even greater.

It really is up to each and every one of us to build a bridge over that chasm, to find that pathway toward unity, and to focus, really, on areas of agreement instead of areas of disagreement. It is what the American people want. It is what the American people deserve.

A couple of my colleagues mentioned the trip to El Paso last weekend. Since I was elected to Congress my first year in 2019, I have brought over 25 percent of Congress—that number is probably even higher now—to El Paso. I invite my colleagues to join me. The trips are really insightful. We don't just talk to Border Patrol agents. We actually do a very holistic evaluation and have robust conversations with everyone that a broken system touches.

It helps put into perspective how complex the solution really is and how unacceptable it is that we have gone so long without addressing this solution.

I am going to close with this, Mr. Speaker, because my colleagues have done such an effective job of advocating for this bipartisan compromise. I mentioned just a little bit ago the large number of supporting organizations that have come to us and told us they want to help. They want to see this bill get to the floor. They want a solution. The organizations range from left leaning to right leaning and everything in between.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak to the Power and Communication Contractors Association, a group that came to Washington specifically to advocate for the Dignity Act. This is not a group I reached out to. This is not a group that any of us called and invited to D.C. They heard about the bill. They shared it with each other. They are a trade organization that is trying to install broadband across this country, especially in rural areas, but they are up against workforce shortages.

When they learned of the Dignity Act, they reached out to me. They asked me to speak to their group. I visited with them last week in the evening after a long day here on Capitol Hill, and they gave me such inspiration.

If regular Americans who are just trying to do their jobs are coming to D.C. to beg us to do ours, something is very wrong, but something is also very right. That means the American people are finally demanding of us that we do our job.

I would be remiss if I didn't say this: My party should have worked to compromise a long time ago.

Colleagues of mine on the other side of the aisle today are refusing to compromise. They keep pointing to their bill, H.R. 2. They keep saying this is the solution. I can tell you it is not.

A fundamental component to H.R. 2, something that is rarely talked about but fundamental to H.R. 2, is that Mexico be willing to accept every migrant the U.S. decides to expel. That has never happened, nor will it ever happen, so H.R. 2 is not realistic.

House Democrats who are holding onto the perfect are not realistic, either.

Let's come together. Let's fix this once and for all. Let's get to work and bring this to the floor. Let's put everyone to the test. Do we want a solution, or do we not?

On behalf of my colleagues and the millions of Americans who are ready for this vote, let's get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for the opportunity to highlight this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, February is Career and Technical Education Month. I join the Nation in commending all the educators who play a vital role in preparing America's students for prosperity in the 21st century economy. However, there is often a disconnect between the curriculum taught at schools and the skills required for in-demand jobs.

There are currently 9 million unfilled jobs in the United States, and job creators are struggling to find qualified workers. Career and technical education programs offer a practical solution to bridge this skills gap. These programs offer students hands-on experience and skills that will allow them to excel in the workforce. By equipping students with the competencies they need to be successful on the job, career and technical education programs give participants an invaluable head start.

Building a strong, skilled workforce is a national priority. Now is the time to strengthen career and technical education.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Committee on Education and the Workforce advanced the College Cost Reduction Act, CCRA, a landmark bill that would lower the cost of postsecondary education and provide much-needed relief for countless students and families.

For too long, colleges have been given free rein to charge exorbitant tuition for degrees without a worthwhile economic benefit. This legislation would ensure that that is no longer the case.

Don't take my word for it. Preston Cooper from the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, FREOPP, states: ''The College Cost Reduction Act would hold colleges and universities financially responsible for unpaid Federal student loans while delivering direct aid to institutions with low prices and strong student outcomes.'' Cooper notes the key provisions of the bill would save billions while lowering tuition costs. Those include loan repayment assistance.

The bill pares down the confusing array of Federal student loan repayment plans to two: a standard mortgage-style plan and an income-driven repayment plan.

Student loan risk sharing: Colleges, rather than students, are responsible for the cost of repayment assistance. Schools would be required to compensate the government for a portion of the forgiven unpaid interest associated with their former students.

Performance bonus: Schools may be eligible for new direct payments from the Federal Government known as Promise grants. These payments are determined by a formula that rewards colleges for low-income student enrollment, high graduation rates, low tuition prices, and strong graduate earnings outcomes.

Loan limits: The bill caps aggregate student loan limits at $50,000 for undergraduate students, $100,000 for graduate students, and $150,000 for students in graduate professional programs.

□ 2130

Maximum price guarantee: Colleagues must guarantee that the net tuition that students pay in their first year will not increase in subsequent years, for as long as the student is enrolled at the institution.

College is an investment for families, and they should know that graduates are receiving a financial return.

As such, the centerpiece of this legislation builds off of the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act and measures the return on investment of college programs by comparing the ratio of the total price students were charged relative to the value-added earnings graduates receive from their degree.

Not only does this metric provide a sector-neutral way to assess whether students are better or worse off for enrolling in a given program but provides a measure to which institutions can be held financially responsible or financially rewarded for the outcomes of their students.

This means that, among other actions, institutions can reduce or eliminate the risk-sharing penalties by lowering their price, and in doing so, can become eligible for additional performance-based funding, like PROMISE grants that require that, at a minimum, the total price paid by students is at least equal to the value-added earnings of graduates.

For example, Preston Cooper's analysis of the CCRA highlights several institutions who are promoting economic mobility and would benefit substantially under this legislation—the State Technical College of Missouri, which could receive millions in flexible performance-based PROMISE funding.

In fact, Cooper's analysis finds that almost 90 percent of community colleges would financially benefit under the bill after accounting for risk sharing and PROMISE grants.

Most importantly, the bill benefits students by ensuring that as a condition of receiving PROMISE grants, institutions would provide students an up-front, guaranteed price for their entire degree program.

This means that for up to a maximum of 6 years, colleges would lock in students' tuition, making it far easier to budget needed resources, and also to weigh the cost of postsecondary education against perceived future benefits, such as their value-added earnings.

Policy experts across postsecondary education agree that the CCRA will help lower college costs. Here is what others are saying about it:

Andrew Gillen of the Texas Public Policy Foundation:

''Much is in the College Cost Reduction Act, but the most important changes revolve around transparency, financial aid reforms, deregulation, and accountability. . . .

''Overall, the College Cost Reduction Act would be a dramatic improvement for higher education.''

Michael Brickman of the American Enterprise Institute:

''The College Cost Reduction Act provides the first substantive and comprehensive proposal in years to reform the way colleges and universities are funded and held accountable. There's a lot to like.''

Finally, Beth Akers of the American Enterprise Institute:

''The College Cost Reduction Act represents the largest serious and comprehensive higher education reform package in decades and, in theory, has plenty of bipartisan appeal.''

Everyone can agree that college is too expensive and a temporary Band-Aid like one-time loan bailouts simply won't cut it.

The College Cost Reduction Act is a promise from this Congress to the next generation of students that we are pursuing lasting solutions to the value problem in postsecondary education. It is also a promise to taxpayers that they will no longer be forced to pay for someone else's debt.

You don't have to take our word for it, though. Go listen to and read the mounds of evidence in support of the CCRA. I am proud of the work of the committee to advance this bill, and I look forward to a robust debate upon it reaching the House floor.

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

KLAMATH RIVER DAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) until 10 p.m.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an extremely important project, really a tragedy, that is happening in the very northern part of my district.

This evening, I am joined by my colleague, CLIFF BENTZ, to discuss the Klamath River and the hydroelectric dams that have been around for at least 60 to 100 years providing low-cost, reliable hydroelectric power for many, many residents and up to 70,000 homes.

Now we see the initiation of the destruction of these dams due to filling out the dreams, or what have you, of a handful of environmental groups that have enlisted efforts up there to destroy these dams, ostensibly, to establish a fish population of what is known to be a very warm lake with a lot of FOS feed in it on a very warm river.

Indeed, some of the things that happened to make this system up there work was over 100 years ago an original

reef up in the area there was blown up, and a pathway was carved so that water that would never have gone down the river now it does go down the river.

So there are a lot of facts that we can point out that show this system has actually benefited the river, as well as agriculture and hydroelectric power in the area.

Now there is this major push in this country and in my home State of California to electrify just about everything: Electric vehicles, electric stoves, electric appliances, electric yard equipment, leaf blowers, lawn mowers, everything. They think we are going to electrify all of that at the same time that we are destroying the ability to generate electricity and to deliver it, especially in my home State with these dams being removed, as well as precariously the nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon. They gave it just a 5-year extension recently; that is 9 percent.

So there is a lot of hypocrisy, talking out of both sides of their mouths, really on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, the area that Mr. BENTZ and I represent will be deeply affected negatively by these removals.

My side of the California-Oregon line has three of the dams, and Mr. BENTZ represents the area that has the one largest dam, the JC Boyle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) to talk about some of the effects he is seeing in his district, as well as what that means for agriculture and other things.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAMALFA for allowing me time to address this important issue.

The destruction of the Klamath Dam is a classic case of misdiagnosing the problem and then applying the wrong remedy.

Destroying the dams on the Klamath will not save the salmon. Returning more river habitat to its natural state will not save the salmon. Stealing all the water from farmers and ranchers and putting it in streams will not save the salmon.

Why not?

Because the main problem facing salmon is not the dams. The main problems facing the salmon are the conditions salmon face in the ocean.

There may be, someday, a modest benefit to these fish after the dams have been removed, and when millions upon millions of tax dollars are spent on habitat recovery, but these misplaced efforts will not bring fish runs back.

Whatever the modest improvement might be, it will not be worth the loss of the clean electrical power that has been created by these dams. Certainly, the few additional fish that return will not justify increased flows of water taken from farmers.

Why?

Because, again, habitat is not the issue.

There are hundreds of miles of unused habitat, and the volume of water is not the issue. For the past 20 years, the water flows, using water taken from farmers, exceeded what would have been available in the Klamath River under natural conditions. Despite this additional water, these fish have not recovered.

Again, the problems facing the fish that need to be solved are those found in the ocean. If further evidence of this is needed, look at what has happened on the Elwha River in Washington State. Two dams were removed over 10 years ago, and there has still been no increase in fish.

Who is it really that bears the brunt of the damage occurring as a result of the destruction of these four dams? Who is it that actually suffers?

First and foremost, the fish. They are the real losers in this entirely misdirected exercise. The National Marine Fisheries Service is being derelict in its duty to study and then protect salmon against the challenges they face in the sea.

Secondly, the farmers of the Klamath Basin. These people are truly bearing the costs of shutting down and now removing these dams. First came the loss of the low-cost electrical power generated by the four dams that made possible movement of massive volumes of irrigation and bird refuge water across the Klamath Basin.

Then came the taking of farmers' water to flush fish down the river to the sea, and now the stealing of even more of the farmers' water to clean up, by flushing to the ocean, a huge portion of the 20 million cubic yards of silt and mud left from destruction of the dams.

It is the total loss of the value of the farmers' land, much of it being farmed by third- and fourth-generation family members, that is the real and unforgivable travesty.

This inequitable and unjust consequence of the imposition of the ESA, the Endangered Species Act, must be and will be addressed in the Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

□ 2140

The third problem we face is the millions of costs in dollars by the electrical ratepayers of Oregon and California and the Nation. Remember, the dams are private property. There is a tax adjustment somewhere on the books of PacifiCorp that I am guessing is in the numerous millions.

Finally, the millions upon millions of wildfowl that once used the Klamath refuges as an important part of the Pacific flyway can't. We will not have the thousands of acres of water that once upon a time supplied these birds with clean water delivered by dam-driven electrical pumps.

There are many more victims of removal, but time does not permit further discussion. Sadly, the one predictable thing that is going to emerge from this billion-dollar exercise in self-destruction will be the ultimate conclusion that the salmons' most challenging existential issues are ocean trawler and predation based.

These obvious and inconvenient facts will not be accepted until every drop of water has been wrung out of every farm and ranch in the Klamath, taking with it the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers and cities in the upper reaches of that basin.

The spotted owl debacle was the last time this many thousands of people and businesses were sacrificed up on the altar of flawed science. The last time the ESA ruined this many people's lives, it was loggers and their communities. This time it is the ranchers and farmers, who, according to courts, bureaucrats, and environmentalists, are expendable. I assure you they are not.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BENTZ for his time and leadership on his side of the lineup there. Indeed, it is good to work together and spotlight and fight the fight on this.

Indeed, it will not help the people in the area who have largely not been listened to. When seminars are held up there, they are excluded unless they are shown to be willing to go along with this, which is tragic and unjust.

Pictured here is one of the still existing dams. One is gone. This is one of the remaining Copco dams, as well as the Boyle up north of it a little more and then the Iron Gate farther south.

You can already see what they call dewatering, where they have drained the lake behind that. You can see—it may be hard on this camera here—this black plume of muck and crud that are on either side of the dam as the lake was drained. Eighty or 100 years' worth of silt have built up, and so now you see that building up all through the system of the Klamath River, the area they claim to be saving and making as a salmon habitat.

This is not an impressionist painting here. This is actually is a blown-up photograph of how the river looks presently. It is this black, rolling—basically black water. I am not talking about the Doobie Brothers song either. It is not that positive. This is a very ugly situation, full of sediment, full of algae and other things that have been sitting at the bottom of the lake for a long time.

Wherever this makes its way down to the plume—which is at least 130 miles now; 130 miles of the Klamath River looks like this. What it has done to the wildlife in the area, the fish or the wildlife that would come down to the water and drink from it—the fish kills on this are just appalling. Again, what we are talking about is the whole effort to ostensibly save fish and create a habitat for them.

You can see here in this photo; this is the main stem of the river. This is a tributary filling in here. This water is still off-color a little bit because it is wintertime flows, but you can see that greenish, bluish color there. This is the brown and black stuff that is coming

down the main stem where they have done the work already. It is appalling. It is unbelievable.

Yet, what do we hear from the authorities on this, from Fish and Game and the KRC, as it is known, the shell corporation that was created in order to take the liability from that? At least the FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, ruled that the shell corporation did not have the financial wherewithal to endure what was going to be the full aspect of the possible cost of this.

$450 million was put together more or less to do all this work; $250 million from the taxpayers of California as part of the so-called water bond, and $200 million from the ratepayers of PacifiCorp, mostly in Oregon, have kicked in extra money in their monthly bill to pay for this.

They are expecting cost overruns on something of this magnitude. The States of California and Oregon had to come in basically with a line of credit backing this up, so the taxpayers are going to be on the hook for even more as more and more of the disaster is unleashed upon the whole Klamath system here.

Here is the tragedy right here. As I was starting to mention, the entities involved, Fish and Game, the KRC, on one hand they are saying this loss of wildlife—right here in this photograph are three deer that went out there to drink and got caught in the muck and have basically died this miserable death because they couldn't extract themselves from that. A couple of them, Fish and Game came out and finally just shot them, because they didn't have the facilities to go out and rescue these animals. This is the cost here. This is the cost.

Now, they are claiming on one hand, well, this is unforeseen. How can it be unforeseen if you have a plan here? You say you have a plan. Well, everybody starts out with a plan, right? This isn't going according to plan.

Then, on the other hand, the same groups will tell you it was foreseen that a lot of the yellow perch and other things would be casualties in this, will be collateral damage. Indeed, they tell us they have a plan, but if you are a farmer in the area and you accidentally trap one of these threatened or endangered fish that happens to get into your stream, even though you have fish screens and this and that, in order to go out and water your crops, they come down on you like you are a felon. You lose one fish, and everybody loses their minds over that, but this is an acceptable damage here. This is acceptable to them because the agenda really is about the removal of the dams. It isn't so much about the fish, because you are going to find in the long term, this is not going to work out.

This tragedy you are seeing, this is really, really hurting obviously the wildlife but also really the mental effects to the people who live there, to see and hear these deer bawling out there just outside their homes they have on the Copco Lake area and such.

Here we have some more of the collateral damage. You can see scattered through here some of the dead fish along the shore there. This stuff is so nasty that they can't breathe very long in that. As soon as that plume hits them, as soon as it hits the whole 200 miles of this river, all the way out to the ocean, to the mouth of the Klamath, it is all going to be a killing habitat for them.

How long will it take for all this silt to—the folks involved estimate 6 to 7 million cubic yards. I think the number is going to be more like 20 million cubic yards. When you look at some of the photos there, there is still a lot of residual silt and stuff built up on the banks that has not been swept out of that initial volley when they blast the holes in the bottom of the dam where they had the original drains in construction.

There is much more silt to still affect the system. Guess what, these folks are running on guesses. A lot of this has been based on somebody's term paper a long time ago. When we have had these discussions with folks, they just gloss over the silt. Is it really about saving fish, or is it about collecting four of these trophies, as they brag on and on about this being the largest dam removal project in the history of the country?

They have more on the list. They have more targets. It is dominoes. The extremists in this environmental movement want to continue to topple dams. My colleagues up in Washington are seeing this discussion happening right now with the Snake River. As Mr. BENTZ mentioned, Elwha has already been done, yet they are not seeing the recovered population of fish. Right now we are wiping out the population of fish in there. How long will it take for all of that silt to transition out 200 miles worth of river? How many years?

The lifecycle of the salmon is about 3 years. Will they be able to hold off for 3 years out in the ocean, or will they come back up and try to spawn? Once the entire lifecycle is wiped out, then you don't have that fish anymore.

The flaw in the thinking is indeed this is more about politics. It is political science, not actual science. These folks are hell-bent on removing a lot of infrastructure in this country in Oregon and California because they see this as a sign of progress.

We need to build more water storage in California. We need to have more projects that store the massive amounts of water that right now are escaping to the Pacific Ocean in our so-called atmospheric rivers that are occurring.

□ 2150

Now we are rating them on a number system like we do hurricanes on a 1 through 5 AR. What used to be for a big storm or tropical, pineapple express, now they have a scientific name in order to scare the public with it.

Yes, the conditions are serious. We have high winds right now, and a lot of water, but it is also partly a manipulation by government in order to exercise more control over the water supply and the infrastructure and keep people in just a little bit more fear.

Again, more of the fish they purport to be saving, preserving, and trying to build a population of is for how many years going to be damaged and destroyed by the destruction of just one dam so far?

One of the four is the only one that has been completely destroyed. Others, again, they have started draining from the bottom there, and that is where all this material is coming from.

It is, indeed, unscientific and much more about power and politics.

Over here a little farther away from me, Mr. Speaker, you see many dead fish laying on the shoreline here all through here. There are probably 40 in this picture if it is discernible enough on the camera there.

This is the same all the way up and down; so far about 130 miles of river.

Are we really doing any good here?

Politically, I guess we are, but as far as being real on helping species, I hope this is a case study because there are very few silver linings that we can find coming out of this. The loss of the hydroelectric power, the loss of the locals there, I have hardly even touched on the infrastructure damage locally there because with the drainage just so far in these lakes, people are losing their groundwater wells that have been supported by this water supply. We have wells drying up.

We have our roads all along the edge are having sloughing now. Mr. Speaker, you can see a big crack like an earthquake hit it and split it down the middle. That is sloughing off down there.

The KRC, as well as FERC, are overseeing them supposedly, and they are supposed to be mitigating this. So far, the mitigation fund has disappeared. It is gone. It is not that they spent the money, we can't find the money. We can't find anyone there to talk to. There is no 1–800 number for people to talk about these damages.

As far as people's homes, one lady we are talking to, her home up on the hillside used to overlook beautiful Copco Lake but is now overlooking the mud flats there. It is subject to slippage as well. There are folks with big mortgages there, they still have payments. Also, they still have to pay their taxes, and they are not going to be able to recoup the cost of any of this because now property values have been basically destroyed with the dams.

What are they supposed to do?

KRC and FERC are not coming back in and, indeed, they are reneging on some of the things that were agreed to with FERC as part of this plan. Indeed, it is not a plan. It is political science forced upon these folks. It feels like the people of Siskiyou County and that

region up there, every time there is some great idea in Sacramento on species or on conservation, they are being subject to it.

I say great idea facetiously because these are folks who have been up there, in some cases, six and seven generations producing for all of us. They are producing the food on your table and are helping to be part of the process of producing electricity to keep your lights on. All they want to do is do it honorably and do it well. These aren't drug dealers. These aren't people doing bad things. These are people trying to produce things that Americans need. They are made to feel like criminals, they are made to feel like subjects, and they are made to feel like constant victims because of some idea coming out of an urban area and coming out of somebody wanting to say: Oh, let's conserve wolves now. Let's introduce wolves to the area and we can wipe out the cattle growers that way.

It is not a success so far. They say: Well, that is still to come. It will be better later.

How many years is this going to take?

How many fish generations are going to be wiped out to do this?

As Mr. BENTZ was saying: At what cost?

Because this is still not an ideal river. This river was actually modified to make the flows happen down the river where it used to go to a different zone where there had been a refuge. It was an amazing area for ducks and other wildlife, the Lost River.

So we have lost a lot with this. People actually can do good things, and there is a balance before government steps in at the behest of environmentalists and environmental groups that are manipulating some of our folks in the Tribal community up there to be part of this.

So here, symbolically, this single dead fish, the thing that supposedly we are trying to save, is being wiped out.

A $450 million initial price tag, the loss of electric power, the loss of the people locally of their water supply, their roads, their infrastructure as the people destroying the dams are driving hell-bent all over this place with equipment much heavier than the roads can handle, and there is no plan.

KRC is reneging on what they told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission they would do. So we need to hold their feet to the fire on that.

However, in that the three dams are still existing there, I have this crazy idea: Why don't we just leave them alone?

We have seen just a microcosm, just a taste, of how bad it is going to be for the habitat and the destruction that they are causing by the destruction of the dams.

We are at a point right now that the environmental groups have a choke hold on Sacramento, much of Washington, D.C., the court system with liberal judges who have been appointed who don't listen to anybody and don't listen to science, instead they listen to a handful of folks and don't look at the balance of what it means to the entire community up there and other places around the country.

I only hope that maybe the Supreme Court rulings on some other decisions will help put balance back into the argument on how extreme either the Clean Water Act has been abused, the Endangered Species Act, and other codes and other things that have really not been codified by Congress but given broad powers to these agencies to do as they see fit. What is called the Chevron decision, the Supreme Court will be looking at pretty soon in order to reevaluate just because a Federal agency rules it a certain way doesn't mean they are necessarily infallible. These are human beings too with biases.

The way we see so many things politicized these days, how are we to trust them even more, especially when just common sense and science is showing that this ain't working?

It certainly doesn't work for people. It certainly doesn't work for those who are providing.

Where is the mitigation fund to help the folks?

FERC needs to be helping answer that question. KRC is the shell corporation that was created out of thin air so the utility could leave town and not have the liability. Instead, the liability created was put into a shell corporation, and once that money runs out, the $450 million is taken from taxpayers via the bond and ratepayers from PacifiCorp, and it will run out. They wasted the first $40 or $50 million just talking about and planning for it.

Where does it go from there?

People of the State of California and Oregon will have to follow up with the disaster that will undoubtedly be seen after this with more money out of their pockets for something that at the end of the day was created by their actions.

When this system was put in with the Klamath project which was dedicated to returning World War I veterans to foster agriculture in an area, and, indeed, it was amazing agriculture as long as it lasted, the water flows that come down the Klamath wouldn't even be possible without some of that work that was done. A lot of that water would be lost to basins where, again, it was good for other wildlife, but that water wouldn't be regulateable or getting down the river so you would have the luxury of year-round water flow to meet these demands of flush flows for fish during certain times of the year or for rituals further down the river. We don't have the luxury for that.

So the Klamath Lake is tied into that, the Klamath project is tied into that, and the benefit of having hydroelectric power, which is the greenest, cleanest, and most available baseload power we could get, and we are seeing that slowly being destroyed right now. They want to have it done before the end of the year probably because maybe there will be a change this coming election, and maybe there will be something to stall some of this destruction and nonsense.

If they complete it here, they will keep looking at other places. They will keep looking at the Snake River up there in Washington, another dam over in Mendocino County there which many people rely on in order to supply water to agricultural crops and give flexibility to the system there. They are not going to stop here. They are not going to stop here.

So the timeline, again, they hope to have it accomplished by September, but they are going to run into some problems with that as well with the destruction just on logistics.

We are basing this, again, on unproven science. Salmon populations in other places where dams have been destroyed have not rebounded like they would.

So what is the bang for the buck on this?

As Mr. BENTZ was talking about, how much is happening down river out in the ocean to affect these fish populations that has nothing to do with what a farmer might be doing who might accidentally get a fish?

They have spent plenty of money and made a lot of effort to put fish screens on their intakes or destroying these dams. We are not getting the bang for the buck. People have a part of this too. People are part of the ecology. Hydroelectric power is a beautiful thing. This discussion isn't over by any stretch because they are going to be hell-bent on keeping on doing this and destroying the livelihoods, the economy, and the good that has been up in this area along the Klamath dam.

Now, instead, as I have shown you tonight, Mr. Speaker, is the destruction and the pollution that has come from unleashing this.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, we will be back, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–3031. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Bank Community Development Investments [Docket ID: OCC-2023-0005] (RIN: 1557-AF19) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3032. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final interagency guidance — Principles for Climate-Related Financial Risk Management for Large Financial Institutions [Docket ID: OCC-2022-0023] (RIN: 3064-ZA32) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3033. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: OCC-2023-0012] (RIN: 1557-AF23) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3034. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Community Reinvestment Act [Docket ID: OCC-2022-0002] (RIN: 1557-AF15) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3035. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's correcting amendment — Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances; Correction [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0336; FRL-9525-02-OCSPP] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–3036. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Canton, Cleveland, and Steubenville Second 10-Year 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 Limited Maintenance Plans [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0615; EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0616; EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0617; FRL-11003-02-R5] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–3037. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Linuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0134; FRL-11402-01-OCSPP] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–3038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Florida; Miscellaneous SIP Changes [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0660; FRL-11572-02-R4] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–3039. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Lake and Porter 2008 Ozone NAAQS Maintenance Plan Revision [EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0482; FRL-11618-02-R5] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–3040. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Baicalin in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0065; FRL-11656-01-OCSPP] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC–3041. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter informing congress of action taken consistent with the War Powers Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(c); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(c); (87 Stat. 556) (H. Doc. No. 118—103); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC–3042. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report that the United States as part of a multinational operation alongside the United Kingdom, with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand, conducted discrete strikes in Yemen against facilities, locations, and equipment associated with the Houthis' missile and air surveillance capabilities, unmanned aerial vehicle capabilities, and command and control capabilities, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(c); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(c); (87 Stat. 556) (H. Doc. No. 118—104); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC–3043. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-20, V-222, V-289, V-552, V-569 and V-574, and Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes T-483 and T-485 in the Vicinity of Beaumont, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1528; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-9] (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–3044. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule- Amendment of United States RNAV Route T-251 in the Vicinity of Bowling Green, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2365; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ACE-7] (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–3045. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airway V-4 in the Vicinity of Burley, ID [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2453; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANM-57] (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–3046. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-401 in the Vicinity of Paynesville, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1338; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWP-86] (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–3047. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31523; Amdt. No.: 4093] 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–3048. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31524; Amdt. No.: 4094] 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–3049. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; San Juan, PR [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0052; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-01] (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–3050. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-3801A, R-3801B, and R-3801C; Camp Claiborne, LA, and R-3803A, R-3803B, R-3803C, R-3803D, R-3803E, R-3803F, R-3804A, R-3804B, and R-3804C; Fort Polk, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2544; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-19] (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–3051. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Renaming of Restricted Areas R-6601A, R-6601B, and R-6601C; Fort AP Hill, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2555; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AEA-18] (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–3052. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area R-2512 Holtville, CA; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2220; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-59] (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–3053. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1502; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00380-T; Amendment 39-22634; AD 2023-25-07] (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–3054. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0032; Project Identifier AD-2024-00021-T; Amendment 39-22663; AD 2024-02-51] (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–3055. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Statesboro, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2051; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-38] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 2, 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–3056. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 45W Commercial Clean Vehicles and Incremental Cost for 2024 [Notice 2024-5] 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 Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

(The following action occurred on February 3, 2024)

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. House Resolution 863. Resolution Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, with an amendment (Rept. 118–372). Referred to the House Calendar.

(Submitted February 5, 2024)

Mr. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 994. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–373). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 996. Resolution providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 863) impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 485) to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under Federal health care programs (Rept. 118–374). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. EMMER, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 7217. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 7218. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 7219. A bill to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, 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. STANTON (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas):

H.R. 7220. A bill to establish in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security an EB-5 Regional Center Program Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 7221. A bill to provide for the conservation and designation of habitat connectivity areas, with support from the voluntary conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as American wildlife corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 7222. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 7223. A bill to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration of the United States to develop guidelines to improve returning citizens' access to the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program, to assist individuals in custody of Federal, State, and local prisons in pre-applying or preparing applications for Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards, and to assist individuals requesting an appeal or waiver of preliminary determination of ineligibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 7224. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

H.R. 7225. A bill to restore administrative law judges to the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself and Mr. GOODEN of Texas):

H.R. 7226. A bill to require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 7227. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and 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. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 7228. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to expand the copyright protection provided to architectural works to golf courses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 7229. A bill to appropriate $25,000,000,000 for the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 7230. A bill to amend the definition of extremely low-income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7231. A bill to prohibit Federal support for institutions of higher education that promote antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7232. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to revoke the visas of students who have engaged in antisemitic activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 7233. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for grants in support of training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse among primary and secondary school students.amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for grants in support of training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse among primary and secondary school students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 7234. A bill to ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education includes at least 1 member who is the president of a Tribal College or University and to require the Secretaries of Education and Interior to consider the National Advisory Council on Indian Education's reports in the preparation of budget materials; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 7235. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and cancellations of items of new direct spending and limited tax benefits; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 7236. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 to extend the availability of identity protection coverage to individuals whose personally identifiable information was compromised during recent data breaches at Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7237. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to construct barriers near rail lines that are adjacent to a residential structure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. NICKEL):

H.R. 7238. A bill to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to extend the term of rural housing site loans and clarify the permissible uses of such loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 7239. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to enhance the penalties applicable with respect to certain violations involving the use of interactive computer service to distribute a controlled substance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 7240. A bill to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of claims to water rights in the State of Montana for the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H.R. 7241. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 7242. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the maximum gross loan amount for a loan made under section 7(a) of such Act; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution expressing support for designation of the week of February 5, 2024, through February 9, 2024, as ''National School Counseling Week''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H. Res. 995. A resolution appointing and authorizing managers for the impeachment trial of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 997. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the legacy of Bob Marley; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. OMAR):

H. Res. 998. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 4, 2024, as ''Transit Equity Day''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 7217.

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

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7:

''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 7218.

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 is a single issue bill.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 7219.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of agency rules and guidance.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 7220.

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

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration visa reform

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 7221.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environmental Conservation

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 7222.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 7223.

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

Spending Clause Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 along with the Necessary and Proper Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Judiciary and re-entry issues.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 7224.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

health care

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 7225.

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:

The ALJ Competitive Service Restoration Act restores administrative law judges to the ''competitive service''

By Ms. CROCKETT:

H.R. 7226.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 7227.

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:

To establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 7228.

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 title 17, United States Code, to expand the copyright protection provided to architectural works to golf courses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 7229.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To appropriate funds for and require the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 7230.

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

Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution

''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the definition of extremely low-income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7231.

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 prohibit Federal support for institutions of higher education that promote antisemitism, and for other purposes.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 7232.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To direct the Secretary of State to revoke the visas of students who have engaged in antisemitic activities, and for other purposes
By Mr. MORAN:
H.R. 7233.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To encourage community-based education and training for teachers, caregivers, and students to prevent child sexual abuse.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 7234.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Amend the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.
By Mr. NORMAN:
H.R. 7235.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill establishes expedited legislative procedures for congressional consideration of proposals by the President to rescind funding, cancel a new item of direct spending, or cancel a limited tax benefit.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 7236.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make permanent the free identity protection coverage that Congress required OPM to provide for 10 years to individuals whose Social Security Numbers were potentially compromised during the OPM data breaches.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 7237.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill would establish a grant program for the design and construction of barriers to mitigate rail activity that may harm homes and their occupants, including derailments, noise and vibrations.
By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 7238.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Housing Act of 1949 to extend the term of rural housing site loans to clarify the permissible uses of such loans.
By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 7239.
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:
Combatting drug trafficking in the United States
By Mr. ROSENDALE:
H.R. 7240.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement
By Mr. STAUBER:
H.R. 7241.
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:
The purpose of this bill is to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist rural water system operators.
By Mr. THANEDAR:
H.R. 7242.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: 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;
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Small Business Act to increase the maximum gross loan amount for a loan made under section 7(a) of such Act.
By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:
H.J. Res. 112.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''
The single subject of this legislation is:
Education

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 20: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 30: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 51: Ms. SALINAS and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 55: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 82: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 148: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 333: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 427: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 506: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 603: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 653: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 727: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 766: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 807: Mr. MFUME, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 880: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 895: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 907: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1097: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1100: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1134: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 1179: Mr. MEUSER, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 1191: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 1200: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 1202: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1247: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1263: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1321: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 1403: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1465: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 1480: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 1491: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 1610: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1685: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1705: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1716: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1770: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1788: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1829: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 1833: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 1838: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2377: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 2382: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2407: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 2422: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2540: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2621: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2666: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 2700: Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ALFORD, and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 2713: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2725: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2743: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2808: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2849: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 2851: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 2867: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 2891: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 2941: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2961: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 2974: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3009: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3012: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 3054: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 3056: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 3106: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3179: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3238: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 3277: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 3331: Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 3421: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3433: Mr. CLYDE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 3444: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3470: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 3495: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 3539: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 3548: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3601: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3682: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3713: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3720: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3792: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 3845: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 3934: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3957: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4034: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4035: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 4040: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4175: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4177: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4274: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 4315: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4335: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 4343: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4391: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 4418: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4456: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4524: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4540: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 4585: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4612: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4728: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4760: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4769: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 4858: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 4929: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 4960: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4993: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 4999: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 5041: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 5075: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5077: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5080: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 5096: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 5155: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 5163: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 5199: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5403: Mr. ALFORD, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. CARL.
H.R. 5420: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 5456: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 5530: Mr. ELLZEY and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 5545: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 5577: Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 5611: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5702: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5717: Mrs. LUNA, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 5739: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5799: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5808: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5813: Mr. MFUME, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 5844: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 5867: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5887: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 5909: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 5975: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 5995: Ms. PORTER, Mr. BERA, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6046: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MAST, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 6052: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 6065: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 6078: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6090: Mr. CAREY, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6094: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6128: Mr. CURTIS and Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 6203: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 6227: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 6247: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 6248: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 6283: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 6293: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 6319: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6352: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 6377: Mr. NICKEL, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6378: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 6425: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 6429: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 6431: Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 6451: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 6492: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 6504: Mr. CLOUD and Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 6519: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6524: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6538: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6554: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 6598: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 6603: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 6610: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. MENG, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 6634: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 6645: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.
H.R. 6687: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 6727: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 6750: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6756: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6763: Mr. PENCE and Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 6780: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 6784: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 6789: Mrs. WAGNER and Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 6805: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6815: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 6831: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 6832: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 6888: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 6926: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HUNT.
H.R. 6929: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. BACON, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 6935: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 6937: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6962: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 6963: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 6992: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 6993: Mr. ROY.
H.R. 7015: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 7029: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 7051: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 7059: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 7065: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 7075: Ms. CHU and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 7083: Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 7087: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 7089: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 7109: Mr. OGLES, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FRY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. SELF, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. HERN.
H.R. 7117: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 7118: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 7125: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 7127: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 7136: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 7137: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7151: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7152: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7159: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 7161: Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 7162: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 7163: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 7168: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 7169: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 7193: Ms. MALOY.
H.R. 7202: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 7204: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 7206: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 7209: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 7210: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 7216: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.J. Res. 72: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.J. Res. 80: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.J. Res. 107: Mr. CRANE.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Con. Res. 59: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H. Res. 146: Ms. TITUS and Mr. ALLRED.
H. Res. 539: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H. Res. 627: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H. Res. 709: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MOYLAN.
H. Res. 762: Mr. MAST.
H. Res. 901: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Mrs. DINGELL.
H. Res. 946: Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 962: Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. TITUS.
H. Res. 965: Mr. ISSA, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MAST, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H. Res. 967: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. COMER.
H. Res. 979: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H. Res. 987: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. BICE.
H. Res. 989: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MULLIN.
H. Res. 991: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 993: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *118th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 *No. 20*

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of all nations, illuminate the hearts of our Senators today. Enable them to shine Your light into our Nation and world, not to glorify themselves but to honor You. Give them the power of ethical fitness that will enable them to reinforce lofty rhetoric with righteous actions. As they face daunting challenges, lift the light of Your countenance upon them. Lord, keep them from growing weary in doing what is right as You remind them of the certainty of a bountiful harvest. Help them to see the great results that come from seeking to do Your will.

We pray in Your mighty 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 5, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday evening, after months of persistence, hard work, and arduous negotiations, a bipartisan group of Senators released the text of the emergency national security supplemental package. The bipartisan package is 4 long, tireless months in the making. Everyone worked doggedly to piece this bill together, from Senators to Senate staff, to the Biden administration. I must have called the negotiators hundreds of times, calling every day, multiple times a day.

I want to thank President Biden for his leadership and for making it clear from day one that he was willing to compromise with Republicans to get this agreement done.

I wish to thank my Senate colleagues who worked ceaselessly on this package—including Senators MURPHY, SINEMA, LANKFORD, MURRAY, COLLINS—as well as Secretary Mayorkas and the rest of the administration. And all of our staffs worked so long and so diligently. We are blessed in the Senate to have great, hard-working, dedicated staffs.

Now, at times, I know it seemed as if negotiations would fall off the tracks. Many on the outside rooted loudly for this effort to fail. But everyone persisted and persisted. Even in dark moments, I reminded my colleagues of the immense stakes in this bill, and, to their everlasting credit, they kept moving forward. And now we have a bill.

The $64,000 question now is whether or not Senators can drown out the outside noise, drown out people like Donald Trump who want chaos, and do the right thing for America. I urge Senators of goodwill on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing and tune the chaos out. History is going to look over our shoulders and ask if the Senate rose to the occasion. We must—we must—act.

In a few moments, I will file cloture on the motion to proceed to the vehicle of the national security supplemental. This vote will be the most important that the Senate has taken in a very long time to ensure America's future prosperity and security. That is how important the vote on this national security supplemental is.

Senators should expect the first vote on this bill to come Wednesday. Everyone will have had 3 days to read this bill before taking a vote. We must keep working until the job is done. Passing this bill is too important to let the calendar get in the way.

Getting to this point was never guaranteed. A security package that includes bipartisan border legislation is one of the hardest things the Senate has tackled in years. From the start, I said the only way we would succeed was if both sides were serious about reaching a bipartisan package. I worked very hard to give negotiators the space they needed to do their work and to create an environment where bipartisanship could take root.

Many on the hard right wanted to hijack this process by demanding we take up H.R. 2, but I made clear the

only bill I would bring to the floor was one that could win bipartisan support. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for H.R. 2.

Today, I am proud that, after 4 months of hard negotiations, we indeed have a bipartisan agreement that is a product of compromise, hard work, and persistence. I am hopeful that enough Senators understand that this bill is too important—too important—to let politics get in the way, because, if we fail the Ukrainian people, then Vladimir Putin will likely succeed in his invasion of Ukraine. Putin will be emboldened, and Western democracy will face the greatest threat it has seen in decades.

If we don't help Israel defend itself against Hamas, the dangers of another October 7 will persist, and the war in the Middle East could grow much worse.

If we don't deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, countless of innocent Palestinian civilians will be denied lifesaving assistance that cannot wait.

And if we don't secure our border right now, the crisis our Republican colleagues talk about so much is only—only—going to get worse.

Everyone agrees the border is a mess. For years—years—our Republican colleagues have demanded we fix the border. All along, they said it should be done through legislation. Only recently did they change that, when it looked like we might actually produce legislation.

Well, we are producing legislation in a bipartisan way, and, now, unfortunately, many on the hard right are running, are turning their back on this package. Everyone is asking the same question: Are MAGA Republicans serious about fixing the border or is this merely political?

If Senate Democrats wrote this national security supplemental entirely on our own, of course, it would look different. But we live in an era of divided government, and that means that both sides have to compromise if we want to pass a bill.

This bipartisan agreement is not perfect, but given all the dangers facing America, it is the comprehensive package our country needs right now. It will provide tens of billions in military assistance for Ukraine so they have more access to Javelins, ammunitions, Stingers, howitzers, and more. It gives Israel the security assistance it needs to resist those who wish to wipe a Jewish State off the map. It delivers lifesaving humanitarian assistance—food, water, medicine, clothing—not just for innocent civilians in Gaza but for growing humanitarian needs around the world. And it holds the line against the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific.

It has other items we are very proud of too: hundreds of millions for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to protect synagogues, churches, mosques, HBCUs, and other nonprofit organizations victimized by discrimination and hate. This is something I have worked very hard to secure for years.

It also includes the FEND Off Fentanyl Act, something we worked very hard on to pass in the Defense authorization bill. We are glad it has been included here.

And, of course, thanks to months and months and months of hard work by Senators MURPHY, SINEMA, LANKFORD, MURRAY, and COLLINS, and our staffs, and many, many others who provided their input, this supplemental package is a real opportunity for Congress to finally address America's borders and make progress toward a more efficient and well-resourced system. It will cut years of delay in the asylum process, while ensuring fair outcomes. It will invest in more frontline personnel and provide more funding for the border.

Make no mistake about it. Fixing our immigration system will not finish with this bill. Democrats will keep fighting to reach our ultimate goal of comprehensive immigration reform.

I believe so strongly in comprehensive reform. As you will recall, I led the Gang of 8 in 2013 to pass it, and we will keep fighting for it once our work on this supplemental is done.

In the coming days, I urge Senators on both sides to think carefully about what is at stake in this legislation. This moment, this bill, the actions here in the next few days are an inflection point in history, where the security of our Nation and of the world hangs in the balance. I know a majority of Senators want to get this done, and I know it will take bipartisan cooperation to move quickly. It is not going to be easy, but Senators owe it to the American people to tune out the political noise coming from the outside and do the right thing for our country—our beloved country.

This moment demands the Senate to show leadership. It hearkens back to the decades and moments when Senators did rise to the occasion. It demands the Senate's decisive action. In the coming days, I hope the Senate can, once again, rise to the occasion and lead America forward.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REMOVING EXTRANEOUS LOOPHOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark R. Warner, Michael F. Bennet, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Kyrsten Sinema, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 4 years ago, as a candidate for the Democratic nomination, President Biden promised his base functionally open borders:

I would in fact make sure that . . . we immediately surge to the border all those people who are seeking asylum.

That was President Biden when he took office 3 years ago. As people surged to the border, they insisted that the President had told them to come, and by his actions, we know they were exactly right.

The Biden administration invited a crisis at our southwest border. In the tradition of Washington Democrats dating back decades, they chose an issue over its solution, and then they made it worse. The President of the United States threw out essential border security tools like ''Remain in Mexico,'' froze new funds for commonsense measures like border wall construction, and abandoned the brave men and women of the CPB and ICE to clean up his mess.

President Biden's border crisis has upended life in communities across America. Flows of deadly fentanyl have snuffed out precious lives in States like Kentucky. Catch-and-release has confronted even the bluest so-called sanctuary cities with the harsh realities of unchecked illegal immigration.

For 3 years, the President and his administration have tried to convince the American people not to believe their own eyes. They tried in vain to pretend that we weren't facing a crisis, but the country knows better. This is a humanitarian and security crisis of historic proportions.

Senate Republicans have insisted—not just for months but for years—that this urgent crisis demanded action. Three months ago, we asked our colleague Senator LANKFORD to lead that action. In just the time since Washington Democrats finally decided to join him at the negotiating table, the President's border crisis made history all over again. December saw the highest daily and monthly tallies of illegal border crossings ever on record. The crisis has literally never been worse. This is the reality as the Senate begins careful consideration of the border security agreement announced last night.

The gaping hole in our Nation's sovereign borders on President Biden's watch is not going to heal itself, and the crater of American credibility after 3 years of the President's foreign policy will not repair itself either.

Today, our adversaries are emboldened. As terrorists and authoritarian thugs challenge the strongest military in the world, our Commander in Chief is hesitant—hesitant—and self-deterred. It is long past time for the President to demonstrate more resolve and start imposing decisive costs on those who dare to attack America, and it is now time for Congress to take action on supplemental national security legislation that finally meets those challenges head-on.

I have spoken at length for months about the urgent need to invest in American hard power, stand with our allies, and start showing our adversaries that the world's foremost superpower intends to start acting like one again.

My colleagues know where I stand. They know as well as I do that America's adversaries in Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran are working together to undermine us, and they know that the time has finally come for the Senate to respond with strength.

The national security legislation we are preparing to take up will invest heavily in the capabilities and capacity America and our allies need to regain the upper hand over this emerging axis of authoritarians. Make no mistake, the gauntlet has been thrown, and America needs to pick it up.

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 Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am heartened and encouraged that there is finally a bipartisan agreement to provide Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and Taiwan critical funding to meet their urgent national security and humanitarian needs. It should have happened months ago, but Republicans demanded that any discussion of this assistance be tied to changes in border policy here in the United States, using national security as a bargaining chip and gambling, sadly, with people's lives. The future and fate of Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific hung in the balance.

Last week, the European Union reached an agreement to provide an additional $54 billion to stand by Ukraine and shore up its war-ravaged economy, bringing the total European Union support to well over $100 billion and comparable to what the United States has done.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin continues to think he has more resolve than we do, reveling in his belief that Western democracy is unable to sustain its rejection of Russian tyranny. But more than just Putin, other destabilizing forces around the world are watching what we do, from Iran to North Korea. We must prove to them our commitment to democratic ideals.

Our response to Putin's aggression has consequences—not just in Ukraine or even in Russia but global and historic consequences. In fact, NATO's Secretary General Stoltenberg recently issued a very plain warning to all of us in the West. He said:

> If Putin wins . . . there is a real risk that his aggression will not end there.

Putin will continue to wage his war beyond Ukraine. Further, if other despots sense Western weakness, they will be emboldened to attempt their own aggression.

Stoltenberg went on to say:

> Our support is not charity. It is an investment in our security.

It is time for Speaker Johnson and Republicans to realize that bipartisanship is the only—the only—way to ensure that Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and innocent civilians in Gaza will receive critical, lifesaving assistance.

Let's not flinch when it comes to standing up to such obvious threats to democracy and the rule of law. The world is watching. That is why we must pass this national security package.

But this agreement also addresses our immigration policy. And let me be clear. We do need to fix our disastrous immigration laws and secure the border. That has been a fact for more than three decades. That is why I have worked for years to pass bipartisan legislation that would fix our immigration system.

Leader SCHUMER came to the floor earlier and recalled the time when the so-called Gang of 8—four Democrats and four Republicans—worked for months to put together a measure which passed with a bipartisan rollcall on the floor of the Senate. I was honored to be part of that effort.

This bill that we have before us includes important measures, such as a one-time increase in green cards and protections for the children of H–1B visa holders who age out of legal status when they turn 21.

I am deeply, deeply disappointed that this bill does not include a path to citizenship for Dreamers, recipients of temporary protected status, farmworkers, or other essential people who have spent years contributing to our society. These individuals fill a critical role in America.

A study showed that undocumented immigrants—undocumented immigrants—pay nearly $80 billion in Federal and $40 billion in State and local taxes every single year. Many of these immigrants were brought to the United States as children. They don't know any other home. Yet, without congressional action, they spend each day in fear of being deported.

Madam President, 12 years ago, in response to a bipartisan request from myself and the late Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, President Obama established the DACA Program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. It really was a reflection of the DREAM Act, which I had introduced over 20 years ago.

DACA has protected more than 800,000 young people from deportation, all of whom arrived in our country as children. These young people are known today as Dreamers. They grew up alongside our kids, and many have gone on to serve our Nation as servicemembers, doctors, first responders. They believe in the American dream.

I have come to the floor of the Senate 138 times—this is it—to tell their stories. I don't think there is any more compelling argument to be made for the Dreamers and DACA than to let people know exactly who they are, what they have done, and what they dream of.

This is a story of a young woman who came to America at the age of 4, Alyssandra Abrenica. She first arrived in Orange County, CA, from the Philippines, and she vividly remembers sharing a single, tiny room with all six of her family members.

While attending college, Alyssandra discovered a passion for healthcare, and she applied to the only medical school which was accepting Dreamers at the time, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. In 2020, she was accepted to the school and received one of the first of the American Medical Association's DREAM MD Equity Scholarships, which is given to DACA recipients or first-generation immigrants to study medicine.

DACA was always intended to be a temporary solution, and since President Obama established the program, Republicans, for reasons I cannot explain to you in any political or human terms, have waged a relentless campaign to overturn it and to deport these Dreamers back to countries they may not even remember.

Last September, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal. Although the decision left in place protections for current DACA recipients like Alyssandra while the appeal is pending, they live in fear the next court decision will end their careers and upend their lives.

Until a permanent solution is written into law, Alyssandra's service to her community is at risk, as is the service of other Dreamers who work as teachers, doctors, engineers, and in so many more important professions. The permanent solution is enacting the DREAM Act, a piece of legislation which I have mentioned that I introduced two decades ago. It would provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers across America and allow them to live stable lives and to live out the American dream, which they richly deserve.

Immigrants have been a vital part of the American success story. Our Nation still needs them. If DACA is struck down, experts predict that our economy will lose over $11 billion a year in lost wages. Moreover, as we face a decreasing population and shortages of medical professionals, immigrants can help mitigate that gap. Without continued immigration, the U.S. working-age population will shrink by over 6 million by the year 2040. As Americans retire, this could lead to a 23-percent reduction in monthly Social Security payouts to retirees. Remember, these immigrants, even undocumented, and Dreamers are paying taxes and paying into Social Security for us, for our children, for the next generation.

To resolve these challenges, we need to create additional lawful pathways for immigrants while also providing legal status for our undocumented population who have been here for decades. That is why good-faith efforts to reform and improve our broken immigration system cannot stop with this bill.

Madam President, I think about the situation with these Dreamers and what they are facing and how many of them I have met over the years. When I first introduced the bill, they used to come up to me in Chicago, wait until it got dark outside so that no one would see them, and they would whisper to me: ''I am a Dreamer. Can you help me?''

It became a cause for me, and certainly I have worked at it. I am disappointed that I cannot tell a story of success even greater than we have achieved with DACA. But they are still waiting to hear.

This bill that we are considering gives some help to what they call documented Dreamers. Here is how it works. The H–1B visa is offered to foreign experts and professionals to come to the United States and work for 3 years—renewable 3 years. They can bring their families with them.

A lot of people from China, from India, and from other places come and take some critically important jobs in our economy under this program of H–1B. They are accompanied by their families. They continue to work, extending year after year, in the hopes that eventually they will become citizens themselves of the United States through what is called a green card. While they are doing this, their spouses cannot legally work in many instances, and their children are running a real risk.

You see, when these kids reach the age of 21, they are no longer eligible to stay with their families. Now, these kids could have spent their whole lives in America because their families came here. They could have gone to school and succeeded over and over again. But to have a future in America, they need a green card. And if they don't get it by age 21, they are eligible for deportation.

Does that make any sense at all? Well, this bill starts to solve that problem. And I certainly support the efforts to solve it and applaud those who are behind it.

But the same conditions apply to Dreamers, brought here as little children. They were raised in the United States, went to school in the United States, stood up and pledged allegiance to that flag in the classroom every single morning. And they asked to be a part of our future. They did nothing wrong. They were kids when they were brought here. Why they weren't included in this bill, I don't know.

I am sorry to say, I think there are a few Senators who are just dead-set on stopping the Dreamers and DACA every chance they get. What a loss that would be to America—for us to lose that talent, that drive, that determination, that important part of our future. And what a commentary it is on us as Americans that our Nation of immigrants has no room for Alyssandra and so many others who can make this a better nation.

There are thousands of them. There were 800,000 under DACA, initially; and there are many more who are still eligible. I am sorry this bill does not include that provision for the Dreamers. But I will tell you this: I will fight for every opportunity I have to bring the Dream Act before the U.S. Senate in the hope that one day we will give these young people exactly what they deserve—part of America's future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was scheduled to begin in 3 minutes start immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

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.

NOMINATION OF JOSEPH ALBERT LAROSKI

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Joseph Laroski to the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Mr. Laroski earned his B.S.F.S. from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. After graduating, he clerked for Judge Dominick L. DiCarlo on the Court of International Trade. Following his clerkship, Mr. Laroski joined the firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom as an associate. During his time in private practice, Mr. Laroski represented a host of clients, including domestic companies, international producers and exporters, industry associations, U.S. importers, and trade unions. He has also spent 9 years in the Federal Government, serving as associate general counsel at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, advisor to the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. International Trade Commission, and Director of Police and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Police and Negotiations at the International Trade Administration. In these roles, he represented the United States in dispute settlements under free trade agreements, served as agency counsel on import injury investigations, advised senior Department of Commerce officials on trade policy matters, and oversaw negotiation and compliance efforts on international trade agreements.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Laroski has handled trade matters before the International Trade Commission, the Court of International Trade, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the World Trade Organization, and regional trade agreement dispute bodies.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Laroski ''qualified.'' His extensive experience in international trade litigation, both in private practice and the Federal Government, ensures that he will be an asset to the Court of International Trade. I will vote in favor of his confirmation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON LAROSKI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Laroski 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted ''yea'' and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted ''yea.''

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 34 Ex.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Boozman	Johnson	Schmitt
Britt	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Butler	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lankford	Smith
Casey	Lee	Stabenow
Collins	Luján	Tester
Coons	Markey	Thune
Cortez Masto	Marshall	Tuberville
Cotton	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Vance
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mullin	Warnock
Ernst	Murkowski	Welch
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young
Hagerty	Paul	
Hassan	Peters	

NOT VOTING—24

Barrasso	Cruz	Ricketts
Blackburn	Daines	Risch
Braun	Fetterman	Romney
Budd	Hawley	Rubio
Capito	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Cassidy	Lummis	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cramer	Moran	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. 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 available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such 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(6)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24–07, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of India for defense articles and services estimated to cost $3.99 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. 24–07

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: Government of India.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* $1.70 billion.
Other $2.29 billion.
Total $3.99 billion.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Thirty-one (31) MQ–9B Sky Guardian Aircraft.
One hundred sixty-one (161) Embedded Global Positioning & Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs).
Thirty-five (35) L3 Rio Grande Communications Intelligence Sensor Suites.
One hundred seventy (170) AGM–114R Hellfire Missiles.
Sixteen (16) M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).
Three hundred ten (310) GBU–39B/B Laser Small Diameter Bombs (LSDB).
Eight (8) GBU–39B/B LSDB Guided Test Vehicles (GTVs) with live fuzes.
Non-MDE: Also included are Certifiable Ground Control Stations; TPE–331–10–GD engines; M299 Hellfire missile launchers; KIV–77 cryptographic appliques and other Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; KOR–24A Small Tactical Terminals (STT); AN/SSQ–62F, AN/SSQ–53G, and AN/SSQ–36 sonobuoys; ADU–891/E Adapter Group Test Sets; Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT) Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); GBU–398/B tactical training rounds, Weapons Load Crew Trainers, and Reliability Assessment Vehicles Instrumented; Portable Pre-flight/Post-flight Equipment (P3E); CCM–700A encryption devices; KY–100M narrowband/wideband terminals; KI–133 cryptographic units; AN/PYQ–10 Simple Key Loaders; Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders; ROVER 6Si and TNR2x transceivers; MR6000 ultra high frequency (UHF) and very high frequency (VHF) radios; Selex SeaSpray Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance radars; HISAR–300 radars; SNC 4500 Auto Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) Systems; SAGE 750 ESM systems; Due Regard Radars (DRR); MX–20 Electro-Optical Infrared (EO–IR) Laser Target Designators (LTDs); Ku-Band SATCOM GAASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES); C–Band Line-of-Sight (LOS) Ground Data Terminals; AN/DPX–7IFF transponders; Compact Multi-band Data Links (CMDL); initial spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; munitions support and support equipment; testing and integration support and equipment; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; warranties; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (IN–D–SAF).

(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: February 1, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Anns Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

India—MQ–9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft

The Government of India has requested to buy thirty-one (31) MQ–9B Sky Guardian aircraft; one hundred sixty-one (161) Embedded Global Positioning & Inertial Navigation Systems (EGis); thirty-five (35) L3 Rio Grande Communications lntelligence Sensor Suites; one hundred seventy (170) AGM–114R Hellfire missiles; sixteen (16) M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); three hundred ten (310) GBU–39B/B Laser Small Diameter Bombs (LSDB); and eight (8) GBU–398/B LSDB Guided Test Vehicles (GTVs) with live fuzes. Also included are Certifiable Ground Control Stations; TPE–331–10–0D engines; M299 Hellfire missile launchers; KIV–77 cryptographic appliques and other Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; KOR 24A Small Tactical Terminals (STT); AN/SSQ–62F, AN/SSQ–53G, and AN/SSQ–36 sonobuoys; ADU–891/E Adapter Group Test Sets; Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT) Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); GBU–39B/B tactical training rounds, Weapons Load Crew Trainers, and Reliability Assessment Vehicles-Instrumented; Portable Preflight/Post-flight Equipment (P3E); CCM–700A encryption devices; KY–100M Narrowband/wideband terminals; KI–133 cryptographic units; AN/PYQ–10 Simple Key Loaders; Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders; ROVER 6Si and TNR2x transceivers; MR6000 ultra high frequency (UHF) and very high frequency (VHF) radios; Selex SeaSpray Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance radars; HISAR–300 Radars; SNC 4500 Auto Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) Systems; SAGE 750 ESM systems; Due Regard Radars (DRR); MX–20 Electro-Optical Infrared (EO–IR) Laser Target Designators (LTDs); Ku–Band SATCOM GAASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES); C-Band Line-of-Sight (LOS) Ground Data Terminals; AN/DPX–7 IFF transponders; Compact Multi-band Data Links (CMDL); initial spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; munitions support and support equipment; testing and integration support and equipment; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; warranties; studies, and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $3.99 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to strengthen the U.S.-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defensive partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enabling unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance patrols in sea lanes of operation. India has demonstrated a commitment to modernizing its military and 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 contractor will be General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Poway, CA. 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 India.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–07

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 MQ–9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is a weapons-ready aircraft designed for Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance (MALE); Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR); Target Acquisition; and Strike Missions. The MQ–9B RPA is not a USAF program of record, but has close ties to, and builds upon, the proven success of the MQ–9A Reaper. The MQ–9B is a highly modular, easily configurable aircraft that contains the necessary hard points, power, and data connections to accommodate a variety of payloads and munitions to meet multiple missions—including counter-land, counter-sea, and anti-submarine strike operations. The system is designed to be controlled by two operators within a Certifiable Ground Control Station (CGCS). The MQ–9B is able to operate using a direct Line-of-Sight (LOS) dtalink or Beyond Line-of-Sight (BLOS) through satellite communications (SATCOM). The MQ–9B system can be deployed from a single site that supports launch, recovery, mission control, and maintenance. The system also supports remote-split operations where launch, recovery, and maintenance occur at a Forward Operating Base and mission control is conducted from another location or Main Operating Base (MOB).

a. The Honeywell TPE–331–10–GD is a turboprop engine with power output ranging from 429 to 1,230 kW.

b. The M-Code capable Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI), with an embedded GPS Precise Positioning Service (PPS) Receiver Application Module-Standard Electronic Module (GRAM–S/M), is a self-contained navigation system that provides acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. The embedded GRAM–S/M enables access to both the enrypted P(Y) and M-Code signals, providing protection against active spoofing attacks, enhanced military exclusivity, integrity, and anti-jam.

c. The MX–20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multispectral, multi-field-of-view (FOV) Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) targeting system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft in real time and may be recorded for subsequent analysis.

2. The Ground Control Station (GCS) can be either fixed or mobile. The fixed GCS is enclosed in a customer-specified shelter. It incorporates workstations that allow operators to control and monitor the aircraft, as well as record and exploit downlinked payload data. The mobile GCS allows operators to perform the same functions and is contained on a mobile trailer. Workstations in either GCS can be tailored to meet customer requirements.

3. L3 Rio Grande capabilities meet rigorous mission requirements for small, manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platforms. Rio Grande intercepts, locates, monitors, and records communications signals using a common set of software applications. Rio Grande operates open architecture design, supports third-party special signals applications, real-time audio recording and playback, and a three-dimensional display of the area of interest.

4. The AGM–114R Hellfire is a missile equipped with a Semi-Active Laser (SAL) seeker that homes-in on the reflected light of a laser designator. The AGM–114R can be launched from higher altitudes than previous variants because of its enhanced guidance and navigation capabilities, which include a Height-of-Burst (HOB) proximity sensor. With its multi-purpose warhead, the missile can destroy hard, soft, and enclosed targets. The sale will include Captive Air Flight Training Missiles (CATM), which are inert devices used for training to handle Hellfire missiles.

5. The GBU–39B/B Laser Small Diameter Bomb (LSDB) All Up Round (AUR) is a 250-pound OPS and semi-active laser guided, small autonomous, day or night, adverse weather, conventional, air-to-ground precision glide weapon able to strike fixed and stationary, relocatable, non-hardened targets from standoff ranges. The LSDB's laser guidance set enables the weapon to strike moving targets. 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–pound bomb. The Guided Test Vehicle, Reliability Assessment Vehicle-Instrumented, Tactical Training Round (TTR), and Weapons Load Crew Trainer are LSDB configurations with telemetry kits or inert fills in place of the warhead, and are used to test the LSDB weapon system or for flight and ground crew training.

6. The M299 launcher provides a mechanical and electrical interface between the Hellfire missile and aircraft.

7. The KIV–77 is a cryptographic applique for IFF. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

8. The KOR–24A Small Tactical Terminal is a command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

9. AN/SSQ–62F is a sixth-generation, Directional Command Active Sonobuoy System (DICASS) sonobuoy used for detecting and localizing submarines. The DICASS sonobuoy can provide both range and bearing to the target for accurate position fixing. Like the AN/SSQ–62E, the AN/SSQ–62F sonobuoy can support any of the four acoustic frequencies as selected via the Electronic Function Select.

10. AN/SSQ–53G is a sonobuoy which combines a passive directional and calibrated wide-band omni capability into a single multi-functional sonobuoy. It features both Electronic Function Select (EFS) for use prior to loading and launching and Command Function Select (CFS) to allow the operator to modify the sonobuoy's modes of operation after it has been deployed in the water.

11. AN/SSQ–36 is a sonobuoy which provides vertical temperature profiles for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) applications to evaluate local effects of seawater temperature on sonar propagation and acoustic range prediction.

12. The Portable Pre-flight/Post-flight Equipment (P3E) is used by the ground crew at the MQ–9B operating sites to interface with the aircraft for performing maintenance functions. The P3E is a ruggedized computer assembly that interfaces directly

with the aircraft via a cable and provides functionality for conducting pre and post-flight checks, and to establish the aircraft on the SATCOM datalink for handover to the flight crew in the Ground Control Station. The ADU–891 Adapter Group Test Set provides the physical and electrical interface between the Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) and the missile.

13. Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and-report BIT results and 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.

14. The KY–100M is a cryptographic-modernized lightweight terminal for secure voice and data communications. The KY–100M provides wideband and narrowband half-duplex communication. Operating in tactical ground, marine, and airborne applications, the KY–100M enables secure communication with a broad range of radio and satellite equipment.

15. The KI–133 is used with a MQ–9B unique radio implementation, specifically using X Band. The KI–133 does not operate with a modem and is not a radio, rather it is an inline encryptor utilizing the KIV 700A for encryption and decryption.

16. 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.

17. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder provides maritime patrol and Search and Rescue (SAR) aircraft with the ability to track and identify AIS-equipped vessels over a dedicated very high frequency (VHF) data link. AIS is a key component of any maritime ISR network and offers maritime authorities with the ability to better coordinate air and sea search, rescue, surveillance, and interdiction operations.

18. The L3Harris ROVER 6Si and TNR2x transceivers provide real-time, full-motion video (FMV) and other network data for situational awareness, targeting, battle damage assessment, surveillance, relay, convoy overwatch operations, and other situations where eyes-on-target are required. 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.

19. The SAGE 750 Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) System is a UK-produced, digital electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensor which analyzes the electromagnetic spectrum to map the source of active emissions. Using highly accurate Direction Finding (DF) antennas, SAGE builds target locations and provides situational awareness, advance warning of threats, and the ability to cue other sensors.

20. The Selex SeaSpray is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance radar suitable for a range of capabilities from long-range search to small target detection.

21. HISAR–300 radar provides superior long range, real-time, high-resolution imaging and wide area search capability for overland and maritime surveillance missions, day or night and in all weather conditions.

22. The SNC 4500 Auto Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) System is a digital electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensor which analyzes the electromagnetic spectrum to map the source of active emissions. Using highly accurate Direction Finding (DF) antennas, the SNC 4500 builds target locations and provides situational awareness, advance warning of threats, and the ability to cue other sensors.

23. Due Regard Radar (DRR) is a collision avoidance air-to-air radar. DRR is a key component of GA-ASI's overall airborne Detect and Avoid System (DAAS) architecture for the MQ–9B. By tracking non-cooperative aircraft, DRR enables a collision avoidance capability onboard the RPA and allows the pilot to separate the aircraft from other air traffic in cooperation with Air Traffic Control (ATC).

24. The AN/DPX–7 is an Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder used to identify and track aircraft, ships, and some ground forces to reduce friendly fire incidents.

25. The MR6000 ultra high frequency (UHF) and very high frequency radio (VHF) is a multi-band, portable, two-way communication radio.

26. The C-Band Line-of-Sight (LOS) Ground Data Terminals and Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES) provide command, control, and data acquisition for the MQ–9B.

27. The Compact Multi-band Data Link (CMDL) is a miniaturized, high-performance, wide-band data links operating in Ku, C, L, or S-band, with both analog and digital waveforms. It is interoperable with military and commercial products including Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) terminals, the complete line of ROVER systems, and coded orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (COFDM) receivers.

28. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

29. 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.

30. A determination has been made that India 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.

31. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to India.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MONONA COUNTY IRON

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Monona County Iron of Mapleton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2005, Monona County Iron was founded in Mapleton as a single building on Sioux Street. Over the years, the small business has expanded from a handful of employees to multiple buildings with more than 40 employees. Monona County Iron provides tungsten inert gas welding services to the manufacturing, construction, and automotive industries, as well as fabrication and metalworking services for projects in Texas, Washington, and across the Midwest.

Monona County Iron facility is active in the Mapleton and Monona County communities, and the team proudly supports the Maple Valley-Anthon Oto community schools. Recently, they fabricated the ''MVAOCOU'' letters for the school district with students in Mr. Miller's Construction Systems class. In addition to supporting local schools, Monona County Iron contributes to the Monona County Fair. In 2023, they sponsored the Monona County Iron Award trophies. The team has also collaborated with the Monona County Farm Bureau, the Monona County Cattlemen's Association, Monona County 4–H, and the Monona County Demolition Derby. Due to the hard work of leadership and employees, the business celebrated its 19th business anniversary in 2024.

Monona County Iron's commitment to giving back and providing high-quality services is clear. I want to congratulate the entire team for their continued dedication to excellence in their field and for supporting future generations. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING MOODY AIR FORCE BASE 38TH AND 41ST RESCUE SQUADRONS

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the extraordinary efforts of the airmen assigned to the 38th and 41st Rescue Squadrons of Moody Air Force Base, GA, for their lifesaving mission conducted on December 1, 2023.

On this day, these squadrons demonstrated skill, readiness, and unwavering dedication to their motto and mission. Facing a life-or-death medical emergency in North Florida, the Rescue Squadrons were called in to assist with a rapid patient transport from Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast Hospital in Miramar Beach, FL, to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, as adverse weather conditions rendered all civilian aerial transportation options infeasible. The squadron's ability to conduct search and rescue operations in challenging weather conditions, where civilian resources could not, highlights the unique and indispensable role they play in our Nation's emergency response framework.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend and celebrate the heroic actions of the 38th and 41st Rescue Squadrons at Moody Air Force Base and thank them for their service to our country.●

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA CHACON

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Victoria Chacon for her leadership, commitment to local journalism, and passion for keeping Georgia's Latino community informed.

Born in Chancay, Peru, Ms. Chacon arrived in the United States without speaking any English. She worked many different jobs in construction, commercial and residential cleaning, and maintenance in Atlanta before becoming a small business owner in the cleaning and maintenance industry. She later founded Atlanta's first bilingual newspaper, La Vision, which is now distributed across the State of Georgia. Ms. Chacon has dedicated more than 30 years to helping the Latino community in Georgia.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Victoria Chacon for her leadership, her work to uplift Georgia's Latino community, and her commitment to keeping Georgia's Spanish-speaking community informed.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDY MURPHY

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Judy Murphy for her commitment to the well-being of residents across Augusta.

● For nearly two decades, Ms. Murphy has been volunteering at nursing and retirement communities across the Augusta area. Her weekly craft class at Thrive Senior Living in Augusta is frequently attended because of her passion and commitment to serving her community. Ms. Murphy recently received WJBF Augusta's Giving Your Best award after being nominated by Thrive's Social Network director, Robbie Harrell. As a retired nurse, Ms. Murphy remains committed to a life of service and finds joy in the life lessons and friendships she has earned because of her commitment to doing good.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Judy Murphy for her service and commitment to her community.●

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD SANDERS

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Harold ''Harry'' Sanders III for being named the 2022–2023 Georgia Logger of the Year.

A third-generation logger, Mr. SANDERS serves as vice president of Sanders Logging Company based in Cochran, GA.

The Georgia Forestry Association—GFA—and Southeastern Wood Producers Association—SWPA—bestowed Mr. SANDERS the award in recognition of his company's work and involvement in the community. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Mr. SANDERS took over daily operations of the family business in 2014 after receiving his B.S. in forestry from the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend and congratulate Harold ''Harry'' Sanders III, the 2022–2023 Georgia Logger of the Year.●

RECOGNIZING GRANNIES ON GUARD

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Grannies on Guard for their work to keep the Chattahoochee River Valley safe.

Grannies on Guard was cofounded in 2021 by Charlie Adams and Rasheeda Ali, who lost her grandson Jaleel Rasheed Ali to gun violence. Their organization works to create a positive community environment for children ages 5 to 12. Partnering with parents, schools, civic and faith-based organizations, Grannies on Guard helps provide an alternative to gangs and violence through monthly meetings and community events at no cost to families.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I commend Rasheeda Ali, Charlie Adams, and the Grannies on Guard team for their work in the Columbus community and for their commitment to our children.●

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LLOYD MICHAEL AUSTIN

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, many of our veterans come home with scars, including scars you can't see. After fighting America's battles, they come home to fight their own personal battles. One American warrior who knows this well is SGT Lloyd Michael Austin of Mobile.

He grew up in a military family, the son of a World War II veteran. After graduating from Williamson High School, he enlisted in the Army to continue his dad's legacy of military service. Sergeant Austin deployed overseas during Desert Storm and Desert Shield. There, he drove a truck for multiple combat missions. After being diagnosed with PTSD from his time in combat, Sergeant Austin returned home to Alabama.

He found himself fighting a different war, as he struggled with substance abuse. He became isolated from family and friends, and even attempted to take his life. Thankfully, he survived and found help. Now, after more than 17 years sober, Sergeant Austin uses his own experience to help others. He works with Vets Recover, where he helps veterans struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. He is also a pastor at Love Me Anyway Ministries.

Sergeant Austin visits hospitals and treatment centers to encourage people, with special help from his poodle and service dog Ivy. His story has given hope to many Alabamians during some of the darkest moments in their lives. Alabama is grateful to have compassionate servant leaders like Sergeant Austin. It is my honor to recognize him as the February Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 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. 6678. An Act to amend the immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed Social Security fraud are inadmissible and deportable.

H.R. 6976. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 6678. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed Social Security fraud are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

**EC–3445 was mistitled when printed in the Congressional Record of February 5, 2024. A RECORD correction has been made. For that reason, the Senate considers this EC to have been received on February 12, 2024.*

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3445. A communication from the Director of Oversight, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay'' ((RIN0579–AE73) (Docket No. APHIS–2018–0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3446. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report to Congress on the Presidential $1 Dollar Coin Program''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3447. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13882 with respect to Mali; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3448. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13566 with respect to Libya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3449. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3450. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Principles for Climate-Related Financial Risk Management for Large Financial Instructions'' (Docket No. OP–1793) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3451. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Principles for Climate-Related Financial Risk Management for Large Financial Institutions'' (RIN3064–ZA32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3452. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Reinvestment Act'' (RIN7100–AG29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3453. A communication from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of Law Enforcement and Security, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act Regulations; Exemptions for Investigative Records'' (RIN1090–AB27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3454. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.73 Rev 2, 'Qualification of Safety-Related Actuators in Production and Utilization Facilities''' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3455. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''HOLTEC International Topical Report HI–2210161, 'Topical Report on the Radiological Fuel Qualification Methodology for Dry Storage Systems''' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3733. 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3734. A bill to require submission of the National Security Strategy and the budget of the President before the President may deliver the State of the Union address; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 60. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Turkiye of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 542. A resolution supporting the observation of ''National Girls & Women in Sports Day'' on February 7, 2024, to raise awareness of and celebrate the achievements of girls and women in sports; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 703

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 703, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the redistribution of residency slots under the Medicare program after a hospital closes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) 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. 1187

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to establish the right to counsel, at Government expense for those who cannot afford counsel, for people facing removal.

S. 1199

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1199, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry.

S. 1654

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1654, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting certain positive consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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. 3374

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3374, a bill to waive General Schedule qualification standards related to work experience for nurses at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

S. 3681

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3681, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the recruitment and retention of paraprofessionals in public elementary schools, secondary schools, and preschool programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3708

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) 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. 3723

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3723, a bill to prohibit funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 542—SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF ''NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY'' ON FEBRUARY 7, 2024, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS

Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms.

HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 542

Whereas ''National Girls & Women in Sports Day'' began in 1987 as a day to recognize and acknowledge the success and progress of girls and women in sports;

Whereas athletic participation helps develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills, and opportunities for athletic participation should be available to all individuals;

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting equality, it is imperative to eliminate the existing disparities between male and female youth athletic programs;

Whereas the share of athletic participation opportunities of high school girls has increased more than sixfold since the enactment of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as ''title IX''), but high school girls still experience—

(1) a lower share of athletic participation opportunities than high school boys; and

(2) a lower level of athletic participation opportunities than high school boys enjoyed over 50 years ago;

Whereas 60 percent of high school girls participate in a sport;

Whereas the share of women participating in college sports has nearly tripled since the enactment of title IX, but female college athletes still comprise only 44 percent of the total collegiate athlete population, 30 percent of whom are white women and only 14 percent of whom are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (referred to in this preamble as ''BIPOC'') women;

Whereas, in 1971, women coached 90 percent of collegiate women's teams, but as of 2024, women coach only 41.2 percent of all National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as ''NCAA'') women's teams and BIPOC women represent only 7 percent of head coaches;

Whereas there is a need to restore women to those positions to ensure fair representation and provide role models for young female athletes;

Whereas, for too long, the many achievements of women in sports have not received fair recognition;

Whereas the long history of women in sports in the United States—

(1) features many contributions made by female athletes that have enriched the national life of the United States; and

(2) includes inspiring figures, such as Billie Jean King, Flo Hyman, Gertrude Ederle, Wilma Rudolph, Althea Gibson, Mildred Ella ''Babe'' Didrikson Zaharias, Mary Lou Retton, and Patty Berg, whose stories and adversity faced have helped strengthen women sports by—

(A) advancing participation by women in sports; and

(B) setting positive examples for the generations of female athletes who continue to inspire people in the United States today;

Whereas the United States must do all it can to break down the barriers of discrimination, inequality, and injustice in sports;

Whereas girls and young women in minority communities are doubly disadvantaged because—

(1) schools in minority communities have fewer athletic opportunities than schools in predominately White communities; and

(2) the limited resources for athletic opportunities in minority communities exacerbates the existing gender inequity between girls and boys;

Whereas the 4-time World Cup champion United States Women's National Soccer Team has led the fight domestically and internationally for equal treatment and compensation for female athletes;

Whereas United States women athletes will compete on the world stage in 2024 at the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics;

Whereas, with the recent enactment of laws such as the Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–340), Congress has taken steps—

(1) to ensure all athletes representing the United States in global competition receive equal pay and benefits regardless of gender; and

(2) to represent to the world, and especially young girls, that everyone deserves equal pay and benefits; and

Whereas, with increased participation by women and girls in sports, it is more important than ever to continue protecting title IX and upload the mandate of the law of equitable and fair treatment and more general principles of gender equity throughout the sport system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing ''National Girls & Women in Sports Day'' on February 7, 2024, to recognize—

(A) all women athletes who represent schools, universities, and the United States in their athletic pursuits; and

(B) the vital role that the people of the United States have in empowering girls and women in sports;

(2) marking the observation of National Girls & Women in Sports Day with appropriate programs and activities, including legislative efforts—

(A) to build on the success of the Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–340) and ensure equal pay for all female athletes; and

(B) to protect and uphold title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) so that future generations of athletes will not have to experience the inequitable and unfair treatment that many athletes have had to endure, and continue to endure, today; and

(3) all ongoing efforts—

(A) to promote gender equity in sports, including equal pay and equal access to athletic opportunities for girls and women; and

(B) to support the commitment of the United States to expanding athletic participation for all girls and future generations of women athletes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1386. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1386. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Emergency National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Army'', $207,158,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Marine Corps'', $3,538,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Air Force'', $23,302,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Military Personnel, Space Force'', $4,192,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Army'', $4,887,581,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Navy'', $1,534,163,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $976,405,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $557,758,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps'', $69,045,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'', $846,869,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Space Force'', $8,443,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide'', $34,230,780,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situations in Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan and for related expenses: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $13,772,460,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative: *Provided further,* That such funds for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative shall be available to the Secretary of Defense under the same terms and conditions as are provided for under this heading in the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328), and shall be available notwithstanding section 8135 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023 (division C of Public Law 117–328) or any similar provision in any other Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense: *Provided further,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, up to $4,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings ''Operation and Maintenance'', ''Procurement'', and ''Revolving and Management Funds'' for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the Government of Israel or to foreign countries that have provided support to Israel at the request of the United States: *Provided further,* That up to $13,414,432,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings ''Operation and Maintenance'', ''Procurement'', and ''Revolving and Management Funds'' for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the Government of Ukraine or to foreign countries that have provided support to Ukraine at the request of the United States: *Provided further,* That up to $1,900,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings ''Operation and Maintenance'', ''Procurement'', and ''Revolving and Management Funds'' for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the Government of Taiwan or to foreign countries that have provided support to Taiwan at the request of the United States: *Provided further,* That funds transferred pursuant to the preceding three provisos shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of such transfers not less than 15 days before any such transfer: *Provided further,* That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back and merged with this appropriation: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Missile Procurement, Army'', $2,742,757,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Procurement of Ammunition, Army'', $6,414,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $801,400,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $5,612,900,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Army'', $308,991,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Weapons Procurement, Navy'', $706,976,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy'', $2,155,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, funds shall be available as follows:

Columbia Class Submarine (AP), $1,955,000,000; and

Virginia Class Submarine (AP), $200,000,000: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Navy'', $319,570,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $26,000,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $293,570,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Marine Corps'', $212,443,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Missile Procurement, Air Force'', $366,001,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Other Procurement, Air Force'', $2,808,678,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for other expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Procurement, Defense-Wide'', $5,246,780,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $4,000,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $1,200,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Beam defense system to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That funds in the preceding provisos shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters and are in addition to funds provided pursuant to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading in this Act shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems or for the procurement of the Iron Beam defense system: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $46,780,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For an additional amount for ''Defense Production Act Purchases'', $331,200,000, to remain available until expended, for activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4518, 4531, 4532, and 4533): *Provided*, That such amounts shall be obligated and expended by the Secretary of Defense as if delegated the necessary authorities conferred by the Defense Production Act of 1950: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army'', $18,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy'', $20,825,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $13,825,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $7,000,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force'', $406,834,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for ''Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide'', $194,125,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for ''Office of the Inspector General'', $8,000,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, which shall be for operation and maintenance of the Office of the Inspector General, including the Special Inspector General for Operation Atlantic Resolve, to carry out reviews of the activities of the Department of Defense to execute funds appropriated in this Act, including assistance provided to Ukraine: *Provided*, That the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RELATED AGENCIES

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for ''Intelligence Community Management Account'', $2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to $1,000,000,000 only between the appropriations or funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

(b) Upon the determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to $250,000,000 only between the appropriations or funds made available in this title for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That the Director of National Intelligence shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8093 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

SEC. 102. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate on measures being taken to account for United States defense articles designated for Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly measures with regard to such articles that require enhanced end-use monitoring; measures to ensure that such articles reach their intended recipients and are used for their intended purposes; and any other measures to promote accountability for the use of such articles: *Provided*, That such report shall include a description of any occurrences of articles not reaching their intended recipients or used for their intended purposes and a description of any remedies taken: *Provided further*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing United States security assistance provided to Ukraine since the February 24, 2022,

Russian invasion of Ukraine, including a comprehensive list of the defense articles and services provided to Ukraine and the associated authority and funding used to provide such articles and services: *Provided*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 104. For an additional amount for the Department of Defense, $2,440,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for transfer to military personnel accounts, operation and maintenance accounts, procurement accounts, research, development, test and evaluation accounts, and the Defense Working Capital Funds, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, only for U.S. operations, force protection, deterrence, and the replacement of combat expenditures in the United States Central Command region: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided under this section may be obligated or expended until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense provides to the congressional defense committees an execution plan: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon transfer, the funds shall be merged with and available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 105. For an additional amount for the Department of Defense, $542,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for transfer to operation and maintenance accounts, procurement accounts, and research, development, test and evaluation accounts, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, only for unfunded priorities of the United States Indo-Pacific Command for fiscal year 2024 (as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code): *Provided*, That none of the funds provided under this section may be obligated or expended until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense, through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), provides the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed execution plan for such funds: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon transfer, the funds shall be merged with and available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

SCIENCE

For an additional amount for ''Science'', $98,000,000, to remain available until expended, for acquisition, distribution, and equipment for development and production of medical, stable, and radioactive isotopes: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For an additional amount for ''Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation'', $143,915,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Federal Salaries and Expenses'', $5,540,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously appropriated under the heading ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy'' in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) that were made available for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, up to $2,720,000,000 shall be available, in addition to amounts otherwise available, for necessary expenses to carry out the Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31)): *Provided*, That if insufficient unobligated balances are available from such fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024 amounts to fund a total amount for such purpose of up to $2,720,000,000, then up to $800,000,000 from amounts previously appropriated under the heading ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy'' in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) that are made available for fiscal year 2025, may be made available, in additional to amounts otherwise available, for such purpose to meet such total amount: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section may be transferred to ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—American Energy Independence Fund'' in either fiscal year 2024 or fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred by this section shall be subject to the same authorities and conditions as if such section were included in the Department of Energy title of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other similar transactions with public agencies and private organizations and persons, as authorized by section 646(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7256(a)), for such periods of time and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate, without regard to section 161(u) of Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201(u)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from the sale or transfer of LEU and HALEU or from any other transaction in connection with the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section shall hereafter be credited to the ''American Energy Independence Fund'' as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That receipts may hereafter be collected from transactions entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(iii) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(iii)) and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from any transaction entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii)) shall hereafter be credited to the ''American Energy Independence Fund'' as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advanced in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use funds repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section for a commitment only if the full extent of the anticipated costs stemming from that commitment is recorded as an obligation at the time that the commitment is made and only to the extent that up-front obligation is recorded in full at that time: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

(b) Amounts may not be repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section until a law is enacted or administrative action is taken to prohibit or limit importation of LEU and HALEU from the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity into the United States.

(c) The Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31)) is amended—

(1) in subsections (f)(1)(B)(i) and (h)(4)(B)(i) to read as follows:

''(i) may not make commitments under this subsection (including cooperative agreements (used in accordance with section 6305 of title 31, United States Code), purchase agreements, guarantees, leases, service contracts, or any other type of commitment) for the purchase or other acquisition of HALEU or LEU unless funds are specifically provided for those purposes in advance in appropriations Acts enacted after the date of enactment of this Act; and''; and

(2) in subjection (j) to read as follows:

''(j) REASONABLE COMPENSATION.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that any LEU and HALEU made available by the Secretary under 1 or more of the Programs is subject to reasonable compensation, taking into account the fair market value of the LEU or HALEU and the purposes of this section.''.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support'', $10,000,000, to remain

available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the administration of nonprofit security grants: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance'', $390,000,000, of which $160,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2024, and $230,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, for Nonprofit Security Grant Program under section 2009 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609a) for eligible nonprofit organizations to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism or other threats: *Provided,* That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall make programmatic adjustments as necessary to expedite the disbursement of, and provide flexibility in the use of, amounts made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding any provision of 6 U.S.C. 609a, and in addition to amounts available under 6 U.S.C. 609a(c)(2), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may permit a State to use up to two percent of a grant awarded under this heading in this Act to provide outreach and technical assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist them with applying for Nonprofit Security Grant Program awards under this heading in this Act: *Provided further,* That such outreach and technical assistance should prioritize rural and underserved communities and nonprofit organizations that are traditionally underrepresented in the Program: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Refugee and Entrant Assistance'', $2,334,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980: *Provided,* That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants or contracts with qualified organizations, including nonprofit entities, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including wraparound services, housing assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, and case management assistance: *Provided further,* That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used by the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (Director) to issue awards or supplement awards previously made by the Director: *Provided further,* That the Director, in carrying out section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1552(c)(1)(A)) with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, may allocate such amounts among the States in a manner that accounts for the most current data available: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 401. Section 401(a)(1)(A) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–128) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2023'' and inserting ''September 30, 2024'': *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE V

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $281,914,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided,* That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further,* That such funds may be obligated or expended for planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE VI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''Diplomatic Programs'', $210,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and areas and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Worldwide Security Protection, including to respond to the situation in Israel and areas impacted by the situation in Israel: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for ''Office of Inspector General'', $12,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'', $50,000,000, to remain available until expended, to meet unforeseen emergencies arising in the Diplomatic and Consular Service, as authorized: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Operating Expenses'', $39,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for ''Office of Inspector General'', $13,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''International Disaster Assistance'', $5,655,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs in response to the situations in Israel and Ukraine, including the provision of emergency food and shelter, and for assistance for other vulnerable populations and communities: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For an additional amount for ''Transition Initiatives'', $25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for ''Economic Support Fund'', $7,899,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $7,849,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine, which may include budget support and which may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available for budget support pursuant to the preceding proviso may be made available for the reimbursement of pensions: *Provided further,* That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $50,000,000 shall be to prevent and respond to food insecurity: *Provided further,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPE, EURASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

For an additional amount for ''Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia'', $1,575,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance and related programs for Ukraine and other countries identified in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801) and section 3(c) of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5402(c)): *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'', $3,495,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs and assist refugees in response to the situations in Israel and Ukraine, and for assistance for other vulnerable populations and communities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'', $375,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $300,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso may be made available to support the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and National Police of Ukraine, including units supporting or under the command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $75,000,000 shall be for assistance for the Middle East, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, including to enhance law enforcement capabilities, counter terrorism, combat narcotics trafficking, and meet other critical partner requirements: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the prioritization of demining efforts and how such efforts will be coordinated with development activities: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for ''Peacekeeping Operations'', $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for a United States contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai to enhance force protection capabilities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for ''Foreign Military Financing Program'', $7,100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $3,500,000,000 shall be for assistance for Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the Government of Israel requests that funds be used for such purposes, grants made available for Israel under this heading in this Act shall, as agreed by the United States and Israel, be available for advanced weapons systems, of which up to $769,300,000 may be available for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services: *Provided further*, That the limitation in the preceding proviso may be exceeded, if agreed by the United States and Israel, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That any congressional notification requirement applicable to funds made available under this heading in this Act for Israel may be waived if the Secretary of State determines that to do so is in the national security interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $2,000,000,000 shall be for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $1,600,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act and unobligated balances of amounts made available under this heading in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for fiscal year 2024 and prior fiscal years shall be available for the cost of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by section 2606 of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division N of Public Law 117–103), subject to the terms and conditions provided in such section, or as otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That loan guarantees made using amounts described in the preceding proviso for loans financed by the Federal Financing Bank may be provided notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the percentage of loan principal that may be guaranteed: *Provided further*, That up to $5,000,000 of funds made available under this heading in this Act, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used by the Department of State for necessary expenses for the general costs of administering military assistance and sales, including management and oversight of such programs and activities: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

For an additional amount for ''Contribution to the International Development Association'', $250,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be made available for a contribution to the International Development Association Special Program to Enhance Crisis Response Window: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 601. During fiscal year 2024, up to $250,000,000 of funds deposited in the Consular and Border Security Programs account in any fiscal year that are available for obligation may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by any Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs under the headings ''Diplomatic Programs'' (including for Worldwide Security Protection) and ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'' for emergency evacuations or to prevent or respond to security situations and related requirements: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and any such transfers are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 602. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1)) shall be applied by substituting ''$7,800,000,000'' for ''$100,000,000''.

SEC. 603. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(2)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2)(B)) shall be applied by substituting ''$400,000,000'' for ''$200,000,000'' in the matter preceding clause (i), and by substituting ''$150,000,000'' for ''$75,000,000'' in clause (i).

SEC. 604. During fiscal year 2024, section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348a(c)(2)) shall be applied by substituting ''$50,000,000'' for ''$25,000,000''.

SEC. 605. Section 12001 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287) is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (2) of subsection (a), by striking ''armor'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''defense articles that are in the inventory of the Department of Defense as of the date of transfer, are intended for use as reserve stocks for Israel, and are located in a stockpile for Israel as of the date of transfer''.

(2) In subsection (b), by striking ''at least equal to the fair market value of the items transferred'' and inserting ''in an amount to be determined by the Secretary of Defense''.

(3) In subsection (c), by inserting before the comma in the first sentence the following: '', or as far in advance of such transfer as is practicable as determined by the President on a case-by-case basis during extraordinary circumstances impacting the national security of the United States''.

SEC. 606. For fiscal year 2024, section 514(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)) shall not apply to defense articles to be set aside, earmarked, reserved, or intended for use as reserve stocks in stockpiles in the State of Israel.

SEC. 607. Unobligated balances from amounts appropriated in prior Acts under the heading ''Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contributions to the International Monetary Fund Facilities and Trust Funds'' shall be available to cover the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a), of loans made by the Secretary of the Treasury only to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust of the International Monetary Fund, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $21,000,000,000 in the aggregate, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to make such loans.

SEC. 608. Section 17(a)(6) of the Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C. 286e–2(a)(6)) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2025'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''.

SEC. 609. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''International Disaster Assistance'' and ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'' may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under such headings.

(b) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''Economic Support Fund'' and

''Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia'' to respond to the situation in Ukraine and in countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine may be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the headings ''United States International Development Finance Corporation—Corporate Capital Account'', ''United States International Development Finance Corporation—Program Account'', ''Export-Import Bank of the United States—Program Account'', and ''Trade and Development Agency'' for such purpose.

(c) Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'' for assistance for countries in the Middle East may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', ''Peacekeeping Operations'', and ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' for such purpose.

(d) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

(e) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

SEC. 610. Section 1705 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328) shall apply to funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' for assistance for Ukraine.

SEC. 611. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title in this Act may be made available for assistance for the Governments of the Russian Federation or Belarus, including entities owned or controlled by such Governments.

SEC. 612. (a) Section 2606 of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division N of Public Law 117–103) is amended as follows:

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies'' and inserting '', North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, major non-NATO allies, and the Indo-Pacific region''; by striking ''$4,000,000,000'' and inserting ''$8,000,000,000''; and by striking '', except that such rate may not be less than the prevailing interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar maturity''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''and NATO allies'' and inserting '', NATO allies, major non-NATO allies, and the Indo-Pacific region; by striking ''$4,000,000,000'' and inserting ''$8,000,000,000''; and by inserting at the end of the second proviso ''except for guarantees of loans by the Federal Financing Bank''.

(b) Funds made available for the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees for major non-NATO allies and the Indo-Pacific region pursuant to section 2606 of division N of Public Law 117–103, as amended by subsection (a), may only be made available from funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' and available balances from under such heading in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs: *Provided,* That such funds may only be made available if the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees, not less than 15 days prior to the obligation of such funds, that such direct loan or loan guarantee is in the national security interest of the United States, is being provided in response to exigent circumstances, is addressing a mutually agreed upon emergency requirement of the recipient country, and the recipient country has a plan to repay such loan: *Provided further,* That not less than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with such committees on the implementation of this subsection.

(c) Amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 613. Funds appropriated under the headings ''Economic Support Fund'' and ''Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia'' in this title in this Act may be made available as contributions, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 614. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division and division B of this Act, and prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs, may be made available for a contribution, grant, or other payment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

SEC. 615. (a) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall certify and report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than March 1, 2024, that—

(1) oversight policies, processes, and procedures have been established by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, and are in use to prevent the diversion, misuse, or destruction of assistance, including through international organizations, to Hamas and other terrorist and extremist entities in Gaza; and

(2) such policies, processes, and procedures have been developed in coordination with other bilateral and multilateral donors and the Government of Israel, as appropriate.

(b) OVERSIGHT POLICY AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, concurrent with the submission of the certification required in subsection (a), a written description of the oversight policies, processes, and procedures for funds appropriated by this title that are made available for assistance for Gaza, including specific actions to be taken should such assistance be diverted, misused, or destroyed, and the role of Israel in the oversight of such assistance.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO INFORM.—The Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall promptly inform the appropriate congressional committees of each instance in which funds appropriated by this title that are made available for assistance for Gaza have been diverted, misused, or destroyed, to include the type of assistance, a description of the incident and parties involved, and an explanation of the response of the Department of State or USAID, as appropriate.

(d) THIRD PARTY MONITORING.—Funds appropriated by this title shall be made available for third party monitoring of assistance for Gaza, including end use monitoring, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading ''Office of Inspector General'' for the Department of State, $7,000,000 shall be made available for the oversight and monitoring of assistance made available for Gaza by this title and in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs.

(2) UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading ''Office of Inspector General'' for USAID, $3,000,000 shall be made available for the oversight and monitoring of assistance made available for Gaza by this title and in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the initial obligation of funds appropriated by this title that are made available for assistance for Gaza, and every 90 days thereafter until all such funds are expended, the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the amount and purpose of such assistance provided during each respective quarter, including a description of the specific entity implementing such assistance.

(g) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2025, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and other heads of elements of the intelligence community that the Secretary considers relevant, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing whether funds appropriated by this title and made available for assistance for the West Bank and Gaza have been diverted by Hamas or other terrorist and extremist entities in the West Bank and Gaza: *Provided,* That such report shall include details on the amount and how such funds were made available and used by such entities: *Provided further,* That such report may be submitted in classified form, if necessary.

(h) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act but prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title for humanitarian assistance for Gaza, the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the amount and anticipated uses of such funds.

SEC. 616. Prior to the initial obligation of funds made available in this title in this Act, the Secretary of State, USAID Administrator, and the Secretary of the Treasury, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations—

(1) spend plans, as defined in section 7034(s)(4) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117–328), at the country, account, and program level, for funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''Economic Support Fund'', ''Transition Initiatives'', ''Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia'', ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'', ''Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', ''Peacekeeping Operations'', ''Foreign Military Financing Program'', and ''Contribution to the International Development Association'': *Provided,* That plans submitted pursuant to this paragraph shall include for each program notified—(A) total funding made available for such program, by account and fiscal year; (B) funding that remains unobligated for such program from prior year base or supplemental appropriations; (C) funding that is obligated but unexpended for such program; and (D) funding committed, but not yet notified for such program; and

(2) operating plans, as defined in section 7062 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117–328), for funds appropriated by this title

under the headings ''Diplomatic Programs'', ''Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service'', and ''Operating Expenses''.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 701. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 702. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 703. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 704. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a strategy regarding United States support for Ukraine against aggression by the Russian Federation: *Provided*, That such strategy shall be multi-year, establish specific and achievable objectives, define and prioritize United States national security interests, and include the metrics to be used to measure progress in achieving such objectives: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include an estimate, on a fiscal year-by-fiscal year basis, of the resources required by the United States to achieve such objectives, including to help hasten Ukrainian victory against Russia's invasion forces in a manner most favorable to United States interests and objectives, and a description of the national security implications for the United States if those objectives are not met: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall describe how each specific aspect of U.S. assistance, including defense articles and U.S. foreign assistance, is intended at the tactical, operational, and strategic level to help Ukraine end the conflict as a democratic, independent, and sovereign country capable of deterring and defending its territory against future aggression: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include a classified independent assessment from the Commander, U.S. European Command, describing any specific defense articles and services not yet provided to Ukraine that would result in meaningful battlefield gains in alignment with the strategy: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include a classified assessment from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the provision of specific defense articles and services provided to Ukraine does not pose significant risk to the defense capabilities of the United States military: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment in coordination with the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation provide an assessment of the executability and a production schedule for any specific defense articles recommended by the Commander, U.S. European Command that require procurement: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include information on support to the Government of the Russian Federation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People's Republic of China, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, related to the Russian campaign in Ukraine, and its impact on such strategy: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall be updated not less than quarterly, as appropriate, until September 30, 2025, and such updates shall be submitted to such committees: *Provided further*, That unless otherwise specified by this section, such strategy shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 705. (a) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees, in classified form, if necessary, on the status and welfare of hostages being held in Gaza.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the following:

(1) The Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(3) The Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(4) The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 706. Funds appropriated by this division and division B of this Act for foreign assistance (including foreign military sales), for the Department of State, for broadcasting subject to supervision of United States Agency for Global Media, and for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for the purposes of section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 707. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 708. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This division may be cited as the ''National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024''.

DIVISION B—BORDER SECURITY AND COMBATTING FENTANYL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

For an additional amount for ''Executive Office for Immigration Review'', $440,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amounts provided under this heading in this Act, $404,000,000 shall be for Immigration Judge Teams, including appropriate attorneys, law clerks, paralegals, court administrators, and other support staff, as well as necessary court and adjudicatory costs, and $36,000,000 shall be for representation for certain incompetent adults pursuant to section 240(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(e)): *Provided further*, That not more than 3 percent of the funds available for representation for certain incompetent adults in the preceding proviso shall be available for necessary administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That with the exception of immigration judges appointed pursuant to section 1003.10 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, amounts provided under this heading in this Act for Immigration Judge Teams may not be used to increase the number of permanent positions: *Provided further*, That the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities'', $11,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses of the Criminal Division associated with the Joint Task Force Alpha's efforts to combat human trafficking and smuggling in the Western Hemisphere: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

For an additional amount for ''United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention'', $210,000,000, to remain available until expended, for detention costs due to enforcement activities along the southern and northern borders: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses'', $204,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for expenses related to the analysis of DNA samples, including those samples collected from migrants detained by the United States Border Patrol: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Drug Enforcement Administration—Salaries and Expenses'', $23,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to enhance laboratory analysis of illicit fentanyl samples to trace illicit fentanyl supplies back to manufacturers, to support Operation Overdrive, and to bolster criminal drug network targeting efforts through data system improvements: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE, SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, AND OVERSIGHT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''Office of the Secretary and Executive Management—Operations and Support'', $33,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which $30,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses relating to monitoring, recording, analyzing, public reporting on, and projecting migration flows and the impacts policy changes and funding have on flows and related resource requirements for border security, immigration enforcement, and immigration services and of which $3,000,000 shall be for the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman for reporting and oversight relating to expanded detention capacity: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support'', $6,008,479,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $3,860,363,000 shall be for operational requirements relating to migration surges along the southwest border, counter-fentanyl activities, necessary expenses at ports of entry, reimbursement to the Department of Defense for border operations support, and other related expenses, of which $3,148,262,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2024; $584,116,000 shall be for the hiring of U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel; $139,000,000 shall be for overtime costs for U.S. Border Patrol; $25,000,000 shall be for familial DNA testing; and $1,400,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance'' to support sheltering and related activities provided by non-Federal entities through the Shelter and Services Program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'', $758,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $424,500,000 shall be for acquisition and deployment of non-intrusive inspection technology, $260,000,000 shall be for acquisition and deployment of border security technology, and $74,000,000 shall be for acquisition and deployment of air assets: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support'', $7,600,833,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $3,230,648,000 shall be for increased custodial detention capacity, $2,548,401,000 shall be for increased removal flights and related activities, including short-term staging facilities, $534,682,000 shall be for hiring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel, and $1,287,102,000 shall be for increased enrollment capabilities and related activities within the Alternatives to Detention program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance'', $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for Operation Stonegarden: *Provided*, That not less than 25 percent of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act shall be for States other than those located along the southwest border: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Operations and Support'', $3,995,842,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $3,383,262,000 shall be for hiring and associated costs, $112,580,000 shall be for non-personnel operations, including transcription services, and $500,000,000 shall be for facilities: *Provided further*, That such amounts shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes, and shall not be construed to require any reduction of any fee described in section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)): *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTERS

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for ''Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers—Operations and Support'', $50,703,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, $49,603,000 shall be for training-related expenses, to include instructors, tuition, and overhead costs associated with the delivery of basic law enforcement training and $1,100,000 shall be for the necessary mission support activities and facility maintenance required for law enforcement training: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for ''Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'', $6,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses of construction and improvements to existing facilities required to conduct training for Federal law enforcement personnel: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 201. (a) The Secretary shall, by March 1, 2025, and quarterly thereafter, provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report describing changes in performance metrics and operational capabilities relating to border security, immigration enforcement, and immigration services, and the relationship of those changes to actual and projected encounters on the southwest border.

(b) The report required by subsection (a) shall also include an analytic assessment of how policy changes and resources provided in this title of this Act impact efficiencies and resource needs for—

(1) other programs within the Department; and

(2) other Federal Departments and agencies.

SEC. 202. (a) Amounts made available in this Act under the heading ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'' for acquisition and deployment of border security technology shall be available only as follows:

(1) $170,000,000 for the procurement and deployment of autonomous surveillance towers systems in locations that are not currently covered by such systems or technology, as defined in subsection (d);

(2) $47,500,000 for the procurement and deployment of mobile surveillance capabilities, including mobile video surveillance systems and for obsolete mobile surveillance equipment replacement, counter-UAS, and small unmanned aerial systems;

(3) $25,000,000 for subterranean detection capabilities;

(4) $7,500,000 for seamless integrated communications to extend connectivity for Border Patrol agents; and

(5) $10,000,000 for the acquisition of data from long duration unmanned surface vehicles in support of maritime border security.

(b) None of the funds available under subsection (a)(1) shall be used for the procurement or deployment of border security technology that is not autonomous.

(c) For the purposes of this section, ''autonomous'' and ''autonomous surveillance tower systems'' are defined as integrated software and/or hardware systems that utilize sensors, onboard computing, and artificial intelligence to identify items of interest that would otherwise be manually identified by personnel.

(d) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan for the use of the funds available under subsection (a)(1) and such expenditure plan shall include the following:

(1) the number and type of systems that will be procured;

(2) the U.S. Border Patrol sectors where each system will be deployed;

(3) a timeline for system deployments, including a timeline for securing necessary approvals and land rights;

(4) estimated annual sustainment costs for the systems; and

(5) other supporting information.

SEC. 203. (a) Amounts made available in this Act under the heading ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'' for acquisition and deployment of non-intrusive inspection technology shall be available only through an open competition occurring after the date of enactment of this Act to acquire innovative technologies that improve performance, including through the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities.

(b) Beginning on March 1, 2025, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly update on the impacts of deployments of additional non-intrusive inspection technology on key performance metrics and operational capabilities and such expenditure plan shall include the following:

(1) the percentage of passenger and cargo vehicles scanned;

(2) the percentage of seizures of narcotics, currency, weapons, and ammunition, and other illicit items at inbound and outbound operations at ports of entry, checkpoints, and other locations as applicable; and

(3) the impact on U.S. Customs and Border Protection workforce requirements resulting from the deployment of additional non-intrusive inspection technology.

SEC. 204. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management at the Department of Homeland Security shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure and hiring plan for amounts made available in this title of this Act.

(b) The plan required in subsection (a) shall not apply to funds made available in this Act under the heading ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance'' or to funds transferred by this Act to such heading.

(c) The plan required in subsection (a) shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate every 30 days and no later than the 5th day of each month to reflect changes to the plan and expenditures of funds until all funds made available in this title of this Act are expended or have expired.

(d) None of the funds made available in this title of this Act may be obligated prior to the submission of such plan.

SEC. 205. The remaining unobligated balances, as of the date of enactment of this Act, from amounts made available under the heading ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements'' in division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–93) and described in section 209(a)(1) of such division of that Act and division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) and described in section 210 of such division of that Act are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded pursuant to this section is hereby appropriated, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2028, and shall be available for the same purposes and under the same authorities and conditions for which such amounts were originally provided in such Acts: *Provided*, That none of the funds allocated for pedestrian physical barriers pursuant to this section may be made available for any purpose other than the construction of steel bollard pedestrian barrier built at least 18 to 30 feet in effective height and augmented with anti-climb and anti-dig features: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the term ''effective height'' refers to the height above the level of the adjacent terrain features: *Provided further*, That none of the funds allocated for pedestrian physical barriers pursuant to this section may be made available for any purpose other than construction of pedestrian barriers consistent with the description in the first proviso at locations identified in the Border Security Improvement Plan submitted to Congress on August 1, 2020: *Provided further*, That the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may reprioritize the construction of physical barriers outlined in the Border Security Improvement Plan and, with prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, add additional miles of pedestrian physical barriers where no such barriers exist, prioritized by operational requirements developed in coordination with U.S. Border Patrol leadership: *Provided further*, That within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing how the funds will be used, by sector, to include the number of miles to be built: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation until the Secretary submits the report detailed in the preceding proviso.

SEC. 206. (a) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and monthly thereafter, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (in this section, referred to as the ''Director'') shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate data detailing the number of weekly removal flights conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the cost per flight, the number of individuals by nationality on each flight, the average length of time by nationality between when the individual was removed and when the individual's final order of removal was issued, and the number of empty seats on each flight.

(b) The Director shall also provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate data detailing the number of voluntary repatriations coordinated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the costs associated with each repatriation, the number of individuals by nationality, the average length of time by nationality between when the individual was removed and when the individual's final order of removal was issued, and the number of individuals that have opted into this program still awaiting repatriation.

SEC. 207. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act and weekly thereafter, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (in this section referred to as the ''Director'') shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan to increase custodial detention capacity using the funds provided for such purpose in this title of this Act, until such funds are expended.

(b) The plan required by subsection (a) shall also include data on all detention capacity to which U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has access but cannot use, the reason that the capacity cannot be used, and a course of action for mitigating utilization issues.

(c) The Director shall provide notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the plan required by subsection (a) of any planned facility acquisitions, cost data, utilization rates, increase of average daily population, and notice of any termination or reduction of a contract for detention space, whether such actions are funded by this Act or any other Act for this or prior fiscal years.

(d) The Director shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not less than 30 days prior to the planned date of a contract termination or implementation of a reduction in detention capacity.

SEC. 208. None of the funds provided in this title of this Act for ''U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations Support'' may be used for community-based residential facilities.

SEC. 209. (a) Prior to the Secretary of Homeland Security (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') requesting assistance from the Department of Defense for border security operations, the Secretary shall ensure that an alternatives analysis and cost-benefit analysis is conducted that includes data on the cost effectiveness of obtaining such assistance from the Department of Defense in lieu of other options.

(b) The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, a report detailing the types of support sought by the Secretary in any request for assistance from the Department of Defense for border security operations and the operational impact of such request on Department of Homeland Security operations within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter.

(c) The Secretary shall include with the data requested in subsection (b) the results of the alternatives analysis and cost-benefit analysis required under subsection (a).

SEC. 210. Eligibility for funding made available by this title of this Act for transfer from ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support'' to ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance'' for the Shelter and Services Program shall not be limited to entities that previously received or applied for funding for the Shelter and Services Program or the Emergency Food and Shelter-Humanitarian program.

SEC. 211. Of the total amount provided under the heading ''U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support'' in this title of this Act for transfer to ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance'' for the Shelter and Services Program—

(1) not more than $933,333,333 shall be available for transfer immediately upon enactment of this Act;

(2) an additional $350,000,000 shall be available for transfer upon submission of a written certification by the Secretary of Homeland Security, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has—

(A) the ability to detain 46,500 individuals and has increased the total number of Enforcement and Removal Operations deportation officers by 200 above the current on board levels as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) increased the total number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers by 200 above the current on board levels as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) increased the total number of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services asylum officers by 800 above the current on board levels as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(3) an additional $116,666,667 shall be available for transfer upon submission of a written certification by the Secretary of Homeland Security, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

and the Senate, that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has—

(A) conducted a total of 1,500 removal flights since the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) ensured that at least 75 percent of Border Patrol agents assigned to duty along the southwest land border have been trained on the procedures included in sections 235B and 244B of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''Refugee and Entrant Assistance'', $350,000,000, to remain available until expended, for carrying out section 235(c)(5)(B) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(5)(B)): *Provided*, That for the purposes of carrying out such section the Secretary of Health and Human Services may use amounts made available under this heading in this Act to award grants to, or enter into contracts with, public, private, or nonprofit organizations, including States: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for ''International Disaster Assistance'', $850,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs in the Western Hemisphere: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for ''Economic Support Fund'', $415,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading in this Act, $230,000,000 shall be made available to increase foreign country capacity to accept and integrate returned and removed individuals, which shall be administered in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, including to address partner government requests that enable the achievement of such objectives, as appropriate: *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading in this Act, $185,000,000 shall be made available to reduce irregular migration within the Western Hemisphere: *Provided further*, That prior to the obligation of funds made available pursuant to the preceding proviso that are made available to support the repatriation operations of a foreign government, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a monitoring and oversight plan for the use of such funds, and such funds shall be subject to prior consultation with such committees and the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of State shall submit to such committees the text of any agreements or awards related to such operations, which may include documents submitted in classified form, as appropriate, including any agreement with a foreign government, nongovernment entity, or international organization, as applicable, not later than 5 days after the effective date of such document: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act shall not be used to support the refoulement of migrants or refugees: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'', $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to counter the flow of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, and other synthetic drugs into the United States, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985..

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 501. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 504. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 505. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This division may be cited as the ''Border Security and Combatting Fentanyl Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024''.

DIVISION C—BORDER ACT

SEC. 3001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Border Act''.

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

SEC. 3002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—Except as otherwise explicitly provided, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

TITLE I—CAPACITY BUILDING

Subtitle A—Hiring, Training, and Systems Modernization

CHAPTER 1—HIRING AUTHORITIES

SEC. 3101. USCIS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5, United States Code, candidates needed for positions within the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, the Field Operations Directorate, and the Service Center Operations Directorate of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for which—

(1) public notice has been given;

(2) the Secretary has determined that a critical hiring need exists; and

(3) the Secretary has consulted with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management regarding—

(A) the positions for which the Secretary plans to recruit;

(B) the quantity of candidates Secretary is seeking; and

(C) the assessment and selection policies the Secretary plans to utilize.

(b) DEFINITION OF CRITICAL HIRING NEED.—In this section, the term ''critical hiring need'' means personnel necessary for the implementation of this Act and associated work.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 4 years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) demographic data, including veteran status, regarding individuals hired pursuant to the authority under subsection (a);

(2) salary information of individuals hired pursuant to such authority; and

(3) how the Department of Homeland Security exercised such authority consistently with merit system principles.

(d) SUNSET.—The authority to make an appointment under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3102. ICE DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5, United States Code, candidates needed for positions within Enforcement and Removal Operations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a deportation officer or with duties exclusively relating to the Enforcement and Removal, Custody Operations, Alternatives to Detention, or Transportation and Removal program for which—

(1) public notice has been given;

(2) the Secretary has determined that a critical hiring need exists; and

(3) the Secretary has consulted with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management regarding—

(A) the positions for which the Secretary plans to recruit;

(B) the quantity of candidates the Secretary is seeking; and

(C) the assessment and selection policies the Secretary plans to utilize.

(b) DEFINITION OF CRITICAL HIRING NEED.—In this section, the term ''critical hiring need'' means personnel necessary for the implementation of this Act and associated work.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 4 years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) demographic data, including veteran status, regarding individuals hired pursuant to the authority under subsection (a);

(2) salary information of individuals hired pursuant to such authority; and

(3) how the Department of Homeland Security exercised such authority consistently with merit system principles.

(d) SUNSET.—The authority to make an appointment under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3103. REEMPLOYMENT OF CIVILIAN RETIREES TO MEET EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYMENT NEEDS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may waive, with respect to any position in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the application of section 8344 or 8468 of title 5, United States Code, on a case-by-case basis, for employment of an annuitant in a position necessary to implement this Act and associated work, for which there is exceptional difficulty in recruiting or retaining a qualified employee, or when a temporary emergency hiring need exists.

(b) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall prescribe procedures for the exercise of the authority under subsection (a), including procedures for a delegation of authority.

(c) ANNUITANTS NOT TREATED AS EMPLOYEES FOR PURPOSES OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS.—An employee for whom a waiver under this section is in effect shall not be considered an employee for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 3104. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL PAY RATE FOR ASYLUM OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5332 the following:

''§ 5332a. Special base rates of pay for asylum officers

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'asylum officer' has the meaning given such term in section 235(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1));

''(2) the term 'General Schedule base rate' means an annual rate of basic pay established under section 5332 before any additions, such as a locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or 5304a or a special rate supplement under section 5305; and

''(3) the term 'special base rate' means an annual rate of basic pay payable to an asylum officer, before any additions or reductions, that replaces the General Schedule base rate otherwise applicable to the asylum officer and that is administered in the same manner as a General Schedule base rate.

''(b) SPECIAL BASE RATES OF PAY.—

''(1) ENTITLEMENT TO SPECIAL RATE.—Notwithstanding section 5332, an asylum officer is entitled to a special base rate at grades 1 through 15, which shall—

''(A) replace the otherwise applicable General Schedule base rate for the asylum officer;

''(B) be basic pay for all purposes, including the purpose of computing a locality-based comparability payment under section 5304 or 5304a; and

''(C) be computed as described in paragraph (2) and adjusted at the time of adjustments in the General Schedule.

''(2) COMPUTATION.—The special base rate for an asylum officer shall be derived by increasing the otherwise applicable General Schedule base rate for the asylum officer by 15 percent for the grade of the asylum officer and rounding the result to the nearest whole dollar.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5332 the following:

''5332a. Special base rates of pay for asylum officers.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

CHAPTER 2—HIRING WAIVERS

SEC. 3111. HIRING FLEXIBILITY.

Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 221) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

''(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the application of subsection (a)(1) in the following circumstances:

''(1) In the case of a current, full-time law enforcement officer employed by a State or local law enforcement agency, if such officer—

''(A) has served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years with no break in service;

''(B) is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers for arrest or apprehension;

''(C) is not currently under investigation, does not have disciplinary, misconduct, or derogatory records, has not been found to have engaged in a criminal offense or misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position; and

''(D) has, within the past ten years, successfully completed a polygraph examination as a condition of employment with such officer's current law enforcement agency.

''(2) In the case of a current, full-time Federal law enforcement officer, if such officer—

''(A) has served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years with no break in service;

''(B) has authority to make arrests, conduct investigations, conduct searches, make seizures, carry firearms, and serve orders, warrants, and other processes;

''(C) is not currently under investigation, does not have disciplinary, misconduct, or derogatory records, has not been found to have engaged in a criminal offense or misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position; and

''(D) holds a current background investigation, in accordance with current standards required for access to Top Secret or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information.

''(3) In the case of an individual who is a member of the Armed Forces (or a reserve component thereof) or a veteran, if such individual—

''(A) has served in the Armed Forces for not fewer than three years;

''(B) holds, or has held within the past five years, Top Secret or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information clearance;

''(C) holds, or has undergone within the past five years, a current background investigation in accordance with current standards required for access to Top Secret or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information;

''(D) received, or is eligible to receive, an honorable discharge from service in the Armed Forces, has not engaged in a criminal offense, has not committed a military offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and does not have disciplinary, misconduct, or derogatory records; and

''(E) was not granted any waivers to obtain the clearance referred to subparagraph (B).

''(c) TERMINATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The authority to issue a waiver under subsection (b) shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Border Act.''.

SEC. 3112. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY.—Section 4 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–376) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY.

''(a) NON-EXEMPTION.—An individual who receives a waiver under subsection (b) of section 3 is not exempt from other hiring requirements relating to suitability for employment and eligibility to hold a national security designated position, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(b) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—Any individual who receives a waiver under subsection (b) of section 3 who holds a background investigation in accordance with current standards required for access to Top Secret or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information shall be subject to an appropriate background investigation.

''(c) ADMINISTRATION OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to administer a polygraph examination to an applicant or employee who is eligible for or receives a waiver under subsection (b) of section 3 if information is discovered prior to the completion of a background investigation that results in a determination that a polygraph examination is necessary to make a final determination regarding suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.''.

(b) REPORT.—The Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–376; 124 Stat. 4104) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for three years, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to Congress that includes, with respect to the reporting period—

''(1) the number of waivers granted and denied under section 3(b);

''(2) the reasons for any denials of such waiver;

''(3) the percentage of applicants who were hired after receiving a waiver;

''(4) the number of instances that a polygraph was administered to an applicant who initially received a waiver and the results of such polygraph;

''(5) an assessment of the current impact of the polygraph waiver program on filling law enforcement positions at U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

''(6) additional authorities needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to better utilize the polygraph waiver program for its intended goals; and

''(7) any disciplinary actions taken against law enforcement officers hired under the waiver authority authorized under section 3(b).

''(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The first report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

''(1) an analysis of other methods of employment suitability tests that detect deception and could be used in conjunction with traditional background investigations to evaluate potential employees for suitability; and

''(2) a recommendation regarding whether a test referred to in paragraph (1) should be adopted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the polygraph examination requirement is waived pursuant to section 3(b).''.

(c) GAO REPORT.—The Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–376; 124 Stat. 4104), as amended by subsection (b) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every five years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

''(1) conduct a review of the disciplinary, misconduct, or derogatory records of all individuals hired using the waiver authority under subsection (b) of section 3—

''(A) to determine the rates of disciplinary actions taken against individuals hired using such waiver authority, as compared to individuals hired after passing the polygraph as required under subsection (a) of that section; and

''(B) to address any other issue relating to discipline by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

''(2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that appropriately protects sensitive information and describes the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1).

''(b) SUNSET.—The requirement under this section shall terminate on the date on which the third report required by subsection (a) is submitted.''.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—The Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–376; 124 Stat. 4104), as amended by subsection (c) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) CRIMINAL OFFENSE.—The term 'criminal offense' means—

''(A) any felony punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year; and

''(B) any other crime for which an essential element involves fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation to obtain an advantage or to disadvantage another.

''(2) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term 'Federal law enforcement officer' means a 'law enforcement officer', as defined in section 8331(20) or 8401(17) of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) MILITARY OFFENSE.—The term 'military offense' means—

''(A) an offense for which—

''(i) a member of the Armed Forces may be discharged or separated from service in the Armed Forces; or

''(ii) a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Courts-Martial, as pursuant to Army Regulation 635–200 chapter 14–12; and

''(B) an action for which a member of the Armed Forces received a demotion in military rank as punishment for a crime or wrongdoing, imposed by a court martial or other authority.

''(4) VETERAN.—The term 'veteran' has the meaning given such term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.''.

CHAPTER 3—ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION IMPROVEMENTS AND TRAINING FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL

SEC. 3121. ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall certify to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

(1) with respect to the alternatives to detention programs, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's processes that release aliens under any type of supervision, consistent and standard policies are in place across all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement field offices;

(2) the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's alternatives to detention programs use escalation and de-escalation techniques; and

(3) reports on the use of, and policies with respect to, such escalation and de-escalation techniques are provided to the public appropriately protecting sensitive information.

(b) ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually, the Director shall conduct a review of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement policies with respect to the alternatives to detention programs so as to ensure standardization and evidence-based decision making.

(2) SUBMISSION OF POLICY REVIEWS.—Not later than 14 days after the completion of each review required by paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the review.

(c) INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION.—Not less frequently than every 5 years, the Director shall ensure that an independent verification and validation of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement policies with respect to the alternatives to detention programs is conducted.

SEC. 3122. TRAINING FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall require all U.S. Border Patrol agents and other employees or contracted employees designated by the Commissioner to participate in annual continuing training to maintain and update their understanding of—

(1) Department of Homeland Security policies, procedures, and guidelines;

(2) the fundamentals of law (including the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States), ethics, and professional conduct;

(3) applicable Federal law and regulations;

(4) applicable migration trends that the Commissioner determines are relevant;

(5) best practices for coordinating with community stakeholders;

(6) de-escalation training; and

(7) any other information the Commissioner determines to be relevant to active duty agents.

(b) TRAINING SUBJECTS.—Continuing training under this section shall include training regarding—

(1) the non-lethal use of force policies available to U.S. Border Patrol agents and de-escalation strategies and methods;

(2) identifying, screening, and responding to vulnerable populations, such as children, persons with diminished mental capacity, victims of human trafficking, pregnant mothers, victims of gender-based violence, victims of torture or abuse, and the acutely ill;

(3) trends in transnational criminal organization activities that impact border security and migration;

(4) policies, strategies, and programs—

(A) to protect due process, the civil, human, and privacy rights of individuals, and the private property rights of land owners;

(B) to reduce the number of migrant and agent deaths; and

(C) to improve the safety of agents on patrol;

(5) personal resilience;

(6) anti-corruption and officer ethics training;

(7) current migration trends, including updated cultural and societal issues of countries that are a significant source of migrants who are—

(A) arriving to seek humanitarian protection; or

(B) encountered at a United States international boundary while attempting to enter without inspection;

(8) the impact of border security operations on natural resources and the environment, including strategies to limit the impact of border security operations on natural resources and the environment;

(9) relevant cultural, societal, racial, and religious training, including cross-cultural communication skills;

(10) training required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 15601 et seq.);

(11) risk management and safety training that includes agency protocols for ensuring public safety, personal safety, and the safety of persons in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(12) any other training that meets the requirements to maintain and update the subjects identified in subsection (a).

(c) COURSE REQUIREMENTS.—Courses offered under this section—

(1) shall be administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

(2) shall be approved in advance by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that such courses satisfy the requirements for training under this section.

(d) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that assesses the training and education provided pursuant to this section, including continuing education.

CHAPTER 4—MODERNIZING NOTICES TO APPEAR

SEC. 3131. ELECTRONIC NOTICES TO APPEAR.

Section 239 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or, if elected by the alien in writing, by email or other electronic means to the extent feasible, if the alien, or the alien's counsel of record, voluntarily elects such service or otherwise accepts service electronically'' after ''mail''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or, if elected by the alien in writing, by email or other electronic means to the extent feasible, if the alien, or the alien's counsel of record, voluntarily elects such service or otherwise accepts service electronically'' after ''mail''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting ''the alien, or to the alien's counsel of record, at'' after ''delivery to''; and

(B) by inserting '', or to the email address or other electronic address at which the alien elected to receive notice under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a)'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 3132. AUTHORITY TO PREPARE AND ISSUE NOTICES TO APPEAR.

Section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PERSONNEL TO SERVE NOTICES TO APPEAR.—Any mission support personnel within U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who reports directly to an immigration officer with authority to issue a notice to appear, and who has received the necessary training to issue such a notice, shall be authorized to prepare a notice to appear under this section for review and issuance by the immigration officer.''.

Subtitle B—Asylum Processing at the Border

SEC. 3141. PROVISIONAL NONCUSTODIAL REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 235A the following:

''SEC. 235B. PROVISIONAL NONCUSTODIAL REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.

''(a) GENERAL RULES.—

''(1) CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING NONCUSTODIAL PROCEEDINGS.—The Secretary, based upon operational circumstances, may refer an alien applicant for admission for proceedings described in this section if the alien—

''(A) indicates an intention to apply for a protection determination; or

''(B) expresses a credible fear of persecution (as defined in section 235(b)(1)(B)(v)) or torture.

''(2) RELEASE FROM CUSTODY.—Aliens referred for proceedings under this section shall be released from physical custody and processed in accordance with the procedures described in this section.

''(3) ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION.—An adult alien, including a head of household, who has been referred for a proceeding under this section shall be supervised under the Alternatives to Detention program of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement immediately upon release from physical custody and continuing for the duration of such proceeding.

''(4) FAMILY UNITY.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the referral of a family unit for proceedings under this section includes all members of such family unit who are traveling together.

''(5) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—The provisions under this section may not be applied to unaccompanied alien children (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))).

''(B) APPLICABILITY LIMITATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall only refer for proceedings under this section an alien described in clause (ii).

''(ii) ALIEN DESCRIBED.— An alien described in this clause is an alien who—

''(I) has not affirmatively shown, to the satisfaction of an immigration officer, that the alien has been physically present in the United States for more than the 14-day period immediately prior to the date on which

the alien was encountered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

''(II) was encountered within 100 air miles of the international land borders of the United States.

''(6) TIMING.—The provisional noncustodial removal proceedings described in this section shall conclude, to the maximum extent practicable, not later than 90 days after the date the alien is inspected and determined inadmissible.

''(b) PROCEDURES FOR PROVISIONAL NONCUSTODIAL REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—

''(1) COMMENCEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Provisional noncustodial removal proceedings shall commence under this section with respect to an alien immediately after the Secretary properly serves a notice of removal proceedings on the alien.

''(B) 90-DAY TIMEFRAME.—The 90-day period under subsection (a)(6) with respect to an alien shall commence upon an inspection and inadmissibility determination of the alien.

''(2) SERVICE AND NOTICE OF INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—In provisional noncustodial removal proceedings conducted under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(A) serve notice to the alien or, if personal service is not practicable, to the alien's counsel of record;

''(B) ensure that such notice, to the maximum extent practicable, is in the alien's native language or in a language the alien understands; and

''(C) include in such notice—

''(i) the nature of the proceedings against the alien;

''(ii) the legal authority under which such proceedings will be conducted; and

''(iii) the charges against the alien and the statutory provisions the alien is alleged to have violated;

''(D) inform the alien of his or her obligation—

''(i) to immediately provide (or have provided) to the Secretary, in writing, the mailing address, contact information, email address or other electronic address, and telephone number (if any), at which the alien may be contacted respecting the proceeding under this section; and

''(ii) to provide to the Secretary, in writing, any change of the alien's mailing address or telephone number shortly after any such change;

''(E) include in such notice—

''(i) the time and place at which the proceeding under this section will be held, which shall be communicated, to the extent practicable, before or during the alien's release from physical custody; or

''(ii) immediately after release, the time and place of such proceeding, which shall be provided not later than 10 days before the scheduled protection determination interview and shall be considered proper service of the commencement of proceedings; and

''(F) inform the alien of—

''(i) the consequences to which the alien would be subject pursuant to section 240(b)(5) if the alien fails to appear at such proceeding, absent exceptional circumstances;

''(ii) the alien's right to be represented, at no expense to the Federal Government, by any counsel or accredited representative selected by the alien who is authorized to represent an alien in such a proceeding; and

''(G) the information described in section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv)(II).

''(3) PROTECTION DETERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, within 90 days after the date on which an alien is referred for proceedings under this section, an asylum officer shall conduct a protection determination of such alien in person or through a technology appropriate for protection determinations.

''(B) ACCESS TO COUNSEL.—In any proceeding under this section or section 240D before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and in any appeal of the result of such a proceeding, an alien shall have the privilege of being represented, at no expense to the Federal Government, by counsel authorized to represent an alien in such a proceeding.

''(C) PROCEDURES AND EVIDENCE.—The asylum officer may receive into evidence any oral or written statement that is material and relevant to any matter in the protection determination. The testimony of the alien shall be under oath or affirmation administered by the asylum officer.

''(D) INTERPRETERS.—Whenever necessary, the asylum officer shall procure the assistance of an interpreter, to the maximum extent practicable, in the alien's native language or in a language the alien understands, during any protection determination.

''(E) LOCATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Any protection determination authorized under this section shall occur in—

''(I) a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office;

''(II) a facility managed, leased, or operated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services;

''(III) any other location designated by the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; or

''(IV) any other federally owned or federally leased building that—

''(aa) the Director has authorized or entered into a memorandum of agreement to be used for such purpose; and

''(bb) meets the special rules under clause (ii) and the minimum requirements under clause (iii).

''(ii) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(I) LOCATION.—A protection determination may not be conducted in a facility that is managed, leased, owned, or operated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(II) REASONABLE TIME.—The Secretary shall ensure that a protection determination is conducted during a reasonable time of the day.

''(III) GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each protection determination for an alien is scheduled at a facility that is a reasonable distance from the current residence of such alien.

''(IV) PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN.—In the case of a family unit, the Secretary shall ensure that the best interests of the child or children are considered when conducting a protection determination of the child's family unit.

''(iii) MINIMUM LOCATION REQUIREMENT.—Each facility that the Director authorizes to be used to conduct protection determinations shall—

''(I) have adequate security measures to protect Federal employees, aliens, and beneficiaries for benefits; and

''(II) ensure the best interests of the child or children are prioritized pursuant to clause (ii)(IV) if such children are present at the protection determination.

''(F) WRITTEN RECORD.—The asylum officer shall prepare a written record of each protection determination, which—

''(i) shall be provided to the alien, or to the alien's counsel of record, upon a decision; and

''(ii) shall include—

''(I) a summary of the material facts stated by the alien;

''(II) any additional facts relied upon by the asylum officer;

''(III) the asylum officer's analysis of why, in the light of the facts referred to in subclauses (I) and (II), the alien has or has not established a positive or negative outcome from the protection determination; and

''(IV) a copy of the asylum officer's interview notes.

''(G) RESCHEDULING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations that permit an alien to reschedule a protection determination in the event of exceptional circumstances.

''(ii) TOLLING OF TIME LIMITATION.—If an interview is rescheduled at the request of an alien, the period between the date on which the protection determination was originally scheduled and the date of the rescheduled interview shall not count toward the 90-day period referred to in subsection (a)(6).

''(H) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION, VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE, AND VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.—

''(i) VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE.—The Secretary may permit an alien to voluntarily depart in accordance with section 240E.

''(ii) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary may permit an alien, at any time before the protection merits interview, to withdraw his or her application and depart immediately from the United States in accordance with section 240F.

''(iii) VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.—The Secretary may permit an alien to voluntarily repatriate in accordance with section 240G.

''(I) CONVERSION TO REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 240.—The asylum officer or immigration officer may refer or place an alien into removal proceedings under section 240 by issuing a notice to appear for the purpose of initiating such proceedings if either such officer determines that—

''(i) such proceedings are required in order to permit the alien to seek an immigration benefit for which the alien is legally entitled to apply; and

''(ii) such application requires such alien to be placed in, or referred to proceedings under section 240 that are not available to such alien under this section.

''(J) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—

''(i) SENSITIVE OR LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to compel any employee of the Department of Homeland Security to disclose any information that is otherwise protected from disclosure by law.

''(ii) PROTECTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Before providing the record described in subparagraph (F) to the alien or to the alien's counsel of record, the Director shall protect any information that is prohibited by law from being disclosed.

''(c) PROTECTION DETERMINATION.—

''(1) IDENTITY VERIFICATION.—The Secretary may not conduct the protection determination with respect to an alien until the identity of the alien has been checked against all appropriate records and databases maintained by the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary.

''(2) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY.—Upon the establishing the identity of an alien pursuant to paragraph (1), the asylum officer shall conduct a protection determination in a location selected in accordance with this section.

''(B) OUTCOME.—

''(i) POSITIVE PROTECTION DETERMINATION OUTCOME.—If the protection determination conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A) results in a positive protection determination outcome, the alien shall be referred to protection merits removal proceedings in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph (4).

''(ii) NEGATIVE PROTECTION DETERMINATION OUTCOME.—If such protection determination results in a negative protection determination outcome, the alien shall be subject to the process described in subsection (d).

''(3) RECORD.—

''(A) USE OF RECORD.—In each protection determination, or any review of such determination, the record of the alien's protection determination required under subsection (b)(3)(F) shall constitute the underlying application for the alien's application for asylum, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture for purposes of the protection merits interview.

''(B) DATE OF FILING.—The date on which the Secretary issues a notification of a positive protection determination pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i) shall be considered, for all purposes, the date of filing and the date of receipt of the alien's application for asylum, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture, as applicable.

''(4) REFERRAL FOR PROTECTION MERITS REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the alien receives a positive protection determination—

''(i) the alien shall be issued employment authorization pursuant to section 235C; and

''(ii) subject to paragraph (5), the asylum officer shall refer the alien for protection merits removal proceedings described in section 240D.

''(B) NOTIFICATIONS.—As soon as practicable after a positive protection determination, the Secretary shall—

''(i) issue a written notification to the alien of the outcome of such determination;

''(ii) include all of the information described in subsection (b)(2); and

''(iii) ensure that such notification and information concerning the procedures under section 240D, shall be made, at a minimum, not later than 30 days before the date on which the required protection merits interview under section 240D occurs.

''(5) AUTHORITY TO GRANT RELIEF OR PROTECTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an alien demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that the alien is eligible for asylum, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture during the protection determination, the asylum officer, subject to the procedures under subparagraph (B), may grant an application for such relief or protection submitted by such alien without referring the alien to protection merits removal proceedings under section 240D.

''(B) SUPERVISORY REVIEW.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An application granted by an asylum officer under subparagraph (A) shall be reviewed by a supervisory asylum officer to determine whether such grant is warranted.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—A decision by an asylum officer to grant an application under subparagraph (A) shall not be final, and the alien shall not be notified of such decision, unless a supervisory asylum officer first determines, based on the review conducted pursuant to clause (i), that such a grant is warranted.

''(iii) EFFECT OF APPROVAL.—If the supervisor determines that granting an alien's application for relief or protection is warranted—

''(I) such application shall be approved; and

''(II) the alien shall receive written notification of such decision as soon as practicable.

''(iv) EFFECT OF NON-APPROVAL.—If the supervisor determines that the grant is not warranted, the alien shall be referred for protection merits removal proceedings under section 240D.

''(C) SPECIAL RULES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

''(i) if an alien's application for asylum is approved pursuant to subparagraph (B)(iii), the asylum officer may not issue an order of removal; and

''(ii) if an alien's application for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) or for withholding or deferral of removal under the Convention Against Torture is approved pursuant to subparagraph (B)(iii), the asylum officer shall issue a corresponding order of removal.

''(D) BIANNUAL REPORT.—The Director shall submit a biannual report to the relevant committees of Congress that includes, for the relevant period—

''(i) the number of cases described in subparagraph (A) that were referred to a supervisor pursuant to subparagraph (B), disaggregated by asylum office;

''(ii) the number of cases described in clause (i) that were approved subsequent to the referral to a supervisor pursuant to subparagraph (B);

''(iii) the number of cases described in clause (i) that were not approved subsequent to the referral to a supervisor pursuant to subparagraph (B);

''(iv) a summary of the benefits for which any aliens described in subparagraph (A) were considered amenable and whose cases were referred to a supervisor pursuant to subparagraph (B), disaggregated by case outcome referred to in clauses (ii) and (iii);

''(v) a description of any anomalous case outcomes for aliens described in subparagraph (A) whose cases were referred to a supervisor pursuant subparagraph (B); and

''(vi) a description of any actions taken to remedy the anomalous case outcomes referred to in clause (v).

''(E) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In preparing each report pursuant to subparagraph (D), the Director shall—

''(i) protect any personally identifiable information associated with aliens described in subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) comply with all applicable privacy laws.

''(6) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien whose application for relief or protection has been approved by a supervisor pursuant to paragraph (5)(B) shall be issued employment authorization under section 235C.

''(d) NEGATIVE PROTECTION DETERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If an alien receives a negative protection determination, the asylum officer shall—

''(A) provide such alien with written notification of such determination; and

''(B) subject to paragraph (2), order the alien removed from the United States without hearing or review.

''(2) OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION OR APPEAL.—The Secretary shall notify any alien described in paragraph (1) immediately after receiving notification of a negative protection determination under this subsection that he or she—

''(A) may request reconsideration of such determination in accordance with paragraph (3); and

''(B) may request administrative review of such protection determination decision in accordance with paragraph (4).

''(3) REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien with respect to whom a negative protection determination has been made may submit a request for reconsideration to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services not later than 5 days after such determination.

''(B) DECISION.—The Director, or designee, in the Director's unreviewable discretion, may grant or deny a request for reconsideration made pursuant to subparagraph (A), which decision shall not be subject to review.

''(4) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the administrative review of a protection determination with respect to an alien under this subsection shall be based on the record before the asylum officer at the time at which such protection determination was made.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—An alien referred to in subparagraph (A), or the alien's counsel of record, may submit such additional evidence or testimony in accordance with such policies and procedures as the Secretary may prescribe.

''(C) REVIEW.—Each review described in subparagraph (A) shall be conducted by the Protection Appellate Board.

''(D) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—In accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Secretary, the Protection Appellate Board, upon the request of an alien, or the alien's counsel of record, shall conduct a de novo review of the record of the protection determination carried out pursuant to this section with respect to the alien.

''(E) DETERMINATION.—

''(i) TIMING.—The Protection Appellate Board shall complete a review under this paragraph, to the maximum extent practicable, not later than 72 hours after receiving a request from an alien pursuant to subparagraph (D).

''(ii) EFFECT OF POSITIVE DETERMINATION.—If, after conducting a review under this paragraph, the Protection Appellate Board determines that an alien has a positive protection determination, the alien shall be referred for protection merits removal proceedings under section 240D.

''(iii) EFFECT OF NEGATIVE DETERMINATION.—If, after conducting a review under this paragraph, the Protection Appellate Board determines that an alien has a negative protection determination, the alien shall be ordered removed from the United States without additional review.

''(5) JURISDICTIONAL MATTERS.—In any action brought against an alien under section 275(a) or 276, the court shall not have jurisdiction to hear any claim attacking the validity of an order of removal entered pursuant to subsection (c)(5)(C)(ii).

''(e) SERVICE OF PROTECTION DETERMINATION DECISION.—

''(1) PROTECTION DETERMINATION DECISION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon reaching a decision regarding a protection determination, the Secretary shall—

''(i) immediately notify the alien, and the alien's counsel of record, if applicable, that a determination decision has been made; and

''(ii) schedule the service of the protection determination decision, which shall take place, to the maximum extent practicable, not later than 5 days after such notification.

''(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(i) LOCATION.—Each service of a protection determination decision scheduled pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) may occur at—

''(I) a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility;

''(II) an Immigration Court; or

''(III) any other federally owned or federally leased building that—

''(aa) the Secretary has authorized or entered into a memorandum of agreement to be used for such purpose; and

''(bb) meets the minimum requirements under this subparagraph.

''(ii) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting each service of a protection determination decision, the Director shall ensure compliance with the requirements set forth in clauses (ii)(II), (ii)(III), (ii)(IV), and (iii) of subsection (b)(3)(E).

''(2) PROCEDURES FOR SERVICE OF PROTECTION DETERMINATION DECISIONS.—

''(A) WRITTEN DECISION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each alien and the alien's

counsel of record, if applicable, attending a determination decision receives a written decision that includes, at a minimum, the articulated basis for the denial of the protection benefit sought by the alien.

''(B) LANGUAGE ACCESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that each written decision required under subparagraph (A) is delivered to the alien in—

''(i) the alien's native language, to the maximum extent practicable; or

''(ii) another language the alien understands.

''(C) ACCESS TO COUNSEL.—An alien who has obtained the services of counsel shall be represented by such counsel, at no expense to the Federal Government, at the service of the protection determination. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to create a substantive due process right or to unreasonably delay the scheduling of the service of the protection determination.

''(D) ASYLUM OFFICER.—A protection determination decision may only be served by an asylum officer.

''(E) PROTECTIONS FOR ASYLUM OFFICER DECISIONS BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE.—The Secretary may not impose restrictions on an asylum officer's ability to grant or deny relief sought by an alien in a protection determination or protection merits interview based on a numerical limitation.

''(3) NEGATIVE PROTECTION DETERMINATION.—

''(A) ADVISEMENT OF RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.—If an alien receives a negative protection determination decision, the asylum officer shall—

''(i) advise the alien if an alternative option of return is available to the alien, including—

''(I) voluntary departure;

''(II) withdrawal of the alien's application for admission; or

''(III) voluntary repatriation; and

''(ii) provide written or verbal information to the alien regarding the process, procedures, and timelines for appealing such denial, to the maximum extent practicable, in the alien's native language, or in a language the alien understands.

''(4) PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN.—In the case of a family unit, the Secretary shall ensure that the best interests of the child or children are considered when conducting a protection determination of the child's family unit.

''(5) FINAL ORDER OF REMOVAL.—If an alien receives a negative protection determination decision, an alien shall be removed in accordance with section 241 upon a final order of removal.

''(f) FAILURE TO CONDUCT PROTECTION DETERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary fails to conduct a protection determination for an alien during the 90-day period set forth in subsection (b)(3)(A), such alien shall be referred for protection merits removal proceedings in accordance with 240D.

''(2) NOTICE OF PROTECTION MERITS INTERVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an alien is referred for protection merits removal proceedings pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall properly file with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and serve upon the alien, or the alien's counsel of record, a notice of a protection merits interview, in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

''(B) CONTENTS.—Each notice of protection merits interview served pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall include each element described in subsection (b)(2); and

''(ii) shall—

''(I) inform the alien that an application for protection relief shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than 30 days before the date on which the alien's protection merits interview is scheduled;

''(II) inform the alien that he or she shall receive employment authorization, pursuant to section 235C, not later than 30 days after filing the application required under subclause (I);

''(III) inform the alien that he or she may submit evidence into the record not later than 30 days before the date on which the alien's protection merits interview is scheduled;

''(IV) describe—

''(aa) the penalties resulting from the alien's failure to file the application required under subclause (I); and

''(bb) the terms and conditions for redressing such failure to file; and

''(V) describe the penalties resulting from the alien's failure to appear for a scheduled protection merits interview.

''(3) DATE OF FILING.—The date on which an application for protection relief is received by the Secretary shall be considered the date of filing and receipt for all purposes.

''(4) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO FILE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Failure to timely file an application for protection relief under this subsection will result in an order of removal, absent exceptional circumstances.

''(B) OPPORTUNITY FOR REDRESS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations authorizing a 15-day opportunity for redress to file an application for protection relief if there are exceptional circumstances regarding the alien's failure to timely file an application for protection relief.

''(ii) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted pursuant to clause (i) shall—

''(I) describe the basis for such request;

''(II) include supporting evidence; and

''(III) identify the exceptional circumstances that led to the alien's failure to file the application for protection relief in a timely manner.

''(C) DECISION .—In evaluating a request for redress submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i), the Director, or designee—

''(i) shall determine whether such request rises to the level of exceptional circumstances; and

''(ii) may schedule a protection determination interview.

''(5) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Employment authorization shall be provided to aliens described in this subsection in accordance with section 235C.

''(B) REVOCATION.—The Secretary may revoke the employment authorization provided to any alien processed under this section or section 240D if such alien—

''(i) has obtained authorization for employment pursuant to the procedures described in section 235C; and

''(ii) absent exceptional circumstances, subsequently fails to appear for a protection determination under subsection (b)(3) or a protection merits interview under 240D(c)(3).

''(g) FAILURE TO APPEAR.—

''(1) PROTECTION MERITS INTERVIEW.—The provisions of section 240(b)(5) shall apply to proceedings under this section.

''(2) OPPORTUNITY TO REDRESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which an alien fails to appear for a scheduled protection determination or protection merits interview, the alien may submit a written request for a rescheduled protection determination or protection merits interview.

''(B) CONTENTS.—Each request submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) describe the basis for such request;

''(ii) include supporting evidence; and

''(iii) identify the exceptional circumstances that led to the alien's failure to appear.

''(C) DECISION.—In evaluating a request submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Director, or designee shall determine whether the evidence included in such request rises to the level of exceptional circumstances. Such decision shall not be reviewable.

''(h) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this section in compliance with the requirements of section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Until the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary may issue any interim final rules necessary to implement this section without having to satisfy the requirements of section 553(b)(B) of title 5, United States Code, provided that any such interim final rules shall include a 30-day post promulgation notice and comment period prior to finalization in the Federal Register.

''(3) REQUIREMENT.—All regulations promulgated to implement this section beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, shall be issued pursuant to the requirements set forth in section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(i) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

''(1) EXPEDITED REMOVAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to expand or restrict the Secretary's discretion to carry out expedited removals pursuant to section 235 to the extent authorized by law. The Secretary shall not refer or place an alien in proceedings under section 235 if the alien has already been placed in or referred to proceedings under this section or section 240D.

''(2) DETENTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary to detain an alien released pursuant to this section if otherwise authorized by law.

''(3) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

''(A) to expand or restrict any settlement agreement in effect as of the date of the enactment of this section; or

''(B) to abrogate any provision of the stipulated settlement agreement in Reno v. Flores, as filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV–85–4544–RJK), including all subsequent court decisions, orders, agreements, and stipulations.

''(4) IMPACT ON OTHER REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—The provisions of this section may not be interpreted to apply to any other form of removal proceedings.

''(5) SPECIAL RULE.—For aliens who are natives or citizens of Cuba released pursuant to this section and who are otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under the first section of Public Law 89–732 (8 U.S.C. 1255 note) (commonly known as the 'Cuban Adjustment Act'), the requirement that an alien has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States shall not apply. Aliens who are natives or citizens of Cuba or Haiti and have been released pursuant to section 240 (8 U.S.C. 1229) shall be considered to be individuals described in section 501(e)(1) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (8 U.S.C. 1522 note).

''(6) REVIEW OF PROTECTION DETERMINATIONS.—Except for reviews of constitutional claims, no court shall have jurisdiction to review a protection determination issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under this section.

''(7) FINAL REMOVAL ORDERS.—No court shall have jurisdiction to review a final order of removal issued under this section.

''(j) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, judicial review of any decision or action in this section shall be governed only by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which shall have sole and original jurisdiction to hear challenges, whether constitutional or otherwise, to the validity of this section or any written policy directive, written policy guideline, written procedure, or the implementation thereof, issued by or under the authority of the Secretary to implement this section.

''(k) REPORTS ON ASYLUM OFFICER GRANT RATES.—

''(1) PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Border Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall publish a report, on a publicly accessible website of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which includes, for the reporting period—

''(A) the number of protection determinations that were approved or denied; and

''(B) a description of any anomalous incidents identified by the Director, including any action taken by the Director to address such an incident.

''(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than twice each year, the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall submit a report to the relevant committees of Congress that includes, for the preceding reporting period, and aggregated for the applicable calendar year—

''(i) the number of cases in which a protection determination or protection merits interview has been completed; and

''(ii) for each asylum office or duty station to which more than 20 asylum officers are assigned—

''(I) the median percentage of positive determinations and protection merits interviews in the cases described in clause (i);

''(II) the mean percentage of negative determinations and protection merits interviews in such cases; and

''(III) the number of cases described in subsection (c)(5) in which an alien was referred to a supervisor after demonstrating, by clear and convincing evidence, eligibility for asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture, disaggregated by benefit type;

''(IV) the number of cases described in clause (i) that were approved by a supervisor; and

''(V) the number of cases described in clause (i) that were not approved by a supervisor.

''(B) PRESENTATION OF DATA.—The information described in subparagraph (A) shall be provided in the format of aggregate totals by office or duty station.

''(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION RELIEF.—The term 'application for protection relief' means any request, application or petition authorized by the Secretary for asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

''(2) ASYLUM OFFICER.—The term 'asylum officer' has the meaning given such term in section 235(b)(1)(E).

''(3) CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE.—The term 'Convention Against Torture' means the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, including any implementing regulations.

''(4) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

''(5) EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—The term 'exceptional circumstances' has the meaning given such term in section 240(e)(1).

''(6) FINAL ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The term 'final order of removal' means an order of removal made by an asylum officer at the conclusion of a protection determination, and any appeal of such order, as applicable.

''(7) PROTECTION APPELLATE BOARD.—The term 'Protection Appellate Board' means the Protection Appellate Board established under section 463 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

''(8) PROTECTION DETERMINATION DECISION.—The term 'protection determination decision' means the service of a negative or positive protection determination outcome.

''(9) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'relevant committees of Congress' means—

''(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

''(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

''(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

''(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(G) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

''(10) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 235A the following:

''Sec. 235B. Provisional noncustodial removal proceedings.''.

SEC. 3142. PROTECTION MERITS REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 240C the following:

''SEC. 240D. PROTECTION MERITS REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.

''(a) COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS.—Removal proceedings under this section shall commence immediately after the Secretary properly serves notice on an alien who was—

''(1) processed under section 235B and referred under subsection (c)(4) of that section after having been issued a notice of a positive protection determination under such subsection; or

''(2) referred under section 235B(f).

''(b) DURATION OF PROCEEDINGS.—To the maximum extent practicable, proceedings under this section shall conclude not later than 90 days after the date on which such proceedings commence.

''(c) PROCEDURES.—

''(1) SERVICE AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—Upon the commencement of proceedings under this section, the Secretary shall provide notice of removal proceedings to the alien, or if personal service is not practicable, to the alien's counsel of record. Such notice shall be provided, to the maximum extent practicable, in the alien's native language, or in a language the alien understands, and shall specify or provide—

''(A) the nature of the proceedings against the alien;

''(B) the legal authority under which such proceedings will be conducted;

''(C) the charges against the alien and the statutory provisions alleged to have been violated by the alien;

''(D) that the alien shall—

''(i) immediately provide (or have provided) to the Secretary, in writing, the mailing address, contact information, email address or other electronic address, and telephone number (if any) at which the alien may be contacted respecting the proceeding under this section; and

''(ii) provide to the Secretary, in writing, any change of the alien's mailing address or telephone number after any such change;

''(E)(i) the time and place at which the proceeding under this section will be held, which information shall be communicated, to the extent practicable, before or during the alien's release from physical custody; or

''(ii) immediately after release, the time and place of such proceeding shall be provided to the alien, or to the alien's counsel of record, not later than 10 days before the scheduled protection determination interview, which shall be considered proper service of the commencement of proceedings;

''(F) the consequences for the alien's failure to appear at such proceeding pursuant to section 240(b)(5)(A), absent exceptional circumstances;

''(G) the alien's right to be represented, at no expense to the Federal Government, by any counsel, or an accredited representative, selected by the alien who is authorized to practice in such a proceeding; and

''(H) information described in section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv)(II).

''(2) ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION.—An adult alien, including a head of household, who has been referred for proceedings under this section, shall be supervised under the Alternatives to Detention program of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the duration of such proceedings.

''(3) PROTECTION MERITS INTERVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An asylum officer shall conduct a protection merits interview of each alien processed under this section.

''(B) ACCESS TO COUNSEL.—Section 235B(b)(3)(B) shall apply to proceedings under this section.

''(C) PROCEDURES AND EVIDENCE.—The asylum officer may receive into evidence any oral or written statement that is material and relevant to any matter in the protection merits interview. The testimony of the alien shall be under oath or affirmation, which shall be administered by the asylum officer.

''(D) TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS.—Any foreign language document offered by a party in proceedings under this section shall be accompanied by an English language translation and a certification signed by the translator, which shall be printed legibly or typed. Such certification shall include a statement that the translator is competent to translate the document, and that the translation is true and accurate to the best of the translator's abilities.

''(E) INTERPRETERS.—An interpreter may be provided to the alien for the proceedings under this section, in accordance with section 235B(b)(3)(D).

''(F) LOCATION.—The location for the protection merits interview described in this section shall be determined in accordance with the terms and conditions described in section 235B(b)(3)(E).

''(G) WRITTEN RECORD.—The asylum officer shall prepare a written record of each protection merits interview, which shall be provided to the alien or the alien's counsel, that includes—

''(i) a summary of the material facts stated by the alien;

''(ii) any additional facts relied upon by the asylum officer;

''(iii) the asylum officer's analysis of why, in light of the facts referred to in clauses (i) and (ii), the alien has or has not established eligibility for asylum under section 208, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture; and

''(iv) a copy of the asylum officer's interview notes.

''(H) PROTECTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Before providing the record described in subparagraph (G) to the alien or the alien's counsel of record, the Director shall protect any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law.

''(I) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations that permit an alien to request a rescheduled interview due to exceptional circumstances.

''(J) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION, VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE, AND VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.—

''(i) VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE.—The Secretary may permit an alien to voluntarily depart in accordance with section 240E.

''(ii) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary may permit an alien, at any time before the protection merits interview, to withdraw his or her application and depart immediately from the United States in accordance with section 240F.

''(iii) VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.—The Secretary may permit an alien to voluntarily repatriate in accordance with section 240G.

''(4) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO ONE-YEAR BAR.—An alien subject to proceedings under this section shall not be subject to the one-year bar under section 208(a)(2)(B).

''(5) TIMING OF PROTECTION MERITS INTERVIEW.—A protection merits interview may not be conducted on a date that is earlier than 30 days after the date on which notice is served under paragraph (1).

''(d) PROTECTION MERITS DETERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—After conducting an alien's protection merits interview, the asylum officer shall make a determination on the merits of the alien's application for asylum under section 208, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

''(2) POSITIVE PROTECTION MERITS DETERMINATION.—In the case of an alien who the asylum officer determines meets the criteria for a positive protection merits determination, the asylum officer shall approve the alien's application for asylum under section 208, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

''(3) NEGATIVE PROTECTION MERITS DETERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien who the asylum officer determines does not meet the criteria for a positive protection merits determination—

''(i) the asylum officer shall deny the alien's application for asylum under section 208, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture; and

''(ii) the Secretary shall—

''(I) provide the alien with written notice of the decision; and

''(II) subject to subparagraph (B) and subsection (e), order the removal of the alien from the United States.

''(B) REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.—Any alien with respect to whom a negative protection merits determination has been made may submit a request for reconsideration to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services not later than 5 days after such determination, in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 235B(d)(3).

''(e) APPEALS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien with respect to whom a negative protection merits determination has been made may submit to the Protection Appellate Board a written petition for review of such determination, together with additional evidence supporting the alien's claim, as applicable, not later than 7 days after the date on which a request for reconsideration under subsection (d)(3)(B) has been denied.

''(2) SWORN STATEMENT.—A petition for review submitted under this subsection shall include a sworn statement by the alien.

''(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After the filing of a petition for review by an alien, the Director shall—

''(i) refer the alien's petition for review to the Protection Appellate Board; and

''(ii) before the date on which the Protection Appellate Board commences review, subject to subparagraph (B), provide a full record of the alien's protection merits interview, including a transcript of such interview—

''(I) to the Protection Appellate Board; and

''(II) to the alien, or the alien's counsel of record.

''(B) PROTECTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Before providing the record described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) to the alien or the alien's counsel of record, the Director shall protect any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law.

''(4) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In reviewing a protection merits determination under this subsection, the Protection Appellate Board shall—

''(i) with respect to questions of fact, determine whether the decision reached by the asylum officer with initial jurisdiction regarding the alien's eligibility for relief or protection was clear error; and

''(ii) with respect to questions of law, discretion, and judgement, make a de novo determination with respect to the alien's eligibility for relief or protection.

''(B) in making a determination under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), take into account the credibility of the statements made by the alien in support of the alien's claim and such other facts as are known to the Protection Appellate Board.

''(5) COMPLETION.—To the maximum extent practicable, not later than 7 days after the date on which an alien files a petition for review with the Protection Appellate Board, the Protection Appellate Board shall conclude the review.

''(6) OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLEMENT.—The Protection Appellate Board shall establish a process by which an alien, or the alien's counsel of record, may supplement the record for purposes of a review under this subsection not less than 30 days before the Protection Appellate Board commences the review.

''(7) RESULT OF REVIEW.—

''(A) VACATUR OF ORDER OF REMOVAL.—In the case of a determination by the Protection Appellate Board that the application of an alien for asylum warrants approval, the Protection Appellate Board shall vacate the order of removal issued by the asylum officer and grant such application.

''(B) WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL AND CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE ORDER OF REMOVAL.—In the case of a determination by the Protection Appellate Board that the application of an alien for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) or protection under the Convention Against Torture warrants approval, the Protection Appellate Board—

''(i) shall not vacate the order of removal issued by the asylum officer; and

''(ii) shall grant the application for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) or protection under the Convention Against Torture, as applicable.

''(C) AFFIRMATION OF ORDER OF REMOVAL.—In the case of a determination by the Protection Appellate Board that the petition for review of a protection merits interview does not warrant approval, the Protection Appellate Board shall affirm the denial of such application and the order of removal shall become final.

''(D) NOTIFICATION.—Upon making a determination with respect to a review under this subsection, the Protection Appellate Board shall expeditiously provide notice of the determination to the alien and, as applicable, to the alien's counsel of record.

''(8) MOTION TO REOPEN OR MOTION TO RECONSIDER.—

''(A) MOTION TO REOPEN.—A motion to reopen a review conducted by the Protection Appellate Board shall state new facts and shall be supported by documentary evidence. The resubmission of previously provided evidence or reassertion of previously stated facts shall not be sufficient to meet the requirements of a motion to reopen under this subparagraph. An alien with a pending motion to reopen may be removed if the alien's order of removal is final, pending a decision on a motion to reopen.

''(B) MOTION TO RECONSIDER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A motion to reconsider a decision of the Protection Appellate Board—

''(I) shall establish that—

''(aa) the Protection Appellate Board based its decision on an incorrect application of law or policy; and

''(bb) the decision was incorrect based on the evidence in the record of proceedings at the time of the decision; and

''(II) shall be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision was issued.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Protection Appellate Board shall not consider new facts or evidence submitted in support of a motion to reconsider.

''(f) ORDER OF REMOVAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

''(A) shall have exclusive and final jurisdiction over the denial of an application for relief or protection under this section; and

''(B) may remove an alien to a country where the alien is a subject, national, or citizen, or in the case of an alien having no nationality, the country of the alien's last habitual residence, or in accordance with the processes established under section 241, unless removing the alien to such country would be prejudicial to the interests of the United States.

''(2) DETENTION; REMOVAL.—The terms and conditions under section 241 shall apply to the detention and removal of aliens ordered removed from the United States under this section.

''(g) LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

''(1) DENIALS OF PROTECTION.—Except for review of constitutional claims, no court shall have jurisdiction to review a decision issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under this section denying an alien's application for asylum under section 208, withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3), or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

''(2) FINAL REMOVAL ORDERS.—No court shall have jurisdiction to review a final order of removal issued under this section.

''(h) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this section in compliance with the requirements of section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Until the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary may issue any interim final rules necessary to implement this section without having to satisfy the requirements of section 553(b)(B) of title 5, United States Code, provided that any such interim final rules shall include a 30-day post promulgation notice and comment period prior to finalization in the Federal Register.

''(3) REQUIREMENT.—All regulations promulgated to implement this section beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, shall be issued pursuant to the requirements set forth in section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(i) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

''(1) DETENTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary to detain an alien who is processed, including for release, under this section if otherwise authorized by law.

''(2) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

''(A) to expand or restrict any settlement agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this section; or

''(B) to abrogate any provision of the stipulated settlement agreement in Reno v. Flores, as filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV–85–4544–RJK), including all subsequent court decisions, orders, agreements, and stipulations.

''(3) IMPACT ON OTHER REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—The provisions of this section may not be interpreted to apply to any other form of removal proceedings.

''(4) CONVERSION TO REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 240.—The asylum officer or immigration officer may refer or place an alien into removal proceedings under section 240 by issuing a notice to appear for the purpose of initiating such proceedings if either such officer determines that—

''(A) such proceedings are required in order to permit the alien to seek an immigration benefit for which the alien is legally entitled to apply; and

''(B) such application requires such alien to be placed in, or referred to proceedings under section 240 that are not available to such alien under this section.

''(j) FAMILY UNITY.—In the case of an alien with a minor child in the United States who has been ordered removed pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall ensure that such alien is removed with the minor child, if the alien elects.

''(k) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, judicial review of any decision or action in this section shall be governed only by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which shall have sole and original jurisdiction to hear challenges, whether constitutional or otherwise, to the validity of this section or any written policy directive, written policy guideline, written procedure, or the implementation thereof, issued by or under the authority of the Secretary to implement this section.

''(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ASYLUM OFFICER.—The term 'asylum officer' has the meaning given such term in section 235(b)(1)(E).

''(2) CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE.—The term 'Convention Against Torture'—means the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, including any implementing regulations.

''(3) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

''(4) EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—The term 'exceptional circumstances' has the meaning given such term in section 240(e)(1).

''(5) FINAL ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The term 'final order of removal' means an order of removal made by an asylum officer at the conclusion of a protection determination, and any appeal of such order, as applicable.

''(6) PROTECTION APPELLATE BOARD.—The term 'Protection Appellate Board' means the Protection Appellate Board established under section 463 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

''(7) PROTECTION DETERMINATION DECISION.—The term 'protection determination decision' means the service of a negative or positive protection determination outcome.

''(8) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 240C the following:

''Sec. 240D. Protection merits removal proceedings.''.

SEC. 3143. VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE AFTER NONCUSTODIAL PROCESSING; WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended by section 3142(a), is further amended by inserting after section 240D the following:

''SEC. 240E. VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE AFTER NONCUSTODIAL PROCESSING.

''(a) CONDITIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') may permit an alien to voluntarily depart the United States under this subsection, at the alien's own expense, instead of being subject to proceedings under section 235B or 240D or before the completion of such proceedings, if such alien is not deportable under paragraph (2)(A)(iii) or (4)(B) of section 237(a).

''(2) PERIOD OF VALIDITY.—Permission to depart voluntarily under this subsection shall be valid for a period not to exceed 120 days.

''(3) DEPARTURE BOND.—The Secretary may require an alien permitted to depart voluntarily under this subsection to post a voluntary departure bond, which shall be surrendered upon proof that the alien has departed the United States within the time specified in such bond.

''(b) AT CONCLUSION OF PROCEEDINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may permit an alien to voluntarily depart the United States under this subsection, at the alien's own expense, if, at the conclusion of a proceeding under section 240D, the asylum officer—

''(A) enters an order granting voluntary departure instead of removal; and

''(B) determines that the alien—

''(i) has been physically present in the United States for not less than 60 days immediately preceding the date on which proper notice was served in accordance with section 235B(e)(2);

''(ii) is, and has been, a person of good moral character for at least 5 years immediately preceding the alien's application for voluntary departure;

''(iii) is not deportable under paragraph (2)(A)(iii) or (4) of section 237(a); and

''(iv) has established, by clear and convincing evidence, that he or she has the means to depart the United States and intends to do so.

''(2) DEPARTURE BOND.—The Secretary shall require any alien permitted to voluntarily depart under this subsection to post a voluntary departure bond, in an amount necessary to ensure that such alien will depart, which shall be surrendered upon proof that the alien has departed the United States within the time specified in such bond.

''(c) INELIGIBLE ALIENS.—The Secretary shall not permit an alien to voluntarily depart under this section if such alien was previously permitted to voluntarily depart after having been found inadmissible under section 212(a)(6)(A).

''(d) CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO DEPART.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an alien who was permitted to voluntarily depart the United States under this section and fails to voluntarily depart within the period specified by the Secretary—

''(A) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $1,000 and not more than $5,000; and

''(B) shall be ineligible, during the 10-year period beginning on the last day such alien was permitted to voluntarily depart, to receive any further relief under this section and sections 240A, 245, 248, and 249.

''(2) SPECIAL RULE.—The restrictions on relief under paragraph (1) shall not apply to individuals identified in section 240B(d)(2).

''(3) NOTICE.—The order permitting an alien to voluntarily depart shall describe the penalties under this subsection.

''(e) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe regulations that limit eligibility for voluntary departure under this section for any class of aliens. No court may review any regulation issued under this subsection.

''(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No court has jurisdiction over an appeal from the denial of a request for an order of voluntary departure under subsection (b). No court may order a stay of an alien's removal pending consideration of any claim with respect to voluntary departure.

''(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any voluntary departure relief in any other section of this Act.

''SEC. 240F. WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.

''(a) WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary'), in the discretion of the Secretary, may permit any alien for admission to withdraw his or her application—

''(1) instead of being placed into removal proceedings under section 235B or 240D; or

''(2) at any time before the alien's protection merits interview occurs under section 240D.

''(b) CONDITIONS.—An alien's decision to withdraw his or her application for admission under subsection (a) shall be made voluntarily. Permission to withdraw an application for admission may not be granted unless the alien intends and is able to depart the United States within a period determined by the Secretary.

''(c) CONSEQUENCE FOR FAILURE TO DEPART.—An alien who is permitted to withdraw his or her application for admission under this section and fails to voluntarily depart the United States within the period specified by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) shall be ineligible, during the 5-year period beginning on the last day of such period, to receive any further relief under this section and section 240A.

''(d) FAMILY UNITY.—In the case of an alien with a minor child in the United States who has been ordered removed after withdrawing an application under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that such alien is removed with the minor child, if the alien elects.

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any withdrawal requirements in any other section of this Act.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), as amended by section 3142(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 240D the following:

''Sec. 240E. Voluntary departure after noncustodial processing.

''Sec. 240F. Withdrawal of application for admission.''.

SEC. 3144. VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended by section 3143(a), is further amended by inserting after section 240F, the following:

''SEC. 240G. VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary') shall establish a voluntary repatriation program in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

''(b) VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION IN LIEU OF PROCEEDINGS.—Under the voluntary repatriation program established under subsection (a), the Secretary may permit an alien to elect, at any time during proceedings under section 235B or before the alien's protection merits determination under section 240D(d), voluntary repatriation in lieu of continued proceedings under section 235B or 240D.

''(c) PERIOD OF VALIDITY.—An alien who elects voluntary repatriation shall depart the United States within a period determined by the Secretary, which may not exceed 120 days.

''(d) PROCEDURES.—Consistent with subsection (b), the Secretary may permit an alien to elect voluntary repatriation if the asylum officer—

''(1) enters an order granting voluntary repatriation instead of an order of removal; and

''(2) determines that the alien—

''(A) has been physically present in the United States immediately preceding the date on which the alien elects voluntary repatriation;

''(B) is, and has been, a person of good moral character for the entire period the alien is physically present in the United States;

''(C) is not described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii) or (4) of section 237(a);

''(D) meets the applicable income requirements, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(E) has not previously elected voluntary repatriation.

''(e) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) NOTICE.—The notices required to be provided to an alien under sections 235B(b)(2) and 240D(c)(1) shall include information on the voluntary repatriation program.

''(2) VERBAL REQUIREMENTS.—The asylum officer shall verbally provide the alien with information about the opportunity to elect voluntary repatriation—

''(A) at the beginning of a protection determination under section 235B(c)(2); and

''(B) at the beginning of the protection merits interview under section 240D(b)(3).

''(3) WRITTEN REQUEST.—An alien subject to section 235B or 240D—

''(A) may elect voluntary repatriation at any time during proceedings under 235B or before the protection merits determination under section 240D(d); and

''(B) may only elect voluntary repatriation—

''(i) knowingly and voluntarily; and

''(ii) in a written format, to the maximum extent practicable, in the alien's native language or in a language the alien understands, or in an alternative record if the alien is unable to write.

''(f) REPATRIATION.—The Secretary is authorized to provide transportation to aliens, including on commercial flights, if such aliens elect voluntary repatriation.

''(g) REINTEGRATION.—Upon election of voluntary repatriation, the Secretary shall advise the alien of any applicable reintegration or reception program available in the alien's country of nationality.

''(h) FAMILY UNITY.—In the case of an alien with a minor child in the United States who has been permitted to voluntarily repatriate pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall ensure that such alien is repatriated with the minor child, if the alien elects.

''(i) IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES.—

''(1) ELECTION TIMING.—In the case of an alien who elects voluntary repatriation at any time during proceeding under section 235B or before the protection merits interview, a final order of removal shall not be entered against the alien.

''(2) FAILURE TO TIMELY DEPART.—In the case of an alien who elects voluntary repatriation and fails to depart the United States before the end of the period of validity under subsection (c)—

''(A) the alien shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount equal to the cost of the commercial flight or the ticket, or tickets, to the country of nationality;

''(B) during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the period of validity under subsection (c) ends, the alien shall be ineligible for relief under—

''(i) this section;

''(ii) section 240A; and

''(iii) section 240E; and

''(C) a final order of removal shall be entered against the alien.

''(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to a child of an adult alien who elected voluntary repatriation.

''(j) CLERICAL MATTERS.—

''(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any voluntary departure under any other section of this Act.

''(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede the requirements of section 241(b)(3).

''(3) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No court shall have jurisdiction of the Secretary's decision, in the Secretary's sole discretion, to permit an alien to elect voluntary repatriation. No court may order a stay of an alien's removal pending consideration of any claim with respect to voluntary repatriation.

''(4) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as necessary to carry out this section.

''(k) VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION DEFINED.—The term 'voluntary repatriation' means the free and voluntary return of an alien to the alien's country of nationality (or in the case of an alien having no nationality, the country of the alien's last habitual residence) in a safe and dignified manner, consistent with the obligations of the United States under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1952 (as made applicable by the1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), as amended by section 3143(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 240F the following:

''Sec. 240G. Voluntary repatriation.''.

SEC. 3145. IMMIGRATION EXAMINATIONS FEE ACCOUNT.

Section 286 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356) is amended—

(1) in subsection (m), by striking ''collected.'' and inserting ''collected: *Provided further*, That such fees may not be set to recover any costs associated with the implementation of sections 235B and 240D, are appropriated by Congress, and are not subject to the fees collected.''; and

(2) in subsection (n), by adding at the end the following: ''Funds deposited in the 'Immigration Examinations Fee Account' shall not be used to reimburse any appropriation for expenses associated with the implementation of sections 235B and 240D.''.

SEC. 3146. BORDER REFORMS.

(a) SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTIGUOUS CONTINENTAL LAND BORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 244A. SPECIAL RULES FOR CONTIGUOUS CONTINENTAL LAND BORDERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in section 235 or 235B who arrives by land from a contiguous continental land border (whether or not at a designated port of arrival), absent unusual circumstances, shall be promptly subjected to the mandatory provisions of such sections unless the Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary')determines, on a case-by-case basis, that there is—

''(1) an exigent medical circumstance involving the alien that requires the alien's physical presence in the United States;

''(2) a significant law enforcement or intelligence purpose warranting the alien's presence in the United States;

''(3) an urgent humanitarian reason directly pertaining to the individual alien, according to specific criteria determined by the Secretary;

''(4) a Tribal religious ceremony, cultural exchange, celebration, subsistence use, or other culturally important purpose warranting the alien's presence in the United States on Tribal land located at or near an international land border;

''(5) an accompanying alien whose presence in the United States is necessary for the alien who meets the criteria described in any of the paragraphs (1) through (4) to further the purposes of such provisions; or

''(6) an alien who, while in the United States, had an emergent personal or bona fide reason to travel temporarily abroad and received approval for Advance Parole from the Secretary.

''(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

''(1) to preclude the execution of section 235(a)(4) or 241(a)(5);

''(2) to expand or restrict the authority to grant parole under section 212(d)(5), including for aliens arriving at a port of entry by air or sea, other than an alien arriving by land at a contiguous continental land border for whom a special rule described in subsection (a) applies; or

''(3) to refer to or place an alien in removal proceedings pursuant to section 240, or in any other proceedings, if such referral is not otherwise authorized under this Act.

''(c) TRANSITION RULES.—

''(1) MANDATORY PROCESSING.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall require any alien described in subsection (a) who does not meet any of the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of that subsection to be processed in accordance with section 235 or 235B, as applicable, unless such alien is subject to removal proceedings under subsection (b)(3).

''(2) PRE-CERTIFICATION REFERRALS AND PLACEMENTS.—Before the Comptroller General of the United States has certified that sections 235B and 240D are fully operational pursuant to section 3146(d) of the Border Act, the Secretary shall refer or place aliens described in subsection (a) in proceedings under section 240 based upon operational considerations regarding the capacity of the Secretary to process aliens under section 235 or section 235B, as applicable.

''(3) POST-CERTIFICATION REFERRALS AND PLACEMENTS.—After the Comptroller General makes the certification referred to in paragraph (2), the Secretary may only refer

aliens described in subsection (a) to, or place such aliens in, proceedings under section 235(b) or 235B, as applicable, unless such alien is subject to removal proceedings under subsection (b)(3).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 244 the following:

''Sec. 244A. Special rules for contiguous continental land borders.''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO ARREST, DETAIN, AND RELEASE ALIENS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 236(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''on'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''on'' before ''bond''; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B)(i) in the case of an alien encountered in the interior, on conditional parole; or

''(ii) in the case of an alien encountered at the border—

''(I) pursuant to the procedures under 235B; or

''(II) on the alien's own recognizance with placement into removal proceedings under 240; and''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect immediately after the Comptroller General of the United States certifies, in accordance with subsection (d), that sections 235B and 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by sections 3141 and 3142, are fully operational.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General makes the certification described in section 3146(d) of the Border Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish, on a publicly accessible internet website in a downloadable and searchable format, a report that describes each use of the authority of the Secretary under subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)(II).

''(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include, for the applicable 180-day reporting period—

''(A) the number of aliens released pursuant to the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security under subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii)(II);

''(B) with respect to each such release—

''(i) the rationale;

''(ii) the Border Patrol sector in which the release occurred; and

''(iii) the number of days between the scheduled date of the protection determination and the date of release from physical custody.

''(3) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—Each report published under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall comply with all applicable Federal privacy laws; and

''(B) shall not disclose any information contained in, or pertaining to, a protection determination.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect immediately after the Comptroller General of the United States certifies, in accordance with subsection (d), that sections 235B and 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by sections 3141 and 3142, are fully operational.

(d) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) FULLY OPERATIONAL.—The term ''fully operational'' means the Secretary has the necessary resources, capabilities, and personnel to process all arriving aliens referred to in sections 235B and 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by sections 3141 and 3142, within the timeframes required by such sections.

(B) REQUIRED PARTIES.—The term ''required parties'' means—

(i) the President;

(ii) the Secretary;

(iii) the Attorney General;

(iv) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(v) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(vi) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(vii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(viii) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(ix) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(x) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall review the implementation of sections 235B and 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by sections 3141 and 3142, to determine whether such sections are fully operational.

(B) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—In completing the review required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall assess, in comparison to the available resources, capabilities, and personnel on the date of the enactment of this Act, whether there are sufficient—

(i) properly trained personnel, including support personnel;

(ii) real property assets and other required capabilities;

(iii) information technology infrastructure;

(iv) field manuals and guidance, regulations, and policies;

(v) other investments that the Comptroller General considers necessary; and

(vi) asylum officers to effectively process all aliens who are considered amenable for processing under section 235(b), section 235B, section 240, and section 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(3) CERTIFICATION OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Comptroller General determines, after completing the review required under paragraph (2), that sections 235B and 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act are fully operational, the Comptroller General shall immediately submit to the required parties a certification of such determination.

(4) NONCERTIFICATION AND SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS.—If the Comptroller General determines, after completing the review required under paragraph (2), that such sections 235B and 240D are not fully operational, the Comptroller General shall—

(A) notify the required parties of such determination, including the reasons for such determination;

(B) conduct a subsequent review in accordance with paragraph (2)(A) not later than 180 days after each previous review that concluded that such sections 235B and 240D were not fully operational; and

(C) conduct a subsequent review not later than 90 days after each time Congress appropriates additional funding to fully implement such sections 235B and 240D.

(5) DETERMINATION OF THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 7 days after receiving a certification described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall confirm or reject the certification of the Comptroller General.

(6) EFFECT OF REJECTION.—

(A) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary rejects a certification of the of the Comptroller General pursuant to paragraph (A), the Secretary shall immediately—

(i) notify the President, the Comptroller General, and the congressional committees listed in paragraph (1) of such rejection; and

(ii) provide such entities with a rationale for such rejection.

(B) SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS.—If the Comptroller General receives a notification of rejection from the Secretary pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall conduct a subsequent review in accordance with paragraph (4)(B).

SEC. 3147. PROTECTION APPELLATE BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 463. PROTECTION APPELLATE BOARD.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services an appellate authority to conduct administrative appellate reviews of protection merits determinations made under section 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act in which the alien is denied relief or protection, to be known as the 'Protection Appellate Board'.

''(b) COMPOSITION.—Each panel of the Protection Appellate Board shall be composed of 3 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services asylum officers (as defined in section 235(b)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(E))), assigned to the panel at random, who—

''(1) possess the necessary experience adjudicating asylum claims; and

''(2) are from diverse geographic regions.

''(c) DUTIES OF ASYLUM OFFICERS.—In conducting a review under section 240D(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, each asylum officer assigned to a panel of the Protection Appellate Board shall independently review the file of the alien concerned, including—

''(1) the record of the alien's protection determination (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))), as applicable;

''(2) the alien's application for a protection merits interview (as defined in section 240D(l) of that Act);

''(3) a transcript of the alien's protection merits interview;

''(4) the final record of the alien's protection merits interview;

''(5) a sworn statement from the alien identifying new evidence or alleged error and any accompanying information the alien or the alien's legal representative considers important; and

''(6) any additional materials, information, or facts inserted into the record.

''(d) DECISIONS.—Any final determination made by a panel of the Protection Appellate Board shall be by majority decision, independently submitted by each member of the panel.

''(e) EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION.—The Protection Appellate Board shall have exclusive jurisdiction to review appeals of negative protections merits determinations.

''(f) PROTECTIONS FOR DECISIONS BASED ON MERITS OF CASE.—The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may not impose restrictions on an asylum officer's ability to grant or deny relief or protection based on a numerical limitation.

''(g) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary—

''(A) shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the Congress that includes, for the preceding year—

''(i) the number of petitions for review submitted by aliens under section 240D(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

''(ii) the number of appeals considered by the Protection Appellate Board under such section that resulted in a grant of relief or protection;

''(iii) the number of appeals considered by the Protection Appellate Board under such section that resulted in a denial of relief or protection;

''(iv) the geographic regions in which the members of the Protection Appellate Board held their primary duty station;

''(v) the tenure of service of the members of the Protection Appellate Board;

''(vi) a description of any anomalous case outcome identified by the Secretary and the resolution of any such case outcome;

''(vii) the number of unanimous decisions by the Protection Appellate Board;

''(viii) an identification of the number of cases the Protection Appellate Board was unable to complete in the timelines specified under section 240D(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

''(ix) a description of any steps taken to remediate any backlog identified under clause (viii), as applicable; and

''(B) in submitting each such report, shall protect all personally identifiable information of Federal employees and aliens who are subject to the reporting under this subsection.

''(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

''(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

''(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(F) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 462 the following:

''Sec. 463. Protection Appellate Board.''.

TITLE II—ASYLUM PROCESSING ENHANCEMENTS

SEC. 3201. COMBINED SCREENINGS.

Section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(53) The term 'protection determination' means—

''(A) a screening conducted pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(v); or

''(B) a screening to determine whether an alien is eligible for—

''(i) withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3); or

''(ii) protection under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, which includes the regulations implementing any law enacted pursuant to Article 3 of such convention.

''(54) The term 'protection merits interview' means an interview to determine whether an alien—

''(A) meets the definition of refugee under paragraph (42), in accordance with the terms and conditions under section 208;

''(B) is eligible for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3); or

''(C) is eligible for protection under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, which includes the regulations implementing any law enacted pursuant to Article 3 of such convention.''.

SEC. 3202. CREDIBLE FEAR STANDARD AND ASYLUM BARS AT SCREENING INTERVIEW.

Section 235(b)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking ''significant possibility'' and inserting ''reasonable possibility''; and

(2) by adding at the end, the following:

''(vi) ASYLUM EXCEPTIONS.—An asylum officer, during the credible fear screening of an alien—

''(I) shall determine whether any of the asylum exceptions under section 208(b)(2) disqualify the alien from receiving asylum; and

''(II) may determine that the alien does not meet the definition of credible fear of persecution under clause (v) if any such exceptions apply, including whether any such exemptions to such disqualifying exceptions may apply.''.

SEC. 3203. INTERNAL RELOCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) there are reasonable grounds for concluding that the alien could avoid persecution by relocating to—

''(I) another location in the alien's country of nationality; or

''(II) in the case of an alien having no nationality, another location in the alien's country of last habitual residence.''.

(b) INAPPLICABILITY.—Section 244(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by inserting ''clauses (i) through (vi) of'' after ''described in''.

SEC. 3204. ASYLUM OFFICER CLARIFICATION.

Section 235(b)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''comparable to'' and all that follows and inserting '', including nonadversarial techniques;'';

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii)(I) is an employee of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and

''(II) is not a law enforcement officer.''.

TITLE III—SECURING AMERICA

Subtitle A—Border Emergency Authority

SEC. 3301. BORDER EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended by section 3146(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 244B. BORDER EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.

''(a) USE OF AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to respond to extraordinary migration circumstances, there shall be available to the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law, a border emergency authority.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The border emergency authority shall not be activated with respect to any of the following:

''(A) A citizen or national of the United States.

''(B) An alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

''(C) An unaccompanied alien child.

''(D) An alien who an immigration officer determines, with the approval of a supervisory immigration officer, should be excepted from the border emergency authority based on the totality of the circumstances, including consideration of significant law enforcement, officer and public safety, humanitarian, and public health interests, or an alien who an immigration officer determines, in consultation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, should be excepted from the border emergency authority due to operational considerations.

''(E) An alien who is determined to be a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).

''(F) An alien who has a valid visa or other lawful permission to enter the United States, including—

''(i) a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and associated personnel, United States Government employees or contractors on orders abroad, or United States Government employees or contractors, and an accompanying family member who is on orders or is a member of the alien's household, subject to required assurances;

''(ii) an alien who holds a valid travel document upon arrival at a port of entry;

''(iii) an alien from a visa waiver program country under section 217 who is not otherwise subject to travel restrictions and who arrives at a port of entry; or

''(iv) an alien who presents at a port of entry pursuant to a process approved by the Secretary to allow for safe and orderly entry into the United States.

''(3) APPLICABILITY.—The border emergency authority shall only be activated as to aliens who are not subject to an exception under paragraph (2), and who are, after the authority is activated, within 100 miles of the United States southwest land border and within the 14-day period after entry.

''(b) BORDER EMERGENCY AUTHORITY DESCRIBED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the border emergency authority is activated, the Secretary shall have the authority, in the Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion, to summarily remove from and prohibit, in whole or in part, entry into the United States of any alien identified in subsection (a)(3) who is subject to such authority in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

''(A) SUMMARY REMOVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall issue a summary removal order and summarily remove an alien to the country of which the alien is a subject, national, or citizen (or, in the case of an alien having no nationality, the country of the alien's last habitual residence), or in accordance with the processes established under section 241, unless the summary removal of the alien to such country would be prejudicial to the interests of the United States.

''(B) WITHHOLDING AND CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE INTERVIEWS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien subject to the border emergency authority who manifests a fear of persecution or torture with respect to a proposed country of summary removal, an asylum officer (as defined in section 235(b)(1)(E)) shall conduct an interview, during which the asylum officer shall determine that, if such alien demonstrates during the interview that the alien has a reasonable possibility of persecution or torture, such alien shall be referred to or placed in proceedings under section 240 or 240D, as appropriate.

''(ii) SOLE MECHANISM TO REQUEST PROTECTION.—An interview under this subparagraph conducted by an asylum officer shall be the sole mechanism by which an alien described in clause (i) may make a claim for protection under—

''(I) section 241(b)(3); and

''(II) the Convention Against Torture.

''(iii) ALIEN REFERRED FOR ADDITIONAL PROCEEDINGS.—In the case of an alien interviewed under clause (i) who demonstrates that the alien is eligible to apply for protection under section 241(b)(3) or the Convention Against Torture, the alien—

''(I) shall not be summarily removed; and

''(II) shall instead be processed under section 240 or 240D, as appropriate.

''(iv) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—

''(I) OPPORTUNITY FOR SECONDARY REVIEW.—A supervisory asylum officer shall review any case in which the asylum officer who interviewed the alien under the procedures in clause (iii) finds that the alien is not eligible for protection under section 241(b)(3) or the Convention Against Torture.

''(II) VACATUR.—If, in conducting such a secondary review, the supervisory asylum officer determines that the alien demonstrates eligibility for such protection—

''(aa) the supervisory asylum officer shall vacate the previous negative determination; and

''(bb) the alien shall instead be processed under section 240 or 240D.

''(III) SUMMARY REMOVAL.—If an alien does not seek such a secondary review, or if the supervisory asylum officer finds that such alien is not eligible for such protection, the supervisory asylum officer shall order the alien summarily removed without further review.

''(3) ACTIVATIONS OF AUTHORITY.—

''(A) DISCRETIONARY ACTIVATION.—The Secretary may activate the border emergency authority if, during a period of 7 consecutive calendar days, there is an average of 4,000 or more aliens who are encountered each day.

''(B) MANDATORY ACTIVATION.—The Secretary shall activate the border emergency authority if—

''(i) during a period of 7 consecutive calendar days, there is an average of 5,000 or more aliens who are encountered each day; or

''(ii) on any 1 calendar day, a combined total of 8,500 or more aliens are encountered.

''(C) CALCULATION OF ACTIVATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), the average for the applicable 7-day period shall be calculated using—

''(I) the sum of—

''(aa) the number of encounters that occur between the southwest land border ports of entry of the United States;

''(bb) the number of encounters that occur between the ports of entry along the southern coastal borders; and

''(cc) the number of inadmissible aliens encountered at a southwest land border port of entry as described in subsection (a)(2)(F)(iv); divided by

''(II) 7.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—Aliens described in subsection (a)(2)(C) from noncontiguous countries shall not be included in calculating the sum of aliens encountered.

''(4) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (3), the Secretary shall not activate the border emergency authority—

''(i) during the first calendar year after the effective date, for more than 270 calendar days;

''(ii) during the second calendar year after the effective date, for more than 225 days; and

''(iii) during the third calendar year, for more than 180 calendar days.

''(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—When the authority is activated, the Secretary shall implement the authority within 24 hours of such activation.

''(5) SUSPENSIONS OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall suspend activation of the border emergency authority, and the procedures under subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d), not later than 14 calendar days after the date on which the following occurs, as applicable:

''(A) In the case of an activation under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), there is during a period of 7 consecutive calendar days an average of less than 75 percent of the encounter level used for activation.

''(B) In the case of an activation under clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (3)(B), there is during a period of 7 consecutive calendar days an average of less than 75 percent of the encounter level described in such clause (i).

''(6) WAIVERS OF ACTIVATION OF AUTHORITY.—

''(A) FIRST CALENDAR YEAR.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), beginning the first calendar year after the effective date, the Secretary shall only have the authority to activate the border emergency authority for 270 calendar days during the calendar year, provided that—

''(i) for the first 90 calendar days in which any of the requirements of paragraph (3) have been satisfied, the Secretary shall be required to activate such authority;

''(ii) for the remaining 180 days that the authority is available in the calendar year, the Secretary may, in the sole, unreviewable, and exclusive discretion of the Secretary, determine whether to activate the requirements of the border emergency authority under paragraph (3)(B) until the number of days that the authority has not been activated is equal to the number of days left in the calendar year; and

''(iii) when the number of calendar days remaining in the calendar year is equal to the number of days that the authority has not been activated, the Secretary shall be required to activate the border emergency authority for the remainder of the calendar year on days during which the requirements of paragraph (3)(B) have been satisfied.

''(B) SECOND CALENDAR YEAR.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), beginning the second calendar year after the effective date, the Secretary shall only have the authority to activate the border emergency authority for 225 calendar days during the calendar year, provided that—

''(i) during the first 75 calendar days during which any of the requirements of paragraph (3) have been satisfied, the Secretary shall be required to activate the authority;

''(ii) for the remaining 150 days that the authority is available in the calendar year, the Secretary may, in the sole, unreviewable, and exclusive discretion of the Secretary, determine whether to activate the requirements of the border emergency authority under paragraph (3)(B) until the number of days that the authority has not been activated is equal to the number of days left in the calendar year; and

''(iii) when the number of calendar days remaining in the calendar year is equal to the number of days that the authority has not been activated, the Secretary shall be required to activate the border emergency authority for the remainder of the calendar year on days during which the requirements of paragraph (3)(B) have been satisfied.

''(C) THIRD CALENDAR YEAR.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), beginning the third calendar year after the effective date, the Secretary shall only have the authority to activate the border emergency authority for 180 calendar days during the calendar year, provided that—

''(i) during the first 60 calendar days during which any of the requirements of paragraph (3) have been satisfied, the Secretary shall be required to activate the authority;

''(ii) for the remaining 120 days that the authority is available in each calendar year, the Secretary may, in the sole, unreviewable, and exclusive discretion of the Secretary, determine whether to activate the requirements of the border emergency authority under paragraph (3)(B) until the number of days that the authority has not been activated is equal to the number of days left in the calendar year; and

''(iii) when the number of calendar days remaining in the calendar year is equal to the number of days that the authority has not been activated, the Secretary shall be required to activate the border emergency authority for the remainder of the calendar year on days during which the requirements of paragraph (3)(B) have been satisfied.

''(7) EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF AUTHORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the President finds that it is in the national interest to temporarily suspend the border emergency authority, the President may direct the Secretary to suspend use of the border emergency authority on an emergency basis.

''(B) DURATION.—In the case of a direction from the President under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall suspend the border emergency authority for not more than 45 calendar days within a calendar year, notwithstanding any limitations on the use of the authority described in this subsection.

''(c) CONTINUED ACCESS TO SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER PORTS OF ENTRY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—During any activation of the border emergency authority under subsection (b), the Secretary shall maintain the capacity to process, and continue processing, under section 235 or 235B a minimum of 1,400 inadmissible aliens each calendar day cumulatively across all southwest land border ports of entry in a safe and orderly process developed by the Secretary.

''(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN EXCEPTION.—For the purpose of calculating the number under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall count all unaccompanied alien children, who are nationals of contiguous countries, processed at southwest land border ports of entry, but shall not count such children who are nationals of noncontiguous countries.

''(B) TRANSITION RULES.—The provisions of section 244A(c) shall apply to this section.

''(d) BAR TO ADMISSION.—Any alien who, during a period of 365 days, has 2 or more summary removals pursuant to the border emergency authority, shall be inadmissible for a period of 1 year beginning on the date of the alien's most recent summary removal.

''(e) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

''(1) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—Nothing in this section may be construed to interfere with the processing of unaccompanied alien children and such children are not subject to this section.

''(2) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to interfere with any rights or responsibilities established through a settlement agreement in effect before the date of the enactment of this section.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1952 (as made applicable by the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)), the Convention Against Torture, and any other applicable treaty, as applied to this section, the interview under this section shall occur

only in the context of the border emergency authority.

''(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Judicial review of any decision or action applying the border emergency authority shall be governed only by this subsection as follows:

''(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (2), no court or judge shall have jurisdiction to review any cause or claim by an individual alien arising from the decision to enter a summary removal order against such alien under this section, or removing such alien pursuant to such summary removal order.

''(2) The United States District Court for the District of Columbia shall have sole and original jurisdiction to hear challenges, whether constitutional or otherwise, to the validity of this section or any written policy directive, written policy guideline, written procedure, or the implementation thereof, issued by or under the authority of the Secretary to implement this section.

''(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall take effect on the day after the date of the enactment of this section.

''(2) 7-DAY PERIOD.—The initial activation of the authority under subparagraph (A) or (B)(i) of subsection (b)(3) shall take into account the average number of encounters during the preceding 7 consecutive calendar days, as described in such subparagraphs, which may include the 6 consecutive calendar days immediately preceding the date of the enactment of this section.

''(h) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this section in compliance with the requirements of section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION.—Until the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary may issue any interim final rules necessary to implement this section without having to satisfy the requirements of section 553(b)(B) of title 5, United States Code, provided that any such interim final rules shall include a 30-day post promulgation notice and comment period prior to finalization in the Federal Register.

''(3) REQUIREMENT.—All regulations promulgated to implement this section beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section shall be issued pursuant to the requirements set forth in section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BORDER EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—The term 'border emergency authority' means all authorities and procedures under this section.

''(2) CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE.—The term 'Convention Against Torture' means the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, and includes the regulations implementing any law enacted pursuant to Article 3 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984.

''(3) ENCOUNTER.—With respect to an alien, the term 'encounter' means an alien who—

''(A) is physically apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel—

''(i) within 100 miles of the southwest land border of the United States during the 14-day period immediately after entry between ports of entry; or

''(ii) at the southern coastal borders during the 14-day period immediately after entry between ports of entry; or

''(B) is seeking admission at a southwest land border port of entry and is determined to be inadmissible, including an alien who utilizes a process approved by the Secretary to allow for safe and orderly entry into the United States.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(5) SOUTHERN COASTAL BORDERS.—The term 'southern coastal borders' means all maritime borders in California, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

''(6) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term 'unaccompanied alien child' has the meaning given such term in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)).

''(j) SUNSET.—This section—

''(1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this section; and

''(2) shall be repealed effective as of the date that is 3 years after such date of enactment.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), as amended by section 3146(b), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 244A the following:

''Sec. 244B Border emergency authority.''.

Subtitle B—FEND Off Fentanyl Act

SEC. 3311. SHORT TITLES.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence Off Fentanyl'' or the ''FEND Off Fentanyl Act''.

SEC. 3312. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the proliferation of fentanyl is causing an unprecedented surge in overdose deaths in the United States, fracturing families and communities, and necessitating a comprehensive policy response to combat its lethal flow and to mitigate the drug's devastating consequences;

(2) the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States is a national security threat that has killed hundreds of thousands of United States citizens;

(3) transnational criminal organizations, including cartels primarily based in Mexico, are the main purveyors of fentanyl into the United States and must be held accountable;

(4) precursor chemicals sourced from the People's Republic of China are—

(A) shipped from the People's Republic of China by legitimate and illegitimate means;

(B) transformed through various synthetic processes to produce different forms of fentanyl; and

(C) crucial to the production of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, contributing to the ongoing opioid crisis;

(5) the United States Government must remain vigilant to address all new forms of fentanyl precursors and drugs used in combination with fentanyl, such as Xylazine, which attribute to overdose deaths of people in the United States;

(6) to increase the cost of fentanyl trafficking, the United States Government should work collaboratively across agencies and should surge analytic capability to impose sanctions and other remedies with respect to transnational criminal organizations (including cartels), including foreign nationals who facilitate the trade in illicit fentanyl and its precursors from the People's Republic of China; and

(7) the Department of the Treasury should focus on fentanyl trafficking and its facilitators as one of the top national security priorities for the Department.

SEC. 3313. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person''—

(A) means—

(i) any citizen or national of a foreign country; or

(ii) any entity not organized under the laws of the United States or a jurisdiction within the United States; and

(B) does not include the government of a foreign country.

(3) KNOWINGLY.—The term ''knowingly'', with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) TRAFFICKING.—The term ''trafficking'', with respect to fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, has the meaning given the term ''opioid trafficking'' in section 7203(8) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302(8)).

(5) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' includes—

(A) any organization designated as a significant transnational criminal organization under part 590 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations;

(B) any of the organizations known as—

(i) the Sinaloa Cartel;

(ii) the Jalisco New Generation Cartel;

(iii) the Gulf Cartel;

(iv) the Los Zetas Cartel;

(v) the Juarez Cartel;

(vi) the Tijuana Cartel;

(vii) the Beltran-Leyva Cartel; or

(viii) La Familia Michoacana; or

(C) any successor organization to an organization described in subparagraph (B) or as otherwise determined by the President.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

CHAPTER 1—SANCTIONS MATTERS

Subchapter A—Sanctions in Response to National Emergency Relating to Fentanyl Trafficking

SEC. 3314. FINDING; POLICY.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and is a national emergency.

(b) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to apply economic and other financial sanctions to those who engage in the international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids to protect the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

SEC. 3315. USE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES; REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this subchapter.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch pursuant to this subchapter and any national emergency declared with respect to the trafficking of fentanyl and trade in other illicit drugs, including—

(A) the issuance of any new or revised regulations, policies, or guidance;

(B) the imposition of sanctions;

(C) the collection of relevant information from outside parties;

(D) the issuance or closure of general licenses, specific licenses, and statements of licensing policy by the Office of Foreign Assets Control;

(E) a description of any pending enforcement cases; and

(F) the implementation of mitigation procedures.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include the matters required under subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of such paragraph in a classified annex.

SEC. 3316. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING BY TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines—

(1) is knowingly involved in the significant trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, including such trafficking by a transnational criminal organization; or

(2) otherwise is knowingly involved in significant activities of a transnational criminal organization relating to the trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The President, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), may block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch with respect to the foreign persons identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 3317. PENALTIES; WAIVERS; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) PENALTIES.—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this subchapter or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this subchapter shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this subchapter with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—This subchapter shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subchapter shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity of the United States.

(3) HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under this subchapter with respect to any person for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

SEC. 3318. TREATMENT OF FORFEITED PROPERTY OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) TRANSFER OF FORFEITED PROPERTY TO FORFEITURE FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any covered forfeited property shall be deposited into the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established under section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, or the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund established under section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any deposits made under paragraph (1) during the 180-day period preceding submission of the report.

(3) COVERED FORFEITED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''covered forfeited property'' means property—

(A) forfeited to the United States under chapter 46 or section 1963 of title 18, United States Code; and

(B) that belonged to or was possessed by an individual affiliated with or connected to a transnational criminal organization subject to sanctions under—

(i) this subchapter;

(ii) the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

(iii) Executive Order 14059 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to imposing sanctions on foreign persons involved in the global illicit drug trade).

(b) BLOCKED ASSETS UNDER TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002.—Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to affect the treatment of blocked assets of a terrorist party described in section 201(a) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (28 U.S.C. 1610 note).

Subchapter B—Other Matters

SEC. 3319. TEN-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS.

(a) INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.—Section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

''(B) COMMENCEMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action, suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

''(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (c) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.''.

(b) TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.—Section 16 of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4315) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

''(B) COMMENCEMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action, suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

''(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (a) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.''.

SEC. 3320. CLASSIFIED REPORT AND BRIEFING ON STAFFING OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on the staffing of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, disaggregated by staffing dedicated to each sanctions program and each country or issue.

SEC. 3321. REPORT ON DRUG TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND USE OF VESSELS WITH MISLABELED CARGO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on efforts to target drug transportation routes and modalities, including an assessment of the prevalence of false cargo labeling and shipment of precursor chemicals without accurate tracking of the customers purchasing the chemicals.

SEC. 3322. REPORT ON ACTIONS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS INVOLVED IN FENTANYL SUPPLY CHAIN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China with respect to persons involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills.

CHAPTER 2—ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING MATTERS

SEC. 3323. DESIGNATION OF ILLICIT FENTANYL TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311 et

seq.) is amended by inserting after section 7213 the following:

"SEC. 7213A. DESIGNATION OF TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Treasury determines that reasonable grounds exist for concluding that 1 or more financial institutions operating outside of the United States, 1 or more classes of transactions within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, or 1 or more types of accounts within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, is of primary money laundering concern in connection with illicit opioid trafficking, the Secretary of the Treasury may, by order, regulation, or otherwise as permitted by law—

''(1) require domestic financial institutions and domestic financial agencies to take 1 or more of the special measures provided for in section 9714(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note); or

''(2) prohibit, or impose conditions upon, certain transmittals of funds (to be defined by the Secretary) by any domestic financial institution or domestic financial agency, if such transmittal of funds involves any such institution, class of transaction, or type of accounts.

''(b) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In any judicial review of a finding of the existence of a primary money laundering concern, or of the requirement for 1 or more special measures with respect to a primary money laundering concern made under this section, if the designation or imposition, or both, were based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)), such information may be submitted by the Secretary to the reviewing court ex parte and in camera. This subsection does not confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding made or any requirement imposed under this section.

''(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The exemptions from, and prohibitions on, search and disclosure referred to in section 9714(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to any report or record of report filed pursuant to a requirement imposed under subsection (a). For purposes of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, this subsection shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section.

''(d) PENALTIES.—The penalties referred to in section 9714(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to violations of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a), in the same manner and to the same extent as described in such section 9714(d).

''(e) INJUNCTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may bring a civil action to enjoin a violation of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a) in the same manner and to the same extent as described in section 9714(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7213 the following:

''Sec. 7213A. Designation of transactions of sanctioned persons as of primary money laundering concern.''.

SEC. 3324. TREATMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS REPORTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK.

(a) FILING INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network shall issue guidance or instructions to United States financial institutions for filing reports on suspicious transactions required under section 1010.320 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, related to suspected fentanyl trafficking by transnational criminal organizations.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF REPORTS RELATING TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING OR TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Director shall prioritize research into reports described in subsection (a) that indicate a connection to trafficking of fentanyl or related synthetic opioids or financing of suspected transnational criminal organizations.

SEC. 3325. REPORT ON TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING IN TRADE WITH MEXICO, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the first update to the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance submitted to Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall include a report on trade-based money laundering originating in Mexico or the People's Republic of China and involving Burma.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance'' means the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance required under section 261 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115–44; 131 Stat. 934), as amended by section 6506 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 135 Stat. 2428).

CHAPTER 3—EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS

SEC. 3326. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority or a requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this subtitle shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

Subtitle C—Fulfilling Promises to Afghan Allies

SEC. 3331. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(J) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(2) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(4) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.—The term ''special immigrant status'' means special immigrant status provided under—

(A) the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8);

(B) section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

(C) subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by section 3336(a).

(5) SPECIFIED APPLICATION.—The term ''specified application'' means—

(A) a pending, documentarily complete application for special immigrant status; and

(B) a case in processing in the United States Refugee Admissions Program for an individual who has received a Priority 1 or Priority 2 referral to such program.

(6) UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM.—The term ''United States Refugee Admissions Program'' means the program to resettle refugees in the United States pursuant to the authorities provided in sections 101(a)(42), 207, and 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42), 1157, and 1522).

SEC. 3332. SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN ALLIES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.—The Secretary of State shall respond to inquiries by Members of Congress regarding the status of a specified application submitted by, or on behalf of, a national of Afghanistan, including any information that has been provided to the applicant, in accordance with section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)).

(b) OFFICE IN LIEU OF EMBASSY.—During the period in which there is no operational United States embassy in Afghanistan, the Secretary of State shall designate an appropriate office within the Department of State—

(1) to review specified applications submitted by nationals of Afghanistan residing in Afghanistan, including by conducting any required interviews;

(2) to issue visas or other travel documents to such nationals, in accordance with the immigration laws;

(3) to provide services to such nationals, to the greatest extent practicable, that would normally be provided by an embassy; and

(4) to carry out any other function the Secretary of State considers necessary.

SEC. 3333. CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—The term ''conditional permanent resident status'' means conditional permanent resident status under section 216 and 216A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a, 1186b), subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''eligible individual'' means an alien who—

(A) is present in the United States;

(B) is a citizen or national of Afghanistan or, in the case of an alien having no nationality, is a person who last habitually resided in Afghanistan;

(C) has not been granted permanent resident status;

(D)(i) was inspected and admitted to the United States on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(ii) was paroled into the United States during the period beginning on July 30, 2021, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, provided that such parole has not been terminated by the Secretary upon written notice; and

(E) is admissible to the United States as an immigrant under the immigration laws, including eligibility for waivers of grounds of inadmissibility to the extent provided by the immigration laws and subject to the terms of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may—

(A) adjust the status of each eligible individual to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence status, subject to the procedures established by the Secretary to determine eligibility for conditional permanent resident status; and

(B) create for each eligible individual a record of admission to such status as of the date on which the eligible individual was initially inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever is later,

unless the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that such individual is subject to any ground of inadmissibility under section 212 (other than subsection (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility as provided by this subtitle or by the immigration laws.

(2) CONDITIONAL BASIS.—An individual who obtains lawful permanent resident status under this section shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions of this section.

(c) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS DESCRIBED.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before granting conditional permanent resident status to an eligible individual under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall conduct an assessment with respect to the eligible individual, which shall be equivalent in rigor to the assessment conducted with respect to refugees admitted to the United States through the United States Refugee Admissions Program, for the purpose of determining whether the eligible individual is subject to any ground of inadmissibility under section 212 (other than subsection (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182).

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting an assessment under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may consult with the head of any other relevant agency and review the holdings of any such agency.

(2) REMOVAL OF CONDITIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than the date described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may remove the conditional basis of the status of an individual granted conditional permanent resident status under this section unless the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that such individual is subject to any ground of inadmissibility under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), and is not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility as provided by this subtitle or by the immigration laws.

(B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subparagraph is the earlier of—

(i) the date that is 4 years after the date on which the individual was admitted or paroled into the United States; or

(ii) July 1, 2027.

(C) WAIVER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), with respect to an eligible individual, the Secretary may waive the application of the grounds of inadmissibility under 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes or to ensure family unity.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may not waive under clause (i) the application of subparagraphs (C) through (E) and (G) through (H) of paragraph (2), or paragraph (3), of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to expand or limit any other waiver authority applicable under the immigration laws to an applicant for adjustment of status.

(D) TIMELINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall endeavor to remove conditions as to all individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under this section who are eligible for removal of conditions.

(3) TREATMENT OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF STATUS PERIOD FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—An individual in conditional permanent resident status under this section, or who otherwise meets the requirements under (a)(1) of this section, shall be considered—

(A) to have been admitted to the United States as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; and

(B) to be present in the United States as an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, provided that, no alien shall be naturalized unless the alien's conditions have been removed under this section.

(d) TERMINATION OF CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Conditional permanent resident status shall terminate on, as applicable—

(A) the date on which the Secretary removes the conditions pursuant to subsection (c)(2), on which date the alien shall be lawfully admitted for permanent residence without conditions;

(B) the date on which the Secretary determines that the alien was not an eligible individual under subsection (a)(2) as of the date that such conditional permanent resident status was granted, on which date of the Secretary's determination the alien shall no longer be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or

(C) the date on which the Secretary determines pursuant to subsection (c)(2) that the alien is not eligible for removal of conditions, on which date the alien shall no longer be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary terminates status under this subsection, the Secretary shall so notify the individual in writing and state the reasons for the termination.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary at any time to place in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) any alien who has conditional permanent resident status under this section, if the alien is deportable under section 237 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1227) under a ground of deportability applicable to an alien who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(f) PAROLE EXPIRATION TOLLED.—The expiration date of a period of parole shall not apply to an individual under consideration for conditional permanent resident status under this section, until such time as the Secretary has determined whether to issue conditional permanent resident status.

(g) PERIODIC NONADVERSARIAL MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which an individual is conferred conditional permanent resident status under this section, and periodically thereafter, the Office of Refugee Resettlement shall make available opportunities for the individual to participate in a nonadversarial meeting, during which an official of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (or an agency funded by the Office) shall—

(A) on request by the individual, assist the individual in a referral or application for applicable benefits administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and completing any applicable paperwork; and

(B) answer any questions regarding eligibility for other benefits administered by the United States Government.

(2) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 7 days before the date on which a meeting under paragraph (1) is scheduled to occur, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide notice to the individual that includes the date of the scheduled meeting and a description of the process for rescheduling the meeting.

(3) CONDUCT OF MEETING.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement practices to ensure that—

(A) meetings under paragraph (1) are conducted in a nonadversarial manner; and

(B) interpretation and translation services are provided to individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under this section who have limited English proficiency.

(4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

(A) to prevent an individual from electing to have counsel present during a meeting under paragraph (1); or

(B) in the event that an individual declines to participate in such a meeting, to affect the individual's conditional permanent resident status under this section or eligibility to have conditions removed in accordance with this section.

(h) CONSIDERATION.—Except with respect to an application for naturalization and the benefits described in subsection (p), an individual in conditional permanent resident status under this section shall be considered to be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence for purposes of the adjudication of an application or petition for a benefit or the receipt of a benefit.

(i) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the status of an individual is adjusted to that of conditional permanent resident status under this section, the Secretary shall provide notice to such individual with respect to the provisions of this section, including subsection (c)(1) (relating to the conduct of assessments) and subsection (g) (relating to periodic nonadversarial meetings).

(j) APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures whereby an individual who would otherwise be eligible to apply for naturalization but for having conditional permanent resident status, may be considered for naturalization coincident with removal of conditions under subsection (c)(2).

(k) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in paragraph (2) shall be regarded as lawfully admitted for permanent residence as of the date the alien was initially inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever is later.

(2) ALIEN DESCRIBED.—An alien described in this paragraph is an alien who—

(A) is described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of subsection (a)(2), and whose status was adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on or after July 30, 2021, but on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(B) is an eligible individual whose status is then adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence after the date of the enactment of this Act under any provision of the immigration laws other than this section.

(l) PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN.—A parent or legal guardian of an eligible individual shall be eligible to obtain status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis if—

(1) the eligible individual—

(A) was under 18 years of age on the date on which the eligible individual was granted conditional permanent resident status under this section; and

(B) was not accompanied by at least one parent or guardian on the date the eligible individual was admitted or paroled into the United States; and

(2) such parent or legal guardian was admitted or paroled into the United States after the date referred to in paragraph (1)(B).

(m) GUIDANCE.—

(1) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance implementing this section.

(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, guidance issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

(i) may be published on the internet website of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(ii) shall be effective on an interim basis immediately upon such publication but may be subject to change and revision after notice and an opportunity for public comment.

(2) FINAL GUIDANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of issuance of guidance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall finalize the guidance implementing this section.

(B) EXEMPTION FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedures Act''), or any other law relating to rulemaking or information collection, shall not apply to the guidance issued under this paragraph.

(n) ASYLUM CLAIMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the adjudication of an application for asylum submitted by an eligible individual, section 2502(c) of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 117–43) shall not apply.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit an eligible individual from seeking or receiving asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158).

(o) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary may not charge a fee to any eligible individual in connection with the initial issuance under this section of—

(1) a document evidencing status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or conditional permanent resident status; or

(2) an employment authorization document.

(p) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(A) an individual described in subsection (a) of section 2502 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 117–43) shall retain his or her eligibility for the benefits and services described in subsection (b) of such section if the individual has a pending application, or is granted adjustment of status, under this section; and

(B) such benefits and services shall remain available to the individual to the same extent and for the same periods of time as such benefits and services are otherwise available to refugees who acquire such status.

(2) EXCEPTION FROM 5-YEAR LIMITED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC BENEFITS.—Section 403(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) An alien whose status is adjusted under section 3333 of the Border Act to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis.''.

(q) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude an eligible individual from applying for or receiving any immigration benefit to which the individual is otherwise entitled.

(r) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Aliens granted conditional permanent resident status or lawful permanent resident status under this section shall not be subject to the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202, and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

(2) SPOUSE AND CHILDREN BENEFICIARIES.—A spouse or child who is the beneficiary of an immigrant petition under section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) filed by an alien who has been granted conditional permanent resident status or lawful permanent resident status under this section, seeking classification of the spouse or child under section 203(a)(2)(A) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)(2)(A)) shall not be subject to the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202, and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

(s) EFFECT ON OTHER APPLICATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the interest of efficiency, the Secretary may pause consideration of any application or request for an immigration benefit pending adjudication so as to prioritize an application for adjustment of status to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section.

(t) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary, and the Secretary of State such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3334. REFUGEE PROCESSES FOR CERTAIN AT-RISK AFGHAN ALLIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN ALLY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''Afghan ally'' means an alien who is a citizen or national of Afghanistan, or in the case of an alien having no nationality, an alien who last habitually resided in Afghanistan, who—

(A) was—

(i) a member of—

(I) the special operations forces of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces;

(II) the Afghanistan National Army Special Operations Command;

(III) the Afghan Air Force; or

(IV) the Special Mission Wing of Afghanistan;

(ii) a female member of any other entity of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces, including—

(I) a cadet or instructor at the Afghanistan National Defense University; and

(II) a civilian employee of the Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of Interior Affairs;

(iii) an individual associated with former Afghan military and police human intelligence activities, including operators and Department of Defense sources;

(iv) an individual associated with former Afghan military counterintelligence, counterterrorism, or counternarcotics;

(v) an individual associated with the former Afghan Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior Affairs, or court system, and who was involved in the investigation, prosecution or detention of combatants or members of the Taliban or criminal networks affiliated with the Taliban; or

(vi) a senior military officer, senior enlisted personnel, or civilian official who served on the staff of the former Ministry of Defense or the former Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan; or

(B) provided service to an entity or organization described in subparagraph (A) for not less than 1 year during the period beginning on December 22, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, and did so in support of the United States mission in Afghanistan.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces includes members of the security forces under the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the Afghanistan National Army, the Afghan Air Force, the Afghanistan National Police, and any other entity designated by the Secretary of Defense as part of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces during the relevant period of service of the applicant concerned.

(b) REFUGEE STATUS FOR AFGHAN ALLIES.—

(1) DESIGNATION AS REFUGEES OF SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.—Afghan allies shall be considered refugees of special humanitarian concern under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), until the later of 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act or upon determination by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary, that such designation is no longer in the interest of the United States.

(2) THIRD COUNTRY PRESENCE NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), the Secretary of State and the Secretary shall, to the greatest extent possible, conduct remote refugee processing for an Afghan ally located in Afghanistan.

(c) AFGHAN ALLIES REFERRAL PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a process by which an individual may apply to the Secretary of Defense for classification as an Afghan ally and request a referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program; and

(B) the head of any appropriate department or agency that conducted operations in Afghanistan during the period beginning on December 22, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may establish a process by which an individual may apply to the head of the appropriate department or agency for classification as an Afghan ally and request a referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program.

(2) APPLICATION SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The process established under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) include the development and maintenance of a secure online portal through which applicants may provide information

verifying their status as Afghan allies and upload supporting documentation; and

(ii) allow—

(I) an applicant to submit his or her own application;

(II) a designee of an applicant to submit an application on behalf of the applicant; and

(III) in the case of an applicant who is outside the United States, the submission of an application regardless of where the applicant is located.

(B) USE BY OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Defense may enter into arrangements with the head of any other appropriate department or agency so as to allow the application system established under subparagraph (A) to be used by such department or agency.

(3) REVIEW PROCESS.—As soon as practicable after receiving a request for classification and referral described in paragraph (1), the head of the appropriate department or agency shall—

(A) review—

(i) the service record of the applicant, if available;

(ii) if the applicant provides a service record or other supporting documentation, any information that helps verify the service record concerned, including information or an attestation provided by any current or former official of the department or agency who has personal knowledge of the eligibility of the applicant for such classification and referral; and

(iii) the data holdings of the department or agency and other cooperating interagency partners, including biographic and biometric records, iris scans, fingerprints, voice biometric information, hand geometry biometrics, other identifiable information, and any other information related to the applicant, including relevant derogatory information; and

(B)(i) in a case in which the head of the department or agency determines that the applicant is an Afghan ally without significant derogatory information, refer the Afghan ally to the United States Refugee Admissions Program as a refugee; and

(ii) include with such referral—

(I) any service record concerned, if available;

(II) if the applicant provides a service record, any information that helps verify the service record concerned; and

(III) any biometrics for the applicant.

(4) REVIEW PROCESS FOR DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR REFERRAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an applicant with respect to whom the head of the appropriate department or agency denies a request for classification and referral based on a determination that the applicant is not an Afghan ally or based on derogatory information—

(i) the head of the department or agency shall provide the applicant with a written notice of the denial that provides, to the maximum extent practicable, a description of the basis for the denial, including the facts and inferences, or evidentiary gaps, underlying the individual determination; and

(ii) the applicant shall be provided an opportunity to submit not more than 1 written appeal to the head of the department or agency for each such denial.

(B) DEADLINE FOR APPEAL.—An appeal under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be submitted—

(i) not more than 120 days after the date on which the applicant concerned receives notice under clause (i) of that subparagraph; or

(ii) on any date thereafter, at the discretion of the head of the appropriate department or agency.

(C) REQUEST TO REOPEN.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An applicant who receives a denial under subparagraph (A) may submit a request to reopen a request for classification and referral under the process established under paragraph (1) so that the applicant may provide additional information, clarify existing information, or explain any unfavorable information.

(ii) LIMITATION.—After considering 1 such request to reopen from an applicant, the head of the appropriate department or agency may deny subsequent requests to reopen submitted by the same applicant.

(5) FORM AND CONTENT OF REFERRAL.—To the extent practicable, the head of the appropriate department or agency shall ensure that referrals made under this subsection—

(A) conform to requirements established by the Secretary of State for form and content; and

(B) are complete and include sufficient contact information, supporting documentation, and any other material the Secretary of State or the Secretary consider necessary or helpful in determining whether an applicant is entitled to refugee status.

(6) TERMINATION.—The application process and referral system under this subsection shall terminate upon the later of 1 year before the termination of the designation under subsection (b)(1) or on the date of a joint determination by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary, that such termination is in the national interest of the United States.

(d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of State may not charge any fee in connection with a request for a classification and referral as a refugee under this section.

(2) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in law with respect to the number of personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall not apply to personnel employed for the primary purpose of carrying out this section.

(3) REPRESENTATION.—An alien applying for admission to the United States under this section may be represented during the application process, including at relevant interviews and examinations, by an attorney or other accredited representative. Such representation shall not be at the expense of the United States Government.

(4) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable effort to provide an alien who has been classified as an Afghan ally and has been referred as a refugee under this section protection or to immediately remove such alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

(5) OTHER ELIGIBILITY FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS.—No alien shall be denied the opportunity to apply for admission under this section solely because the alien qualifies as an immediate relative or is eligible for any other immigrant classification.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034 to carry out this section.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to inhibit the Secretary of State from accepting refugee referrals from any entity.

SEC. 3335. IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND OVERSIGHT OF REFUGEE AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROCESSING.

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF FINGERPRINT CARDS AND SUBMISSIONS OF BIOMETRICS.—In addition to the methods authorized under the heading relating to the Immigration and Naturalization Service under title I of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–119, 111 Stat. 2448; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note), and other applicable law, and subject to such safeguards as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, shall prescribe to ensure the integrity of the biometric collection (which shall include verification of identity by comparison of such fingerprints with fingerprints taken by or under the direct supervision of the Secretary prior to or at the time of the individual's application for admission to the United States), the Secretary may, in the case of any application for any benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), accept fingerprint cards or any other submission of biometrics—

(1) prepared by international or nongovernmental organizations under an appropriate agreement with the Secretary or the Secretary of State;

(2) prepared by employees or contractors of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of State; or

(3) provided by an agency (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code).

(b) STAFFING.—

(1) VETTING.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, and any other agency authorized to carry out the vetting process under this subtitle, shall each ensure sufficient staffing, and request the resources necessary, to efficiently and adequately carry out the vetting of applicants for—

(A) referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program, consistent with the determinations established under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157); and

(B) special immigrant status.

(2) REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure sufficient staffing to efficiently provide assistance under chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.) to refugees resettled in the United States.

(c) REMOTE PROCESSING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State and the Secretary shall employ remote processing capabilities for refugee processing under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), including secure digital file transfers, videoconferencing and teleconferencing capabilities, remote review of applications, remote interviews, remote collection of signatures, waiver of the applicant's appearance or signature (other than a final appearance and verification by the oath of the applicant prior to or at the time of the individual's application for admission to the United States), waiver of signature for individuals under 5 years old, and any other capability the Secretary of State and the Secretary consider appropriate, secure, and likely to reduce processing wait times at particular facilities.

(d) MONTHLY ARRIVAL REPORTS.—With respect to monthly reports issued by the Secretary of State relating to United States Refugee Admissions Program arrivals, the Secretary of State shall report—

(1) the number of monthly admissions of refugees, disaggregated by priorities; and

(2) the number of Afghan allies admitted as refugees.

(e) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON AFGHAN ALLY STRATEGY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall establish an Interagency Task Force on Afghan Ally Strategy (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'')—

(A) to develop and oversee the implementation of the strategy and contingency plan described in subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph (4); and

(B) to submit the report, and provide a briefing on the report, as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4).

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall include—

(i) 1 or more representatives from each relevant Federal agency, as designated by the head of the applicable relevant Federal agency; and

(ii) any other Federal Government official designated by the President.

(B) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''relevant Federal agency'' means—

(i) the Department of State;

(ii) the Department Homeland Security;

(iii) the Department of Defense;

(iv) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(v) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(vi) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(3) CHAIR.—The Task Force shall be chaired by the Secretary of State.

(4) DUTIES.—

(A) REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Task Force is established, the Task Force, acting through the chair of the Task Force, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes—

(I) a strategy for facilitating the resettlement of nationals of Afghanistan outside the United States who, during the period beginning on October 1, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, directly and personally supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, as determined by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Secretary of Defense; and

(II) a contingency plan for future emergency operations in foreign countries involving foreign nationals who have worked directly with the United States Government, including the Armed Forces of the United States and United States intelligence agencies.

(ii) ELEMENTS.—The report required under clause (i) shall include—

(I) the total number of nationals of Afghanistan who have pending specified applications, disaggregated by—

(aa) such nationals in Afghanistan and such nationals in a third country;

(bb) type of specified application; and

(cc) applications that are documentarily complete and applications that are not documentarily complete;

(II) an estimate of the number of nationals of Afghanistan who may be eligible for special immigrant status;

(III) with respect to the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(i)(I)—

(aa) the estimated number of nationals of Afghanistan described in such subparagraph;

(bb) a description of the process for safely resettling such nationals of Afghanistan;

(cc) a plan for processing such nationals of Afghanistan for admission to the United States that—

(AA) discusses the feasibility of remote processing for such nationals of Afghanistan residing in Afghanistan;

(BB) includes any strategy for facilitating refugee and consular processing for such nationals of Afghanistan in third countries, and the timelines for such processing;

(CC) includes a plan for conducting rigorous and efficient vetting of all such nationals of Afghanistan for processing;

(DD) discusses the availability and capacity of sites in third countries to process applications and conduct any required vetting for such nationals of Afghanistan, including the potential to establish additional sites; and

(EE) includes a plan for providing updates and necessary information to affected individuals and relevant nongovernmental organizations;

(dd) a description of considerations, including resource constraints, security concerns, missing or inaccurate information, and diplomatic considerations, that limit the ability of the Secretary of State or the Secretary to increase the number of such nationals of Afghanistan who can be safely processed or resettled;

(ee) an identification of any resource or additional authority necessary to increase the number of such nationals of Afghanistan who can be processed or resettled;

(ff) an estimate of the cost to fully implement the strategy; and

(gg) any other matter the Task Force considers relevant to the implementation of the strategy;

(IV) with respect to the contingency plan required by clause (i)(II)—

(aa) a description of the standard practices for screening and vetting foreign nationals considered to be eligible for resettlement in the United States, including a strategy for vetting, and maintaining the records of, such foreign nationals who are unable to provide identification documents or biographic details due to emergency circumstances;

(bb) a strategy for facilitating refugee or consular processing for such foreign nationals in third countries;

(cc) clear guidance with respect to which Federal agency has the authority and responsibility to coordinate Federal resettlement efforts;

(dd) a description of any resource or additional authority necessary to coordinate Federal resettlement efforts, including the need for a contingency fund;

(ee) any other matter the Task Force considers relevant to the implementation of the contingency plan; and

(V) a strategy for the efficient processing of all Afghan special immigrant visa applications and appeals, including—

(aa) a review of current staffing levels and needs across all interagency offices and officials engaged in the special immigrant visa process;

(bb) an analysis of the expected Chief of Mission approvals and denials of applications in the pipeline in order to project the expected number of visas necessary to provide special immigrant status to all approved applicants under this subtitle during the several years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(cc) an assessment as to whether adequate guidelines exist for reconsidering or reopening applications for special immigrant visas in appropriate circumstances and consistent with applicable laws; and

(dd) an assessment of the procedures throughout the special immigrant visa application process, including at the Portsmouth Consular Center, and the effectiveness of communication between the Portsmouth Consular Center and applicants, including an identification of any area in which improvements to the efficiency of such procedures and communication may be made.

(iii) FORM.—The report required under clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after submitting the report required by clause (i), the Task Force shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the contents of the report.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall remain in effect until the later of—

(A) the date on which the strategy required under paragraph (4)(A)(i)(I) has been fully implemented;

(B) the date of a determination by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary, that a task force is no longer necessary for the implementation of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1); or

(C) the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) IMPROVING CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.—Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4)(A) In the determination made under this subsection for each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 1992), the President shall enumerate, with the respective number of refugees so determined, the number of aliens who were granted asylum in the previous year.

''(B) In making a determination under paragraph (1), the President shall consider the information in the most recently published projected global resettlement needs report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.'';

(2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) A description of the number and allocation of the refugees to be admitted, including the expected allocation by region, and an analysis of the conditions within the countries from which they came.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following—

''(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each quarter beginning the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024, the President shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following:

''(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

''(A) The number of refugees admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.

''(B) The cumulative number of refugees admitted to the United States during the applicable fiscal year, as of the last day of the preceding quarter.

''(C) The number of refugees expected to be admitted to the United States during the remainder of the applicable fiscal year.

''(D) The number of refugees from each region admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.

''(2) ALIENS WITH PENDING SECURITY CHECKS.—With respect only to aliens processed under section 101(a)(27)(N), subtitle C of title III of the Border Act, or section 602(b)(2)(A)(ii)(II) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8)—

''(A) the number of aliens, by nationality, security check, and responsible vetting agency, for whom a National Vetting Center or other security check has been requested during the preceding quarter, and the number of aliens, by nationality, for whom the check was pending beyond 30 days; and

''(B) the number of aliens, by nationality, security check, and responsible vetting agency, for whom a National Vetting Center or other security check has been pending for more than 180 days.

''(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

''(A) For the preceding quarter—

''(i) the number of Refugee Corps officers deployed on circuit rides and the overall number of Refugee Corps officers;

''(ii) the number of individuals interviewed—

''(I) on each circuit ride; and

''(II) at each circuit ride location;

''(iii) the number of circuit rides; and

''(iv) for each circuit ride, the duration of the circuit ride.

''(B) For the subsequent 2 quarters, the number of circuit rides planned.

''(4) PROCESSING.—

''(A) For refugees admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter, the average number of days between—

''(i) the date on which an individual referred to the United States Government as a refugee applicant is interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

''(ii) the date on which such individual is admitted to the United States.

''(B) For refugee applicants interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security in the preceding quarter, the approval, denial, recommended approval, recommended denial, and hold rates for the applications for admission of such individuals, disaggregated by nationality.''.

SEC. 3336. SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN VULNERABLE AFGHANS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (L)(iii), by adding a semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (M), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(N) a citizen or national of Afghanistan who is the parent or brother or sister of—

''(i) a member of the armed forces (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code); or

''(ii) a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).''.

(2) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the total number of principal aliens who may be provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by paragraph (1), may not exceed 2,500 each fiscal year.

(B) CARRYOVER.—If the numerical limitation specified in subparagraph (A) is not reached during a given fiscal year, the numerical limitation specified in such subparagraph for the following fiscal year shall be increased by a number equal to the difference between—

(i) the numerical limitation specified in subparagraph (A) for the given fiscal year; and

(ii) the number of principal aliens provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) during the given fiscal year.

(C) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISAS.—The total number of aliens who may be provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall not exceed 10,000.

(D) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to issue visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall—

(i) commence on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) terminate on the date on which all such visas are exhausted.

(b) CERTAIN AFGHANS INJURED OR KILLED IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii)(I) was or is employed in Afghanistan on or after October 7, 2001, for not less than 1 year—

''(aa) by, or on behalf of, the United States Government; or

''(bb) by the International Security Assistance Force (or any successor name for such Force) in a capacity that required the alien—

''(AA) while traveling off-base with United States military personnel stationed at the International Security Assistance Force (or any successor name for such Force), to serve as an interpreter or translator for such United States military personnel; or

''(BB) to perform activities for the United States military personnel stationed at International Security Assistance Force (or any successor name for such Force); or

''(II) in the case of an alien who was wounded or seriously injured in connection with employment described in subclause (I), was employed for any period until the date on which such wound or injury occurred, if the wound or injury prevented the alien from continuing such employment;''; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking ''clause (ii)'' and inserting ''clause (ii)(I)'';

(2) in paragraph (13)(A)(i), by striking ''subclause (I) or (II)(bb) of paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''item (aa) or (bb)(BB) of paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)'';

(3) in paragraph (14)(C), by striking ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)''; and

(4) in paragraph (15), by striking ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)''.

(c) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM UNDER AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION ACT OF 2009.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2022'' and inserting ''FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2029''; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2029''; and

(C) in clause (ii), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2029''; and

(2) in paragraph (13), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 31, 2024'' and inserting ''January 31, 2030''.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—Section 602(b)(4) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8;) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—Notwithstanding section 222(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(e)), an application for an immigrant visa under this section may be signed by the applicant through a virtual video meeting before a consular officer and verified by the oath of the applicant administered by the consular officer during a virtual video meeting.''.

(e) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Paragraph (12) of section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended is amended to read as follows:

''(12) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

''(A) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Border Act and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the following:

''(i) For the preceding quarter—

''(I) a description of improvements made to the processing of special immigrant visas and refugee processing for citizens and nationals of Afghanistan;

''(II) the number of new Afghan referrals to the United States Refugee Admissions Program, disaggregated by referring entity;

''(III) the number of interviews of Afghans conducted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, disaggregated by the country in which such interviews took place;

''(IV) the number of approvals and the number of denials of refugee status requests for Afghans;

''(V) the number of total admissions to the United States of Afghan refugees;

''(VI) number of such admissions, disaggregated by whether the refugees come from within, or outside of, Afghanistan;

''(VII) the average processing time for citizens and nationals of Afghanistan who are applicants for referral under section 3334 of the Border Act;

''(VIII) the number of such cases processed within such average processing time; and

''(IX) the number of denials issued with respect to applications by citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for referrals under section 3334 of the Border Act.

''(ii) The number of applications by citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for refugee referrals pending as of the date of submission of the report.

''(iii) A description of the efficiency improvements made in the process by which applications for special immigrant visas under this subsection are processed, including information described in clauses (iii) through (viii) of paragraph (11)(B).

''(B) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

''(C) PUBLIC POSTING.—The Secretary of State shall publish on the website of the Department of State the unclassified portion of each report submitted under subparagraph (A).''.

(f) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of State may not charge any fee in connection with an application for, or issuance of, a special immigrant visa or special immigrant status under—

(A) section 602 of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8);

(B) section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

(C) subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in law with respect to the number of personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall not apply to personnel employed for the primary purpose of carrying out this section.

(3) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable effort to provide an alien who is seeking status as a special immigrant under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection (a)(1), protection or to immediately remove such alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

(4) RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT.—A citizen or national of Afghanistan who is admitted to the United States under this section or an

amendment made by this section shall be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) to the same extent, and for the same periods of time, as such refugees.

SEC. 3337. SUPPORT FOR ALLIES SEEKING RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 10 years thereafter, the Secretary and the Secretary of State may waive any fee or surcharge or exempt individuals from the payment of any fee or surcharge collected by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State, respectively, in connection with a petition or application for, or issuance of, an immigrant visa to a national of Afghanistan under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) or 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) and 1153(a)), respectively.

SEC. 3338. REPORTING.

(a) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Beginning on January 1, 2028, not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes, for the preceding quarter—

(1) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 3333, disaggregated by the number of such individuals for whom conditions have been removed;

(2) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 3333 who have been determined to be ineligible for removal of conditions (and the reasons for such determination); and

(3) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 3333 for whom no such determination has been made (and the reasons for the lack of such determination).

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes for the preceding year, with respect to individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 3333—

(1) the number of such individuals who are placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under subsection (a)(2) of section 237 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable ground under that subsection;

(2) the number of such individuals who are placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under subsection (a)(3) of section 237 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable ground under that subsection;

(3) the number of final orders of removal issued pursuant to proceedings described in paragraphs (1) and (2), disaggregated by each applicable ground of deportability;

(4) the number of such individuals for whom such proceedings are pending, disaggregated by each applicable ground of deportability; and

(5) a review of the available options for removal from the United States, including any changes in the feasibility of such options during the preceding year.

TITLE IV—PROMOTING LEGAL IMMIGRATION

SEC. 3401. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR FIANCÉS, FIANCÉES, SPOUSES, AND CHILDREN OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND SPECIALTY WORKERS.

Section 214(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize an alien fiancé, fiancée, or spouse admitted pursuant to clause (i) or (ii) of section 101(a)(15)(K), or any child admitted pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(K)(iii) to engage in employment in the United States incident to such status and shall provide the alien with an 'employment authorized' endorsement during the period of authorized admission.

''(16) Upon the receipt of a completed petition described in subparagraph (E) or (F) of section 204(a)(1) for a principal alien who has been admitted pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize the alien spouse or child of such principal alien who has been admitted under section 101(a)(15)(H) to accompany or follow to join a principal alien admitted under such section, to engage in employment in the United States incident to such status and shall provide the alien with an 'employment authorized' endorsement during the period of authorized admission.''.

SEC. 3402. ADDITIONAL VISAS.

Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by adding at the end the following:

''(6)(A) For fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029—

''(i) 512,000 shall be substituted for 480,000 in paragraph (1)(A)(i); and

''(ii) 258,000 shall be substituted for 226,000 in paragraph (1)(B)(i)(i) of that paragraph.

''(B) The additional visas authorized under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall be issued each fiscal year;

''(ii) shall remain available in any fiscal year until issued; and

''(iii) shall be allocated in accordance with sections 201, 202, and 203.''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(3)(A) For fiscal years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029, 158,000 shall be substituted for 140,000 in paragraph (1)(A).

''(B) The additional visas authorized under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall be issued each fiscal year;

''(ii) shall remain available in any fiscal year until issued; and

''(iii) shall be allocated in accordance with sections 201, 202, and 203.''.

SEC. 3403. CHILDREN OF LONG-TERM VISA HOLDERS.

(a) MAINTAINING FAMILY UNITY FOR CHILDREN OF LONG-TERM H–1B NONIMMIGRANTS AFFECTED BY DELAYS IN VISA AVAILABILITY.—Section 203(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) CHILD STATUS DETERMINATION FOR CERTAIN DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF H-1B NONIMMIGRANTS.—

''(A) DETERMINATIVE FACTORS.—For purposes of subsection (d), the determination of whether an alien described in subparagraph (B) satisfies the age and marital status requirements set forth in section 101(b)(1) shall be made using the alien's age and marital status on the date on which an initial petition as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) was filed on behalf of the alien's parent, if such petition was approved.

''(B) ALIEN DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this subparagraph if such alien—

''(i) maintained, for an aggregate period of at least 8 years before reaching 21 years of age, the status of a dependent child of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) pursuant to a lawful admission; and

''(ii)(I) sought to acquire the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which an immigrant visa became available to such alien; or

''(II) demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that the alien's failure to seek such status during such 2-year period was due to extraordinary circumstances.''.

(b) NONIMMIGRANT DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF H-1B NONIMMIGRANTS.—Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) CHILD DERIVATIVE BENEFICIARIES OF H-1B NONIMMIGRANTS.—

''(1) AGE DETERMINATION.—In the case of an alien who maintained, for an aggregate period of at least 8 years before reaching 21 years of age, the status of a dependent child of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) pursuant to a lawful admission, such alien's age shall be determined based on the date on which an initial petition for classification under such section was filed on behalf of the alien's parent, if such petition is approved.

''(2) LONG-TERM DEPENDENTS.—Notwithstanding the alien's actual age or marital status, an alien who is determined to be a child under paragraph (1) and is otherwise eligible may change status to, or extend status as, a dependent child of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) if the alien's parent—

''(A) maintains lawful status under such section;

''(B) has an employment-based immigrant visa petition that has been approved pursuant to section 203(b); and

''(C) has not yet had an opportunity to seek an immigrant visa or adjust status under section 245.

''(3) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien who is determined to be a child under paragraph (1) is authorized to engage in employment in the United States incident to the status of his or her nonimmigrant parent.

''(4) SURVIVING RELATIVE CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding the death of the qualifying relative, an alien who is determined to be a child under paragraph (1) is authorized to extend status as a dependent child of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b).''.

(c) MOTION TO REOPEN OR RECONSIDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A motion to reopen or reconsider the denial of a petition under section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) and a subsequent application for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255), may be granted if—

(A) such petition or application would have been approved if—

(i) section 203(h)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a), had been in effect when the petition or application was adjudicated; and

(ii) the person concerned remains eligible for the requested benefit;

(B) the individual seeking relief pursuant to such motion was in the United States at the time the underlying petition or application was filed; and

(C) such motion is filed with the Secretary or the Attorney General not later than the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) PROTECTION FROM REMOVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the Attorney General and the Secretary—

(A) may not initiate removal proceedings against or remove any alien who has a pending nonfrivolous motion under paragraph (1) or is seeking to file such a motion unless—

(i) the alien is a danger to the community or a national security risk; or

(ii) initiating a removal proceeding with respect to such alien is in the public interest; and

(B) shall provide aliens with a reasonable opportunity to file such a motion.

(3) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien with a pending, nonfrivolous motion under this subsection shall be authorized to engage in employment through the date on which a final administrative decision regarding such motion has been made.

SEC. 3404. MILITARY NATURALIZATION MODERNIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 328 (8 U.S.C. 1439); and

(2) in section 329 (8 U.S.C. 1440)—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows: ''**NATURALIZATION THROUGH SERVICE IN THE SELECTED RESERVE OR IN ACTIVE-DUTY STATUS**.—'';

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''during either'' and all that follows through ''foreign force'';

(ii) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking ''America Samoa, or Swains Island'' and inserting ''American Samoa, Swains Island, or any of the freely associated States (as defined in section 611(b)(1)(C) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411(b)(1)(C)),''; and

(II) by striking ''he'' and inserting ''such person''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''in an active-duty status, and whether separation from such service was under honorable conditions'' and inserting ''in accordance with subsection (b)(3)''; and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''he'' and inserting ''such person''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''an active-duty status'' and all that follows through ''foreign force, and'' and inserting ''in an active status (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10, United States Code), in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, or on active duty (as defined in such section) and, if separated''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by striking the items relating to sections 328 and 329 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 329. Naturalization through service in the Selected Reserve or in active-duty status.''.

SEC. 3405. TEMPORARY FAMILY VISITS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NONIMMIGRANT VISA SUBCATEGORY.—Section 101(a)(15)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(B)) is amended by striking ''temporarily for business or temporarily for pleasure;'' and inserting ''temporarily for—

''(i) business;

''(ii) pleasure; or

''(iii) family purposes;''.

(b) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO FAMILY PURPOSES VISAS.—Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184), as amended by section 3403(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(t) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO FAMILY PURPOSES VISAS.—

''(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection and in section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii), the term 'family purposes' means any visit by a relative for a social, occasional, major life, or religious event, or for any other purpose.

''(2) FAMILY PURPOSES VISA.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), family travel for pleasure is authorized pursuant to the policies, terms, and conditions in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Border Act.

''(3) SPECIAL RULES FOR FAMILY PURPOSES VISAS FOR ALIENS AWAITING IMMIGRANT VISAS.—

''(A) NOTIFICATION OF APPROVED PETITION.—A visa may not be issued to a relative under section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) until after the consular officer is notified that the Secretary of Homeland Security has approved a petition filed in the United States by a family member of the relative who is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident.

''(B) PETITION.—A petition referred to in subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) be in such form and contain such information as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation; and

''(ii) shall include—

''(I) a declaration of financial support, affirming that the petitioner will provide financial support to the relative for the duration of his or her temporary stay in the United States;

''(II) evidence that the relative has—

''(aa) obtained, for the duration of his or her stay in the United States, a short-term travel medical insurance policy; or

''(bb) an existing health insurance policy that provides coverage for international medical expenses; and

''(III) a declaration from the relative, under penalty of perjury, affirming the relative's—

''(aa) intent to depart the United States at the conclusion of the relative's period of authorized admission; and

''(bb) awareness of the penalties for overstaying such period of authorized admission.

''(4) PETITIONER ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Absent extraordinary circumstances, an individual may not petition for the admission of a relative as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) if such individual previously petitioned for the admission of such a relative who—

''(i) was admitted to the United States pursuant to a visa issued under such section as a result of such petition; and

''(ii) overstayed his or her period of authorized admission.

''(B) PREVIOUS PETITIONERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An individual filing a declaration of financial support on behalf of a relative seeking admission as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) who has previously provided a declaration of financial support for such a relative shall—

''(I) certify to the Secretary of Homeland Security that the relative whose admission the individual previously supported did not overstay his or her period of authorized admission; or

''(II) explain why the relative's overstay was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the relative.

''(ii) CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR FALSE STATEMENT.—A certification under clause (i)(I) shall be subject to the requirements under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

''(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the application of section 212(a)(9)(B) in the case of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) who overstayed his or her period of authorized admission due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the nonimmigrant.''.

(c) RESTRICTION ON CHANGE OF STATUS.—Section 248(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1258(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''(B)(iii),'' after ''subparagraph''.

(d) FAMILY PURPOSE VISA ELIGIBILITY WHILE AWAITING IMMIGRANT VISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(b)), a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) of such Act, as added by subsection (a), who has been classified as an immigrant under section 201 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1151) and is awaiting the availability of an immigrant visa subject to the numerical limitations under section 203 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153) may be admitted pursuant to a family purposes visa, in accordance with section 214(t) of such Act, as added by subsection (b), if the individual is otherwise eligible for admission.

(2) LIMITATION.—An alien admitted under section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to section 214(t)(3) of such Act, as added by subsection (b), may not be considered to have been admitted to the United States for purposes of section 245(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(a)).

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or in the amendments made by this section, may be construed as—

(1) limiting the authority of immigration officers to refuse to admit to the United States an applicant under section 101(a)(15)(B)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a), who fails to meet 1 or more of the criteria under section 214(t) of such Act, as added by subsection (b), or who is inadmissible under section 212(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); or

(2) precluding the use of section 101(a)(15)(B)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a), for family travel for pleasure in accordance with the policies and procedures in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND DUE PROCESS

Subtitle A—Work Authorizations

SEC. 3501. WORK AUTHORIZATION.

Section 208(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY.—Except as provided in section 235C—

''(A) an applicant for asylum is not entitled to employment authorization, but such authorization may be provided by the Secretary of Homeland Security by regulation; and

''(B) an applicant who is not otherwise eligible for employment authorization may not be granted employment authorization under this section before the date that is 180 days after the date on which the applicant files an application for asylum.''.

SEC. 3502. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended by section 3141(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 235C. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY.

''(a) EXPEDITED EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize employment for any alien who—

''(A)(i) is processed under the procedures described in section 235(b)(1) and receives a positive protection determination pursuant to such procedures; or

''(ii)(I) is processed under the procedures described in section 235B; and

''(II)(aa) receives a positive protection determination and is subsequently referred under section 235B(c)(2)(B)(i) for a protection merits interview; or

''(bb) is referred under section 235B(f)(1) for a protection merits interview; and

''(B) is released from the physical custody of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(2) APPLICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall grant employment authorization to—

''(A) an alien described in paragraph (1)(A)(i) immediately upon such alien's release from physical custody;

''(B) an alien described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii)(II)(aa) at the time such alien receives a positive protection determination or is referred for a protection merits interview; and

''(C) an alien described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii)(II)(bb) on the date that is 30 days after the date on which such alien files an application pursuant to section 235B(f).

''(b) TERM.—Employment authorization under this section—

''(1) shall be for an initial period of 2 years; and

''(2) shall be renewable, as applicable—

''(A) for additional 2-year periods while the alien is in protection merits removal proceedings, including while the outcome of the protection merits interview is under administrative or judicial review; or

''(B) until the date on which—

''(i) the alien receives a negative protection merits determination; or

''(ii) the alien otherwise receives employment authorization under any other provision of this Act.

''(c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) DETENTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to expand or restrict the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to detain or release from detention an alien, if such detention or release from detention is authorized by law.

''(2) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not authorize for employment in the United States an alien being processed under section 235(b)(1) or 235B in any circumstance not explicitly described in this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 235B, as added by section 3141(b), the following:

''Sec. 235C. Employment eligibility.''.

Subtitle B—Protecting Due Process

SEC. 3511. ACCESS TO COUNSEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iv) INFORMATION ABOUT PROTECTION DETERMINATIONS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide an alien with information in plain language regarding protection determinations conducted under this section, including the information described in subclause (II)—

''(aa) at the time of the initial processing of the alien; and

''(bb) to the maximum extent practicable, in the alien's native language or in a language the alien understands.

''(II) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this subclause is information relating to—

''(aa) the rights and obligations of the alien during a protection determination;

''(bb) the process by which a protection determination is conducted;

''(cc) the procedures to be followed by the alien in a protection determination; and

''(dd) the possible consequences of—

''(AA) not complying with the obligations referred to in item (aa); and

''(BB) not cooperating with Federal authorities.

''(III) ACCESSIBILITY.—An alien who has a limitation that renders the alien unable to read written materials provided under subclause (I) shall receive an interpretation of such materials in the alien's native language, to the maximum extent practicable, or in a language and format the alien understands.

''(IV) TIMING OF PROTECTION DETERMINATION.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—The protection determination of an alien shall not occur earlier than 72 hours after the provision of the information described in subclauses (I) and (II).

''(bb) WAIVER.—An alien may—

''(AA) waive the 72-hour requirement under item (aa) only if the alien knowingly and voluntarily does so, only in a written format or in an alternative record if the alien is unable to write, and only after the alien receives the information required to be provided under subclause (I); and

''(BB) consult with an individual of the alien's choosing in accordance with subclause (V) before waiving such requirement.

''(V) CONSULTATION.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—An alien who is eligible for a protection determination may consult with one or more individuals of the alien's choosing before the screening or interview, or any review of such a screening or interview, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(bb) LIMITATION.—Consultation described in item (aa) shall be at no expense to the Federal Government.

''(cc) PARTICIPATION IN INTERVIEW.—An individual chosen by the alien may participate in the protection determination of the alien conducted under this subparagraph.

''(dd) ACCESS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that a detained alien has effective access to the individuals chosen by the alien, which may include physical access, telephonic access, and access by electronic communication.

''(ee) INCLUSIONS.—Consultations under this subclause may include—

''(AA) consultation with an individual authorized by the Department of Justice through the Recognition and Accreditation Program; and

''(BB) consultation with an attorney licensed under applicable law.

''(ff) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subclause may be construed—

''(AA) to require the Federal Government to pay for any consultation authorized under item (aa);

''(BB) to invalidate or limit the remedies, rights, and procedures of any Federal law that provides protection for the rights of individuals with disabilities; or

''(CC) to contravene or limit the obligations under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations done at Vienna April 24, 1963.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 238(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1228(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''make reasonable efforts to ensure that the alien's access to counsel'' and inserting ''ensure that the alien's access to counsel, pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv),''.

SEC. 3512. COUNSEL FOR CERTAIN UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

Section 235(c)(5) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) ACCESS TO COUNSEL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362), that all unaccompanied alien children who are or have been in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security, and who are not described in subsection (a)(2)(A), have counsel to represent them in legal proceedings or matters and protect them from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking. To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make every effort to utilize the services of pro bono counsel who agree to provide representation to such children without charge.

''(B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An unaccompanied alien child who is 13 years of age or younger, and who is placed in or referred to removal proceedings pursuant to section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a), shall be represented by counsel subject to clause (v).

''(ii) AGE DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that age determinations of unaccompanied alien children are conducted in accordance with the procedures developed pursuant to subsection (b)(4).

''(iii) APPEALS.—The rights and privileges under this subparagraph—

''(I) shall not attach to—

''(aa) an unaccompanied alien child after the date on which—

''(AA) the removal proceedings of the child under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) terminate;

''(BB) an order of removal with respect to the child becomes final; or

''(CC) an immigration benefit is granted to the child; or

''(bb) an appeal to a district court or court of appeals of the United States, unless certified by the Secretary as a case of extraordinary importance; and

''(II) shall attach to administrative reviews and appeals.

''(iv) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Border Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement this subparagraph

''(v) REMEDIES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For the population described in clause (i) of this subparagraph and subsection (b)(1) of section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362), declaratory judgment that the unaccompanied alien child has a right to be referred to counsel, including pro-bono counsel, or a continuance of immigration proceedings, shall be the exclusive remedies available, other than for those funds subject to appropriations.

''(II) SETTLEMENTS.—Any settlement under this subparagraph shall be subject to appropriations.''.

SEC. 3513. COUNSEL FOR CERTAIN INCOMPETENT INDIVIDUALS.

Section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) is amended—

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

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

''(e) REPRESENTATION FOR CERTAIN INCOMPETENT ALIENS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The immigration judge is authorized to appoint legal counsel or a certified representative accredited through the Department of Justice to represent an alien in removal proceedings if—

''(A) pro bono counsel is not available; and

''(B) the alien—

''(i) is unrepresented;

''(ii) was found by an immigration judge to be incompetent to represent themselves; and

''(iii) has been placed in or referred to removal proceedings pursuant to this section.

''(2) DETERMINATION ON COMPETENCE.—

''(A) PRESUMPTION OF COMPETENCE.—An alien is presumed to be competent to participate in removal proceedings and has the duty to raise the issue of competency. If there are no indicia of incompetency in an alien's case, no further inquiry regarding competency is required.

''(B) DECISION OF THE IMMIGRATION JUDGE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If there are indicia of incompetency, the immigration judge shall consider whether there is good cause to believe that the alien lacks sufficient competency to proceed without additional safeguards.

''(ii) INCOMPETENCY TEST.—The test for determining whether an alien is incompetent to participate in immigration proceedings, is not malingering, and consequently lacks sufficient capacity to proceed, is whether the alien, not solely on account of illiteracy or language barriers—

''(I) lacks a rational and factual understanding of the nature and object of the proceedings;

''(II) cannot consult with an available attorney or representative; and

''(III) does not have a reasonable opportunity to examine and present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

''(iii) NO APPEAL.—A decision of an immigration judge under this subparagraph may not be appealed administratively and is not subject to judicial review.

''(C) EFFECT OF FINDING OF INCOMPETENCE.—A finding by an immigration judge that an alien is incompetent to represent himself or herself in removal proceedings shall not prejudice the outcome of any proceeding under this section or any finding by the immigration judge with respect to whether the alien is inadmissible under section 212 or removable under section 237.

''(3) QUARTERLY REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the effective date of a final rule implementing this subsection, and quarterly thereafter, the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

''(A)(i) the number of aliens in proceedings under this section who claimed during the reporting period to be incompetent to represent themselves, disaggregated by immigration court and immigration judge; and

''(ii) a description of each reason given for such claims, such as mental disease or mental defect; and

''(B)(i) the number of aliens in proceedings under this section found during the reporting period by an immigration judge to be incompetent to represent themselves, disaggregated by immigration court and immigration judge; and

''(ii) a description of each reason upon which such findings were based, such as mental disease or mental defect.

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed—

''(A) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to analyze whether an alien is incompetent to represent themselves, absent an indicia of incompetency;

''(B) to establish a substantive due process right;

''(C) to automatically equate a diagnosis of a mental illness to a lack of competency;

''(D) to limit the ability of the Attorney General or the immigration judge to prescribe safeguards to protect the rights and privileges of the alien;

''(E) to limit any authorized representation program by a State, local, or Tribal government;

''(F) to provide any statutory right to representation in any proceeding authorized under this Act, unless such right is already authorized by law; or

''(G) to interfere with, create, or expand any right or responsibility established through a court order or settlement agreement in effect before the date of the enactment of the Border Act.

''(5) RULEMAKING.—The Attorney General is authorized to prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.''.

SEC. 3514. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 292. RIGHT TO COUNSEL.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In any removal proceeding before an immigration judge and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from an order issued through such removal proceeding, the person concerned shall have the privilege of being represented (at no expense to the Federal Government) by any counsel who is authorized to practice in such proceedings.

''(b) EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN POPULATIONS.—The Federal Government is authorized to provide counsel, at its own expense, in proceedings described in subsection (a) for—

''(1) unaccompanied alien children described in paragraph (5)(B) of section 235(c) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)); and

''(2) subject to appropriations, certain incompetent aliens described in section 240(e).''.

TITLE VI—ACCOUNTABILITY AND METRICS

SEC. 3601. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION COMPLIANCE.

Not later than 1 year and 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress and to the public that describes the actions taken by Secretary pursuant to section 235C of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 3502, including—

(1) the number of employment authorization applications granted or denied pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of such section 235C, disaggregated by whether the alien concerned was processed under the procedures described in section 235(b)(1) or 235B of such Act;

(2) the ability of the Secretary to comply with the timelines for provision of work authorization prescribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 235C(a)(2) of such Act, including whether complying with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such section 235C(a)(2) has caused delays in the processing of such aliens;

(3) the number of employment authorizations revoked due to an alien's failure to comply with the requirements under section 235B(f)(5)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 3141, or for any other reason, along with the articulated basis; and

(4) the average time for the revocation of an employment authorization if an alien is authorized to work under section 235C of the Immigration and Nationality Act and is subsequently ordered removed.

SEC. 3602. LEGAL ACCESS IN CUSTODIAL SETTINGS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress and to the public regarding alien access to legal representation and consultation in custodial settings, including—

(1) the total number of aliens who secured or failed to secure legal representation pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv)(V) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 3511, before the protection determination under section 235(b)(1)(B)(i) of such Act, including the disposition of such alien's interview;

(2) the total number of aliens who waived the 72-hour period pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv)(IV)(bb) of such Act, including the disposition of the alien's protection determination pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(i) of such Act;

(3) the total number of aliens who required a verbal interpretation of the information about screenings and interviews pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv) of such Act, disaggregated by the number of aliens who received or did not receive such an interpretation, respectively, pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III) of such Act, including the disposition of their respective protection determinations pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B)(i) of such Act;

(4) the total number of aliens who received information, either verbally or in writing, in their native language; and

(5) whether such policies and procedures with respect to access provided in section 235(b)(1)(B)(iv) have been made available publicly.

SEC. 3603. CREDIBLE FEAR AND PROTECTION DETERMINATIONS.

Not later than 1 year and 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress and to the public that sets forth—

(1) the number of aliens who requested or received a protection determination pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B));

(2) the number of aliens who requested or received a protection determination pursuant to section 235B(b) of such Act, as added by section 3141;

(3) the number of aliens described in paragraphs (1) and (2) who are subject to an asylum exception under section 235(b)(1)(B)(vi) of such Act, disaggregated by specific asylum exception;

(4) the number of aliens for whom an asylum officer determined that an alien may be eligible for a waiver under section 235(b)(1)(B)(vi) of such Act and did not apply such asylum exception to such alien;

(5) the number of aliens described in paragraph (1) or (2) who—

(A) received a positive screening or determination; or

(B) received a negative screening or determination;

(6) the number of aliens described in paragraph (5)(B) who requested reconsideration or appeal of a negative screening and the disposition of such requests;

(7) the number of aliens described in paragraph (6) who, upon reconsideration—

(A) received a positive screening or determination, as applicable; or

(B) received a negative screening or determination, as applicable;

(8) the number of aliens described in paragraph (5)(B) who appealed a decision subsequent to a request for reconsideration;

(9) the number of aliens described in paragraph (5)(B) who, upon appeal of a decision, disaggregated by whether or not such alien requested reconsideration of a negative screening—

(A) received a positive screening or determination, as applicable; or

(B) received negative screening or determination, as applicable; and

(10) the number of aliens who withdraw their application for admission, including—

(A) whether such alien could read or write;

(B) whether the withdrawal occurred in the alien's native language;

(C) the age of such alien; and

(D) the Federal agency or component that processed such withdrawal.

SEC. 3604. PUBLICATION OF OPERATIONAL STATISTICS BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the second calendar month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish, not later than the seventh day of each month, on a publicly available website of the Department, information from the previous month relating to—

(1) the number of alien encounters, disaggregated by—

(A) whether such aliens are admissible or inadmissible, including the basis for such determinations;

(B) the U.S. Border Patrol sector and U.S. Customs and Border Protection field office that recorded the encounter;

(C) any outcomes recorded in the terrorist screening database (as such term is defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621)), including—

(i) whether the alien is found to be inadmissible or removeable due to a specific ground relating to terrorism;

(ii) the alien's country of nationality, race or ethnic identification, and age; and

(iii) whether the alien's alleged terrorism is related to domestic or international actors, if available;

(D) aliens with active Federal or State warrants for arrest in the United States and the nature of the crimes justifying such warrants;

(E) the nationality of the alien;

(F) whether the alien encountered is a single adult, an individual in a family unit, an unaccompanied child, or an accompanied child;

(G) the average time the alien remained in custody, disaggregated by demographic information;

(H) the processing disposition of each alien described in this paragraph upon such alien's release from the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, disaggregated by nationality;

(I) the number of aliens who are paroled pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)), disaggregated by geographic region or sector;

(J) the recidivism rate of aliens described in this paragraph, including the definition of ''recidivism'' and notice of any changes to such definition; and

(K) aliens who have a confirmed gang affiliation, including—

(i) whether such alien was determined to be inadmissible or removable due to such affiliation;

(ii) the specific gang affiliation alleged;

(iii) the basis of such allegation; and

(iv) the Federal agency or component that made such allegation or determination;

(2) seizures, disaggregated by the U.S. Border Patrol sector and U.S. Customs and Border Protection field office that recorded the encounter, of—

(A) narcotics;

(B) firearms, whether inbound or outbound, including whether such firearms were manufactured in the United States, if known;

(C) monetary instruments, whether inbound and outbound; and

(D) other specifically identified contraband;

(3) with respect to border emergency authority described in section 244A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 3301—

(A) the number of days such authority was in effect;

(B) the number of encounters (as defined in section 244A(i)(3)) of such Act, disaggregated by U.S. Border Patrol sector and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol field office;

(C) the number of summary removals made under such authority;

(D) the number of aliens who manifested a fear of persecution or torture and were screened for withholding of removal or for protection under the Convention Against Torture, and the disposition of each such screening, including the processing disposition or outcome;

(E) the number of aliens who were screened at a port of entry in a safe and orderly manner each day such authority was in effect, including the processing disposition or outcome;

(F) whether such authority was exercised under subparagraph (A), (B)(i), or (B)(ii) of section 244A(b)(3) of such Act;

(G) a public description of all the methods by which the Secretary determines if an alien may be screened in a safe and orderly manner;

(H) the total number of languages that are available for such safe and orderly process;

(I) the number of aliens who were returned to a country that is not their country of nationality;

(J) the number of aliens who were returned to any country without a humanitarian or protection determination during the use of such authority;

(K) the number of United States citizens who were inadvertently detained, removed, or affected by such border emergency authority;

(L) the number of individuals who have lawful permission to enter the United States and were inadvertently detained, removed, or affected by such border emergency authority;

(M) a summary of the impact to lawful trade and travel during the use of such border emergency authority, disaggregated by port of entry;

(N) the disaggregation of the information described in subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), (I), (J), (K), and (L) by the time the alien remained in custody and by citizenship and family status, including—

(i) single adults;

(ii) aliens traveling in a family unit;

(iii) unaccompanied children;

(iv) accompanied children;

(4) information pertaining to agricultural inspections;

(5) border rescues and mortality data;

(6) information regarding trade and travel; and

(7) with respect to aliens who were transferred from the physical custody of a State or Federal law enforcement agency or other State agency to the physical custody of a Federal agency or component—

(A) the specific States concerned;

(B) whether such alien had initially been charged with a State crime before the State transferred such alien to such Federal agency or component; and

(C) the underlying State crime with which the alien was charged.

(b) TOTALS.—The information described in subsection (a) shall include the total amount of each element described in each such paragraph in the relevant unit of measurement for reporting month.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—The monthly publication required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include the definition of all terms used by the Commissioner; and

(2) specifically note whether the definition of any term has been changed.

(d) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In preparing each publication pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) protect any personally identifiable information associated with aliens described in subsection (a); and

(2) comply with all applicable privacy laws.

SEC. 3605. UTILIZATION OF PAROLE AUTHORITIES.

Section 602(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the public that identifies the number of aliens paroled into the United States pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)).

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) the total number of aliens—

''(i) who submitted applications for parole;

''(ii) whose parole applications were approved; or

''(iii) who were granted parole into the United States during the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year during which such report is submitted;

''(B) the elements described in subparagraph (A), disaggregated by—

''(i) citizenship or nationality;

''(ii) demographic categories;

''(iii) the component or subcomponent of the Department of Homeland Security that granted such parole;

''(iv) the parole rationale or class of admission, if applicable; and

''(v) the sector, field office, area of responsibility, or port of entry where such parole was requested, approved, or granted;

''(C) the number of aliens who requested re-parole, disaggregated by the elements described in subparagraph (B), and the number of denials of re-parole requests;

''(D) the number of aliens whose parole was terminated for failing to abide by the terms of parole, disaggregated by the elements described in subparagraph (B);

''(E) for any parole rationale or class of admission which requires sponsorship, the number of sponsor petitions which were—

''(i) confirmed;

''(ii) confirmed subsequent to a nonconfirmation; or

''(iii) denied;

''(F) for any parole rationale or class of admission in which a foreign government has agreed to accept returns of third country nationals, the number of returns of such third country nationals such foreign government has accepted;

''(G) the number of aliens who filed for asylum after being paroled into the United States; and

''(H) the number of aliens described in subparagraph (G) who were granted employment authorization based solely on a grant of parole.

''(3) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In preparing each report pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) protect any personally identifiable information associated with aliens described in paragraph (1); and

''(B) comply with all applicable privacy laws.''.

SEC. 3606. ACCOUNTABILITY IN PROVISIONAL REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year and 30 days after the date of the enactment of

this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress and the public regarding the implementation of sections 235B and 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by sections 3141 and 3142 during the previous 12-month period.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the number of aliens processed pursuant to section 235B(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, disaggregated by—

(A) whether the alien was a single adult or a member of a family unit;

(B) the number of aliens who—

(i) were provided proper service and notice upon release from custody pursuant to section 235B(b)(2) of such Act; or

(ii) were not given such proper service and notice;

(C) the number of aliens who received a protection determination interview pursuant to section 235B(c) of such Act within the 90-day period required under section 235B(b)(3)(A) of such Act;

(D) the number of aliens described in subparagraph (C)—

(i) who retained legal counsel;

(ii) who received a positive protection determination;

(iii) who received a negative protection determination;

(iv) for those aliens described in clause (iii), the number who—

(I) requested reconsideration;

(II) whether such reconsideration resulted in approval or denial;

(III) whether an alien upon receiving a negative motion for reconsideration filed an appeal;

(IV) who appealed a negative decision without filing for reconsideration;

(V) whether the appeal resulted in approval or denial, disaggregated by the elements in subclauses (III) and (IV); and

(VI) whether the alien, upon receiving a negative decision as described in subclauses (III) and (V), was removed from the United States upon receiving such negative decision;

(v) who absconded during such proceedings; and

(vi) who failed to receive proper service;

(E) the number of aliens who were processed pursuant to section 235B(f) of such Act; and

(F) the number of aliens described in subparagraph (E) who submitted their application pursuant to section 235B(f)(2)(B)(i) of such Act;

(2) the average time taken by the Department of Homeland Security—

(A) to perform a protection determination interview pursuant to section 235B(b) of such Act;

(B) to serve notice of a protection determination pursuant to section 235B(e) of such Act after a determination has been made pursuant to section 235B(b) of such Act;

(C) to provide an alien with a work authorization pursuant to section 235C of such Act, as added by section 3501, disaggregated by the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 235C(a)(2) of such Act; and

(D) the utilization of the Alternatives to Detention program authorized under section 235B(a)(3) of such Act, disaggregated by—

(i) types of alternatives to detention used to supervise the aliens after being released from physical custody;

(ii) the level of compliance by the alien with the rules of the Alternatives to Detention program; and

(iii) the total cost of each Alternatives to Detention type;

(3) the number of aliens processed pursuant to section 240D(d) of such Act, disaggregated by—

(A) whether the alien was a single adult or a member of a family unit;

(B) the number of aliens who were provided proper service and notice of a protection determination pursuant to section 235B(e) of such Act;

(C) the number of aliens who received a protection merits interview pursuant to section 240D(c)(3) of such Act within the 90-day period required under section 240D(b) of such Act;

(D) the number of aliens who received a positive protection merits determination pursuant to section 240D(d)(2) of such Act;

(E) the number of aliens who received a negative protection merits determination pursuant to section 240D(d)(3) of such Act, disaggregated by the number of aliens who appealed the determination pursuant to section 240D(e) of such Act and who received a result pursuant to section 240D(e)(7) of such Act;

(F) the number of aliens who were processed pursuant to section 240D of such Act who retained legal counsel;

(G) the number of aliens who appeared at such proceedings; and

(H) the number of aliens who absconded during such proceedings; and

(4) the average time taken by the Department of Homeland Security—

(A) to perform a protection merits interview pursuant to section 240D(d) of such Act;

(B) to serve notice of a protection merits determination pursuant to section 240D(d) of such Act; and

(C) the utilization of Alternatives to Detention program authorized under section 240D(c)(2) of such Act, disaggregated by—

(i) types of alternatives to detention used to supervise the aliens after being released from physical custody; and

(ii) the level of compliance by the aliens with rules of the Alternatives to Detention program.

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In preparing each report pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) protect any personally identifiable information associated with aliens described in subsection (a); and

(2) comply with all applicable privacy laws.

SEC. 3607. ACCOUNTABILITY IN VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, WITHDRAWAL, AND DEPARTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year and 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the implementation of section 240G of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 3144.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the number of aliens who utilized the provisions of such section 240G, disaggregated by—

(1) demographic information;

(2) the period in which the election took place;

(3) the total costs of repatriation flight when compared to the cost to charter a private, commercial flight for such return;

(4) alien use of reintegration or reception programs in the alien's country of nationality after removal from the United States;

(5) the number of aliens who failed to depart in compliance with section 240G(i)(2) of such Act;

(6) the number of aliens to which a civil penalty and a period of ineligibility was applied; and

(7) the number of aliens who did depart.

SEC. 3608. GAO ANALYSIS OF IMMIGRATION JUDGE AND ASYLUM OFFICER DECISION-MAKING REGARDING ASYLUM, WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL, AND PROTECTION UNDER THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the Comptroller General of the United States submits the certification described in section 3146(d)(3), the Comptroller General shall analyze the decision rates of immigration judges and asylum officers regarding aliens who have received a positive protection determination and have been referred to proceedings under section 240 or 240D of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as applicable, to determine—

(1) whether the Executive Office for Immigration Review and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have any differential in rate of decisions for cases involving asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984; and

(2) the causes for any such differential, including any policies, procedures, or other administrative measures.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Upon completing the analysis required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit recommendations to the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding any administrative or procedural changes necessary to ensure uniformity in decision-making between those agencies, which may not include quotas.

SEC. 3609. REPORT ON COUNSEL FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to unaccompanied alien children who received appointed counsel pursuant to section 235(c)(5)(B) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, as added by section 3512, including—

(1) the number of unaccompanied alien children who obtained such counsel compared to the number of such children who did not obtain such counsel;

(2) the sponsorship category of unaccompanied alien children who obtained counsel;

(3) the age ranges of unaccompanied alien children who obtained counsel;

(4) the administrative appeals, if any, of unaccompanied alien children who obtained counsel; and

(5) the case outcomes of unaccompanied alien children who obtained counsel.

(b) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In preparing each report pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) protect any personally identifiable information associated with aliens described in subsection (a); and

(2) comply with all applicable privacy laws.

SEC. 3610. RECALCITRANT COUNTRIES.

Section 243(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1253(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''On being notified'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On being notified''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REPORT ON RECALCITRANT COUNTRIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall jointly—

''(i) prepare an unclassified annual report, which may include a classified annex, that includes the information described in subparagraph (C); and

''(ii) submit such report to Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

''(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a report is submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A), designees of the Secretary of Homeland Security and of the Secretary of State shall brief the committees referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) regarding any measures taken to encourage countries to accept the return of their citizens, subjects, or nationals, or aliens whose last habitual residence was within each such country, who have been ordered removed from the United States.

''(C) CONTENTS.—Each report prepared pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) shall include—

''(i) a list of all countries that—

''(I) deny the acceptance of their citizens, subjects, or nationals, or aliens whose last habitual residence was within such country, who have been ordered removed to such country from the United States; or

''(II) unreasonably delay the acceptance of their citizens, subjects, or nationals, or aliens whose last habitual residence was within such country, who have been ordered removed to such country from the United States;

''(ii) for each country described in clause (i)(II), the average length of delay of such citizens, subjects, nationals, or aliens acceptance into such country;

''(iii) a list of the foreign countries that have placed unreasonable limitations upon the acceptance of their citizens, subjects, or nationals, or aliens whose last habitual residence was within such country, who have been ordered removed to such country from the United States;

''(iv) a description of the criteria used to determine that a country described under clause (iii) has placed such unreasonable limitations;

''(v) the number of aliens ordered removed from the United States to a country described in clause (i) or (iii) whose removal from the United States was pending as of the last day of the previous fiscal year, including—

''(I) the number of aliens who—

''(aa) received a denial of a work authorization; and

''(bb) are not eligible to request work authorization;

''(vi) the number of aliens ordered removed from the United States to a country described in clause (i) or (iii) whose removal from the United States was pending as of the last day of the previous fiscal year and who are being detained, disaggregated by—

''(I) the length of such detention;

''(II) the aliens who requested a review of the significant likelihood of their removal in the reasonably foreseeable future;

''(III) the aliens for whom the request for release under such review was denied;

''(IV) the aliens who remain detained on account of special circumstances despite no significant likelihood that such aliens will be removed in the foreseeable future, disaggregated by the specific circumstance;

''(V) the aliens described in subclause (IV) who are being detained based on a determination that they are specially dangerous;

''(VI) the aliens described in subclause (V) whose request to review the basis for their continued detention was denied;

''(VII) demographic categories, including part of a family unit, single adults, and unaccompanied alien children;

''(vii) the number of aliens referred to in clauses (i) through (iii) who—

''(I) have criminal convictions, disaggregated by National Crime Information Center code, whether misdemeanors or felonies;

''(II) are considered national security threats to the United States;

''(III) are members of a criminal gang or another organized criminal organization, if found to be inadmissible or removable on such grounds; or

''(IV) have been released from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody on an order of supervision and the type of supervision and compliance with such supervision, if applicable;

''(viii) a description of the actions taken by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to encourage foreign nations to accept the return of their nationals; and

''(ix) the total number of individuals that such jurisdiction has accepted who are not citizens, subjects, or nationals, or aliens who last habitually resided within such jurisdiction and have been removed from the United States, if any.''.

TITLE VII—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 3701. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or the application of any such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provisions or amendments to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

TITLE VIII—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 3801. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6; 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 cloture motions filed during Thursday's session ripen at 11:30 a.m. and that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Campbell nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Campbell nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that if cloture is invoked on the Baggio nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:26 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 5, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

JOSEPH ALBERT LAROSKI, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MURRAY VISER, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF BARKSDALE FORWARD

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and stand to honor the career and service of Mr. Murray Viser, President Emeritus of Barksdale Forward.

Throughout his impressive career, Murray has made countless contributions to his community and country. In appreciation of and to honor his service, I, on behalf of all the people and organizations he has aided, the greater Barksdale community, the State of Louisiana, and this great nation, offer my sincerest gratitude for his 30 years of service.

Murray was a pioneer in his profession. In 1993, he founded Barksdale Forward, an organization that advocates for Barksdale Air Force Base and its surrounding community at the local, state, and federal level. Barksdale Forward was the state's first organized defense community, and with Murray's vision and assistance, he inspired others to form defense communities inside Louisiana and across the country. Murray's work has greatly contributed to making Barksdale Air Force Base and the community around it the wonderful place it is today.

Murray's contributions extend past his work with Barksdale Forward. In 1999, after serving as the President of STARBASE Louisiana, Murray brought the program to Barksdale Air Force Base. At the national level, Murray was a leading advocate for the creation of the Long-Range Strike Caucus and has acted as a Civic Leader for the Air Force Global Strike Command since its creation in 2009. It was in this role that he received his honorary call sign, ''BUFF,'' in recognition of his long support of the B–52 bomber and Barksdale Air Force Base.

I applaud Murray for all of the impacts he has had over the years and for his continued service as a member of the Louisiana Military Affairs Committee, a post he has held since 1993. Murray has brought faithful, virtuous, and steadfast leadership to each organization he has been a part of, including St. Mark's Cathedral School, the Boeing Bomber Coalition, and the Air Combat Commander's Group.

I thank his wife, Patricia, and his daughter, Mary-Elizabeth, for sharing him with us and supporting him in his great career. There is no doubt that his work and impact will continue to be felt after he has stepped away from this chapter of his life. I urge my colleagues in this chamber to join me in congratulating Mr. Murray Viser on a distinguished career and well-deserved retirement from Barksdale Forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECOVER ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act of 2024, or the RECOVER Act, which would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make permanent the free identity protection coverage that Congress required OPM to provide at that point for 10 years to individuals whose Social Security Numbers were potentially compromised during the OPM data breaches. In 2015, OPM reported that the personally identifiable information of as many as 25.7 million current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors was stolen in two data breaches. I appreciate that Representative C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER is co-leading this bill.

After OPM announced that it would offer identity protection coverage of limited duration and value, Senator BEN CARDIN and I introduced the RECOVER Act in July 2015, which would have provided affected individuals lifetime identity protection coverage and at least $5 million in identity theft insurance. Congress subsequently passed a version of our bill as part of an appropriations bill, but limited the duration of the protection. Under current law, OPM is only required to provide identity protection coverage through fiscal year 2026. Under the bill I am introducing today, OPM would be required to provide coverage for the remainder of the lives of affected individuals.

The current coverage duration is inadequate, given that there is no limit to when the stolen data may be exploited. Therefore, there should be no limit on the duration of the coverage provided to affected individuals. This bill would give current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors who were affected both some peace of mind and protection. OPM failed to protect these people. It follows that the government must make up for its mistake.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING FORT MARTIN SCOTT

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Martin Scott, one of the early United States Army forts established in the State of Texas.

I have the privilege of representing the historic town of Fredericksburg in the scenic Texas Hill Country. When the German immigrants arrived in Fredericksburg in the 1840s, they faced hardships including rocky soil, wild animals, disease, and skirmishes with Indians. John O. Meusebach, a leader of the settlers, secured a treaty with the Comanche Indians in 1847. A tenuous peace ensued, with occasional clashes between Indians and settlers. After Texas officially joined the United States of America as the twenty-eighth state in the union, she became eligible for military aid from the United States Army.

In March 1848, the Second Texas Legislature adopted a resolution in favor of establishing a line of Army posts between the Red River and the Rio Grande, in addition to measures that would preserve friendly relations between the Indian tribes and the people of Texas. Captain Seth Eastman, commander of Companies D and H, First Regiment of U.S. Infantry, arrived two miles below Fredericksburg on the bank of Barons Creek later that year. Captain Eastman named the location ''Camp Houston near Fredericksburgh.'' On December 28, 1849, Camp Houston was officially designated as ''Fort Martin Scott.''

The U.S. 8th Infantry Regiment was headquartered at Fort Martin Scott until December 1853. The Fort remained on official Army maps throughout the American Civil War. The Texas Rangers also utilized this site throughout our great State's history. Today, Fort Martin Scott adjoins the Texas Rangers Heritage Center on U.S. Highway 290.

HONORING MAYOR JAMES BOULEY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 26 years of dedicated service of Concord's recently retired mayor and my dear friend, James Bouley.

Over the course of his decades of public service, Jim led with the vision and commitment necessary to transform New Hampshire's Capital City into the thriving and energetic community we enjoy today.

Over thousands of meetings, events, and hours of hard work, Jim effectively created meaningful change throughout the city. Under Jim's leadership, extensive improvements were made to Concord's Main Street. He revitalized downtown Concord and spearheaded renovations that made Main Street accessible for all, true to the spirit of New Hampshire. He worked to improve city facilities and oversaw the rebuilding of numerous community landmarks, such as the public library and Horseshoe Pond area.

Mayor Bouley is the definition of a true public servant. Known as a consensus-builder, Jim strove to ensure that all residents of Concord felt their views and values were heard and honored. On behalf of my constituents across New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Jim for his years of dedicated service and tireless commitment to

making Concord, the Capital Area, and New Hampshire a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. Jim's leadership, dedication, and professionalism have left a lasting legacy.

My best wishes to Jim and his family in all their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING KATELYN WRIGHT

HON. MARK ALFORD

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize Katelyn Wright, of Kearney, Missouri, and congratulate her for winning the ''Voice of Democracy'' scholarship competition for the State of Missouri hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Katelyn's submission for the Patriotic Audio Essay Competition on the voice of democracy, ''My Past, My Present, and My Future'' was extremely thought-provoking and discussed the importance of American veterans.

Ms. Wright has demonstrated her capability in multiple ways. She secured second place in last year's scholarship competition, serves as vice-president of the Clay-County Missouri 4–H public speaking championships, among many others. Beyond these academic achievements, Ms. Wright is notably involved in her community. She volunteers her time to serve food and deliver groceries with a local organization, serves as a part-time Sunday school teacher, and plays piano for her local church.

I stand here today to congratulate Ms. Katelyn Wright, wish her good luck in the upcoming national competition, extend my support as she continues her academic career, and recognize an extremely bright and talented young woman from the State of Missouri.

CELEBRATING THE GROUNDBREAKING OF PATHWAY AT HERITAGE PARK

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the beginning of an innovative project that will address the critical need for affordable homeownership in the Johnson County, Kansas area.

With the support of volunteers, donors, and community partners, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City (Habitat KC) builds and renovates homes to help families achieve their dream of homeownership. Using American Rescue Plan Act funding, Pathway at Heritage Park will be Habitat KC's first pocket neighborhood development and first time employing the community land trust model. Under this model, Habitat KC ensures the homes built remain affordable, avoiding skyrocketing housing costs that put home ownership out of reach for too many.

The importance of this project to our community cannot be understated. United Community Service of Johnson County estimates that 40 percent of renters and 20 percent of homeowners in Johnson County are housing cost-burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing. At Pathway at Heritage Park, mortgages will be capped at 30 percent of monthly income.

Additionally, about 45 percent of the local workforce commutes from other communities due to the lack of affordable housing. This project is especially important as the Panasonic and Walmart beef processing plants are projected to bring more than 4,500 new jobs to the Johnson County area.

I want to thank Habitat KC, Pathway Community Church, and all those that have contributed to making the groundbreaking of Pathway at Heritage Park a success. I look forward to this project making the dream of homeownership a reality for so many.

HONORING MARQUES A. HUDSON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Marques A. Hudson. Mr. Hudson, a resident of Piscataway, New Jersey, died in the line of duty on January 26, 2024 after responding to a three-alarm house fire in Plainfield where he served as a firefighter. I know I join with his family and friends in paying tribute to his memory and the ultimate sacrifice he paid in service to our community.

A member of the Plainfield Fire Department since December 2021, Mr. Hudson made an impact on the department and community during his two years of service. His contributions and commitment have been recalled by the City of Plainfield, the department, and his fellow firefighters. Not only was Mr. Hudson a dedicated public servant in Plainfield, he was also an active member of the Piscataway community. As a Little League coach, Mr. Hudson was a role model and mentor to the players and his sons.

Mr. Hudson is survived by his loving family, including his beloved partner D'onnah Jones, sons Kaleb, Josiah, and Isaiah Hudson, mother Vickie Hudson, sister Jacqwetta Hudson-Bonus, brothers Allen and Jaquan Hudson, nephew and nieces, and many other relatives and dear friends.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Marques A. Hudson for his heroism and sacrifice, and his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Hudson demonstrated character and leadership throughout his life and was deeply committed to each endeavor he undertook. He will be remembered fondly by all those he has inspired and those whose lives he impacted directly.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MIKE BRODERICK

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Philip Mike Broderick, a firefighter from Des Moines who lost his brave battle with liver cancer on January 14, 2024.

Prior to spending nearly 16 years with the Des Moines Fire Department, Mike spent two decades serving our nation in the United States Army. He was a man who put service over himself for his entire life, and his commitment to ensuring safety for his community and his nation was unwavering. Those who knew him personally shared he was an incredible friend, a devout husband, a loving father, and someone who served his country and community with purpose and care. Mike Broderick leaves behind his wife Emily and daughters Grace, Ireland, Piper, and Campbell.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mike Broderick's commitment to our Nation and the entire Des Moines community. I join his family and those closest to him in mourning his loss. May his memory not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE LIMA NOON OPTIMIST CLUB'S ANNUAL YOUTH APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I always appreciate the opportunity to share positive news about young people from Ohio's Fourth Congressional District. Today, I am pleased to commend to the House thirteen high school students who are being honored for their outstanding leadership skills and volunteerism.

On Wednesday, the Noon Optimist Club of Lima will recognize Alexander Arellano, Samuel Burkholder, Leyton Chambers, Devan Foster, Delaney Jones, Keegan Klosterman, Daniel Koh, Brody Roof, Delaney Sawmiller, Brady Shively, Connor Smith, Abby Stechschulte, and Maisie Strawser at its annual youth appreciation luncheon. These students were each nominated by their schools for being good role models for their peers.

I thank the Optimists for their efforts to celebrate the many achievements of these students and am proud to join in the accolades to them. They have my very best wishes for continued success in their lives in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL COACH MIKE MARTIN, SR.

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Florida State University legend Mike Martin, Sr.

On February 1, 2024, the Seminole community said ''goodbye'' to a man who encapsulated greatness. Coach Mike Martin spent over 40 years with the Seminole baseball program. He finished his coaching career with his 40th winning season and 17th College World Series appearance. Coach Martin's career record was 2,029 wins, 736 losses, and four

ties earning him the title of the all-time winningest coach in any National Collegiate Athletics Association sport.

But Mike Martin was so much more than a coach to his former players and many others. Throughout his incredible career, Coach Martin produced 20 first-round draft picks and 60 Major League players. As news of his passing spread, players flooded social media with heartfelt messages honoring Martin. The legendary Deion Sanders remembered Coach Martin as ''a legend, a winner but most of all a good man.'' Former San Francisco Giants catcher and first baseman Buster Posey said: ''I will always feel lucky to have played for Mike Martin . . .''

May we all remember the trailblazer that is Mike Martin, Sr., and the impact he had on not only Florida State University, but all of college baseball.

To quote the movie The Sandlot: '' Heroes get remembered but legends never die .

Coach Mike Martin will always be one of those legends.

Rest easy, ''11.''

CCSO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ethan Paprzycki on being named Civilian Employee of the Year for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). The term ''hero'' gets used too often, in my opinion. It is said that ''True heroism is remarkably sober and very undramatic. For, it is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but rather the urge to serve others at whatever cost.'' I could not agree more with this assessment. The heroism that is displayed daily by our first responders and the support teams that facilitate their efforts is both inspirational and aspirational for us all. So few among us answer the call to serve, yet it is the selfless sacrifice of those few who do that keeps our entire community safe.

By all accounts, Mr. Paprzycki has dedicated his career to serving others, highlighted by his three-year tenure as an Information Technology (IT) Support Technician with the CCSO. He has exhibited unwavering dedication and commitment to the improvement of the IT Department, which is critical to the team's operational success. Specifically, he has been recognized for his invaluable contributions to ensure a smooth transition to a new report management system and his tireless work to implement a new, electronic version of the Marcy's Law form with training for the entire team. It is the daily efforts of support team members, Mr. Paprzycki, who enable our law enforcement officers to meet the needs of the communities they serve. His peers, commanding officers and the community-at-large have recognized that Mr. Paprzycki routinely goes above and beyond and have noted that his strong work ethic is an asset to the entire organization. I appreciate his exceptional dedication, relentless determination, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Senators MIKE CRAPO and JIM RISCH, to recognize an important anniversary being celebrated at the U.S. Department of Energy's 890-square mile site in eastern Idaho. The Idaho National Laboratory, or INL, is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2024.

On February 18, 1949, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission decided to build the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho. For 75 years, the efforts of the scientists, engineers, technicians, and support staff at what became INL has promoted American prosperity and contributed to our national security. On December 20, 1951, INL first demonstrated nuclear fission could be used to generate power to light our homes and cities. Throughout its history, INL has built and operated 52 original nuclear reactors and helped establish an American industry that today produces approximately 19 percent of our nation's electricity and more than half of our carbon-free electricity. In 2002, Congress designated INL as the nation's lead nuclear energy research and development laboratory, fitting for its legacy.

Since 1967, research conducted at INL's Advanced Test Reactor has powered and modernized the U.S. Nuclear Navy. The Navy once had to refuel its nuclear fleet frequently, an expensive and time-consuming process. Today, because of experiments conducted at the Advanced Test Reactor, the Navy's nuclear fleet can run the lifetime of the ship—more than three decades—without refueling. That saves American taxpayers millions of dollars and ensures our fleet is actively defending U.S. national security instead of sitting in port waiting to be refueled.

INL is a world leader in industrial cyber security research and works actively with government and industry to protect and make the nation's critical infrastructure more resilient. INL has also advanced broader clean energy research, informing electric vehicle deployment and hydrogen production, and developed bioenergy solutions that benefit the environment and our nation's farmers.

Even as we celebrate INL's 75 years, the lab's leadership and staff are looking ahead. Those decades of service have provided the foundation that today's INL will leverage to help this nation build a brighter future. INL leads the effort to maintain and extend the lives of America's nuclear reactor fleet, while helping industry develop advanced reactor designs, including small modular reactors and microreactors. INL's vital national and homeland security work grows more important every day as our systems become increasingly automated and interdependent. As we eye the energy systems that will power U.S. prosperity into the future, INL's clean energy research is developing breakthroughs that will integrate renewables into the power grid and allow our manufacturing and transportation systems to operate more efficiently and with less environmental impact.

It is our great honor to congratulate INL and DOE on this important anniversary, and to wish its employees well as they work to resolve our Nation's pressing clean energy and national security challenges.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR JEFFREY EGGERS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and a true American hero, Major Jeffrey Eggers of the United States Marine Corps, as we celebrate his retirement after twenty-seven years of distinguished service to our Nation.

Major Eggers was born in Elizabethton, Tennessee to Jerry and Diane Eggers. A leader from his early days, he served as the student body president at Unaka High School, excelled as a star athlete on the football team, achieved academic excellence, and graduated with honors. His commitment to education continued at East Tennessee State University, where he majored in Biomedical Engineering while serving in the Marine Corps Reserves.

Major Eggers quickly rose through the ranks of the Marine Corps, beginning as an infantryman in Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment to achieving the prestigious distinction of a commissioned officer. His journey sent him from Basic Training on Parris Island to the Basic School in Quantico, and finally to flight school in Pensacola. As a skilled aviator, Major Eggers mastered the AH–1 W attack helicopter and flew numerous missions as support for our troops and allies across the globe.

His service record is nothing short of remarkable. Major Eggers served in a critical role during the non-combatant evacuation of Lebanon, supported operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and provided vital aid during NATO operations in Libya and classified missions in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility. His leadership and skillset in these challenging environments earned him numerous commendations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and several Air Medals as testament to his bravery and dedication.

Beyond his distinguished military career, Major Eggers is a man of faith and community. His involvement as a youth leader, deacon, and Bible study leader reflects his commitment to service, both in uniform and in his community. His beautiful wife, Stacy and his two wonderful children, Charles and Elijah have provided constant and unwavering support to him throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Jeffrey Eggers for his outstanding military service to our nation. His retirement marks the end of an era of exceptional service and fortitude. We are certain his legacy will continue to inspire current and future generations of United States Marines. We wish him and his family all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

GREENVILLE MISSISSIPPI ALUMNI CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC. CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greenville Mississippi Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. for their 70 years of service.

The Greenville Mississippi Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. was chartered on February 14, 1954, by the late G.P. Maddox, he late B.L. Bell, the late Dr. Charles Holmes, the late Ray Brooks, the late A.C. Isaac, the late Robert Hall, the late Dr. Henry St. Hille, the late Sunny Kyles, and the late Arthur B. Peyton, Sr.

Today, the brothers who make up the alumni chapter are from Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

The Greenville Mississippi Alumni Chapter has sought ways to acknowledge brothers within their chapter who have made individual achievements in their path of life.

Seventy years of the Greenville Mississippi Alumni Chapter has come with scholarship awards for men and women to highlight citizens who have contributed to serving the community, exceptional educational achievement, professional achievement, service to the fraternity, outstanding leadership, and brotherhood.

Their continual leadership and service around Greenville, MS, and the greater Mississippi Delta have contributed positively to the region. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. has sponsored events such as football bowl games, high school Greek shows, all-star basketball games, Miss Kappa Alpha Psi pageants, and the Arthur B. Peyton golf tournament. The chapter has also participated in the United Way housing initiative and pioneered events such as the inaugural All-White and Jean social events and New Year's with the Nupes.

Celebrating 70 years of service is only possible with the hard work and dedication of brothers who have committed their time and effort to their fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Greenville Mississippi Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for parts of the day on September 14, 2023 and October 26, 2023. On September 14th, had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call No. 391, H.R. 1435—Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, and Yea on Roll Call No. 390, H.R. 1435—Motion to Recommit.

On October 26th, had I been present, I would have voted Nay on the following bills: Roll Call No. 558, H.R. 4394—Energy and Water Appropriations Final Passage; Roll Call No. 556, H.R. 4394—Rosendale of Montana Part B Amendment No. 60; Roll Call No. 555, H.R. 4394—Rosendale of Montana Part B Amendment No. 59; Roll Call No. 554, H.R. 4394—Rosendale of Montana Part B Amendment No. 58; Roll Call No. 553, H.R. 4394—Pfluger of Texas Part B Amendment No. 57; Roll Call No. 552, H.R. 4394—Pfluger of Texas Part B Amendment No. 56; Roll Call No. 551, H.R. 4394—Norman of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 51; Roll Call No. 550, H.R. 4394—Norman of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 50; Roll Call No. 549, H.R. 4394—Norman of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 50; Roll Call No. 548, H.R. 4394—Norman of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 47; Roll Call No. 547, H.R. 4394—Luna of Florida Part B Amendment No. 43; and Yea on Roll Call No. 557, H.R. 4394—Motion to Recommit.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JOSEPH ANTHONY ''AMP'' FIDDLER

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Joseph Anthony Fiddler, better known as "Amp," as we mourn his passing.

Amp Fiddler was born May 16, 1958 in Detroit, Michigan. His family instilled in him a deep appreciation for music. He grew up surrounded by the sounds of Detroit's Motown, rock, jazz, and funk. As a child, Mr. Fiddler studied piano and eventually keyboard. He found his first professional work as a musician with Enchantment, a Detroit-based soul act. He was eventually discovered by the legendary George Clinton and went on to perform regularly with Parliament-Funkadelic between 1985 and 1996. It was during this time that Fiddler honed his skills on the keyboard and synthesizers, contributing significantly to the band's distinctive sound.

Beyond his work with P-Funk, Fiddler collaborated with notable artists such as Prince, Seal, and Maxwell. His studio, Camp Amp, became a hub for aspiring musicians. He mentored J Dilla, another notable Detroit musician, putting him on the path to developing his signature style. Fiddler enjoyed a successful solo career, marked by his blending of classic funk with contemporary sound, in addition to his numerous collaborations. Despite his stellar career, Fiddler always remained humble and dedicated to his craft and community.

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

HOMETOWN HERO—MARK ''HAWKEYE'' LOUIS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, host of the popular radio show, Hawkeye in the Morning, Mark "Hawkeye" Louis is an avid baseball card collector. Since his childhood, Hawkeye spent years collecting Major League Baseball cards, with the collection eventually totaling an impressive 17,000 cards. Instead of letting the collection continue to collect dust, he decided to give back to our community by selling the cards and donating the proceeds.

Hawkeye decided the enormous impact of donating the more than $10,000 in proceeds would make him more proud than hanging onto the cards ever could. His background in volunteer work and fundraising at DFW children's hospitals made Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth the perfect choice.

Hawkeye's story is inspiring and his selfless donation will help hundreds of children in our district. I want to thank Mark "Hawkeye" Louis for his ongoing support of North Texas children and children's hospitals throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING THE UC DAVIS WOMEN'S CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE PROGRAM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program at the University of California, Davis, and to acknowledge National Red Dress Day, which seeks to raise awareness about heart disease being a leading cause of death for women in America.

Established in 1994, the UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular Medicine program and clinic was the nation's first program dedicated to women's cardiovascular health. Since then, the program has continued to lead the industry in cardiovascular care in the Sacramento region, providing personalized, equitable, and women-centered care to tackle cardiac conditions unique to women. The remarkable clinical team offers a comprehensive and preventative range of care options that include, but are not limited to, dietary counseling, cardiac rehabilitation, and risk factor analysis, diagnosis, and treatment.

In addition to the program's clinic providing care to women with cardiovascular conditions, it also trains the next generation of healthcare workers. Students are given the opportunity to directly engage with women with heart disease through resident rotations and the opportunity to shadow leading experts in women's heart care.

The UC Davis Women's Cardiovascular program is a great representation of how the Sacramento community leads the nation on some of the most critical issues of our time. Some of this program's many feats include collaborating with the California Department of Public Health to draft California's Master Plan for Stroke Prevention, now designated as a model women's heart program by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor the Women's Cardiovascular Medicine Program at UC Davis Health for 30 years of excellence in women's heart care and education.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ELZA PERRY, JR.

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel Elza Perry, Jr., a true American hero who served in the United States Air Force, who recently passed away at age 90.

Before his military service, Lt. Col. Elza Perry, Jr. was born in Gorman, Texas as the only child of Elza, Sr, and Myrtle Perry. Lt. Col. Elza Perry, Jr. demonstrated his aptitude for leadership while a student at De Leon High School, where he was the president of the Class of 1950, valedictorian, and captain of the football team. After graduating from De Leon High School, he went on to earn his Bachelor's degree from North Texas State College and an MBA from Michigan State University.

Lt. Col. Elza Perry, Jr. distinguished himself as a 22-year Airman, obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serving in Germany, Okinawa, Vietnam, Taiwan, Florida, California, and five years at the Pentagon. During his military service in the Air Force, he served honorably in various positions, such as weapons director, commander, inspector, and instructor. In Vietnam, Lt. Col. Elza Perry, Jr. served as a battle commander at an aircraft control center near Danang and stayed in the country until January 27, 1973. His honorable leadership earned him the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force at Norton Air Force Base, Lt. Col. Elza Perry, Jr. decided to remain in Southern California and dedicated himself to his work as the Director of Vehicle Services and Assistant County Administrator. He later retired in 1991 and lived in Redlands, California for many years before settling in Calimesa, California in 1998. As a retired veteran, Elza spent the remainder of his life with his wife Bonnie in a retirement community in Calimesa where he continued showing his leadership through acts of service for his friends and neighbors. He enjoyed taking exercise classes and was an avid fan of the L.A. Dodgers and Angels.

Lt. Col. Perry, Jr. is survived by his wife of 34 years, Bonnie; two stepsons, Captain Robert Perry, USN (Ret.) and Ralph Perry; two daughters, Reverend Karin Kaye and Barbara Perry; two stepdaughters, Susan Reidel and Jackie Filbeck; and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and commemorating the life, legacy, and service of Lieutenant Colonel Elza Perry, Jr.

HONORING COMMUNITY OPTIONS ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Community Options on their 35th anniversary.

Community Options is a non-profit organization based in New Jersey, and it is dedicated to promoting self-determination and community involvement for people with intellectual and development disabilities. By providing these individuals with accessible housing and equipping them with skills to pursue careers of their choice, Community Options has changed more than 5,000 lives. This exceptional organization has tackled barriers that historically impeded people with disabilities, and in doing so they have brought extraordinary vibrancy, creativity, and diversity to our communities. New Jersey is both proud and grateful to house the headquarters of this exceptional organization.

I wish Community Options the best of luck as they continue with their outstanding work. It has been a true pleasure to watch their organization grow and prosper over the past 35 years, and I have no doubt that they will touch many more lives in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE PROMOTION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL LISA J. HOU, D.O. (USA) TO MAJOR GENERAL

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the promotion of Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou to the rank of Major General. Major General Lisa J. Hou has served as the Adjutant General of the New Jersey National Guard and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs since June 2021. As a daughter of immigrants raised in New Jersey, General Hou's journey is a prime example of the American Dream and of our nation's spirit. It is my privilege to honor a true patriot that has served and supported New Jersey and our country.

Major General Hou has commanded the more than 8,400 Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard with steadfast determination. The wide range of missions the New Jersey National Guard responds to presents a challenge Major General Hou has risen to accomplish. Whether through state-to-state partnership with the Republic of Albania, supporting the Global War on Terror, or providing assistance during natural disasters, the Soldiers and Airmen of the New Jersey National Guard have executed their missions with the utmost professionalism and success under Major General Hou's command.

In addition to her role as Adjutant General of the National Guard, Major General Hou also serves in the New Jersey Governor's cabinet as Commissioner of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA), Major General Hou leads, directs, and manages all state veterans' programs, commissions, and facilities in the Garden State, providing services and benefits to over 300,000 veterans statewide. I extend my most heartfelt thanks to Major General Hou for her service and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 11, H. Res. 969; YEA on Roll Call No. 12, H.R. 5862; NAY on Roll Call No. 13, H. Res. 957; YEA on Roll Call No. 14, S. 3250; YEA on Roll Call No. 15, H.R. 2872; YEA on Roll Call No. 16, H.R. 6918; NAY on Roll Call No. 17, H.R. 6918; YEA on Roll Call No. 18, H.R. 6914; and NAY on Roll Call No. 19, H.R. 6914.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING HOMES FROM TRAINS ACT OF 2024

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Protecting Homes from Trains Act of 2024, which would establish a grant program for the design and construction of barriers to mitigate rail activity that may harm homes and their occupants, including derailments, noise and vibrations.

The Noise Control Act of 1972 created the Office of Noise Abatement and Control within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), granting EPA authority and oversight over noise control regulations. However, years of defunding left this office without any resources to conduct enforcement, forcing EPA to phase out the office in 1982. District of Columbia residents frequently tell me about the negative impact of train noise and vibrations on their lives. The noise and vibrations can harm health and quality of life, and can even harm the structural integrity of homes. Congress and the executive branch must do more to reduce this harm.

As a senior member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, I have been working to reduce transportation noise and vibrations. I have convened community meetings with the Federal Railroad Administration, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to examine how to reduce train noise and vibrations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was quarantining after testing positive for COVID–19 and was unable to vote on March 27–29, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on the following bills:

Roll Call No. 165—H. RES. 260;

Roll Call No. 166—H. RES. 260;

Roll Call 167—Boebert of Colorado Part B Amendment No. 2;
Roll Call 168—Hern of Oklahoma Part B Amendment No. 5;
Roll Call No. 169—Jackson of Texas Part B Amendment No. 7;
Roll Call No. 170—Molinaro of New York Part B Amendment No. 9;
Roll Call No. 171—Palmer of Alabama Part B Amendment No. 10;
Roll Call No. 172—Perry of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 11; and
Roll Call No. 173—Perry of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 12.
I would have voted Yea on the following bills:
Roll Call No. 163—H.R. 1154; and
Roll Call No. 164—H.R. 1107.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2024

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 32 and YEA on Roll Call No. 33.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 8

9 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress.
SD–538

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the administration's pause on liquefied natural gas (LNG) export approvals and the Department of Energy's process for assessing LNG export applications.
SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dafna Hochman Rand, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.
SD–419

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine Artificial Intelligence and Health Care, focusing on promise and pitfalls.
SD–215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the cost of prescription drugs.
SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Ann Marie McIff Allen, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Susan M. Bazis, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, Ernest Gonzalez, and Leon Schydlower, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Kelly Harrison Rankin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, and Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine pending nominations.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 2385, to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, S. 2868, to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, S. 3022, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, S. 2796, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and S. 3230, to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.
SD–628

FEBRUARY 28

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the Water Resources Development Act, focusing on USACE water infrastructure projects, programs and priorities.
SD–406

POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 8

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine global security challenges and U.S. strategy.
SH–216

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S353–S400

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3733–3734, S.J. Res. 60, and S. Res. 542. **Page S361**

Measures Considered:

Relieve Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program. **Pages S354–55**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, 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 Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Page S354**

Campbell Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State. **Pages S355–56**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 6, 2024; that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate of Thursday, February 1, 2024, ripen at 11:30 a.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Page S400**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 76 yeas (Vote No. EX. 34), Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade. **Pages S356–57**

Messages from the House: **Page S360**

Measures Referred: **Page S360**

Executive Communications: **Pages S360–61**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S361**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S361–62**

Additional Statements: **Pages S359–60**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S362–S400**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—34) **Page S357**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:26 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S400.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 7217–7242; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 112; and H. Res. 995, 997, 998 were introduced. **Pages H430–31**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H432–33**

Reports Filed: A report was filed on February 2, 2024:

H. Res. 863, impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–372).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 994, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–373); and

H. Res. 996, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 863) impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 485) to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under Federal health care programs (H. Rept. 118–374). **Page H430**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carl to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H391**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:24 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H393**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New York, Mr. Higgins, the whole number of the House is 431. **Page H394**

Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government: Representatives Davidson and Fry. **Page H394**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Jonathan Nicholas Stivers of Falls Church, Virginia. **Page H394**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Representative Miller (VA). **Page H394**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H395**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:29 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H409**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act: H.R. 2882, amended, to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 350 yeas to 58 nays, Roll No. 32; **Pages H395–96, H409**

Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act: H.R. 2997, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado; **Pages H397–98**

Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act: H.R. 4051, amended, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation; **Pages H400–03**

Drought Preparedness Act: H.R. 4385, to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991; **Pages H403–04**

Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act: H.R. 5009, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs; **Pages H404–06**

Winnebago Land Transfer Act: H.R. 1240, amended, to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska; and **Pages H406–07**

Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act: H.R. 443, amended, to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 407 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 33. **Pages H407–09, H409–10**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act: H.R. 1727, amended, to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission; and **Pages H396–97**

Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act: H.R. 3415, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming.

Pages H398–H400

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2025: Mr. Cliff Simms of Birmingham, Alabama.

Page H410

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 p.m. tomorrow, February 6th. **Page H424**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H394.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H409 and H409–10.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL PATIENTS ACT OF 2023; IMPEACHING ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 485, the "Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023"; and H. Res. 863, impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H. Res. 863, Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, and H.R. 485, the "Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023". The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 863, Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution, it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, to consider H. Res. 863. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the resolution shall be considered as adopted. The rule provides two hours of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees. The rule provides that upon adoption of H. Res. 863, H. Res. 995 is hereby adopted; and further, that no other resolution incidental to impeachment relating to H. Res. 863 shall be privileged during the remainder of the 118th Congress. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 485, the "Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023", under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of 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 Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rodgers of Washington, Chairman Green of Tennessee, and Representatives Thompson of Mississippi, Pallone, and Goldman of New York.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine foreign influence in the United States, focusing on reviewing Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey and Company, M. Klein and Company, and

Teneo's compliance with congressional subpoenas, 3:30 p.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 766, the "Preventive Health Savings Act"; H.R. 7032, the "Congressional Budget Office Data Sharing Act"; and H.R. 5301, the "Eliminate Useless Reports Act of 2023", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "Protecting Missing and Exploited Children", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled "Politics Over People: How Biden's LNG Export Ban Threatens America's Energy and Economic Security", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Protecting American Health Security: Oversight of Shortcomings in the FDA's Foreign Drug Inspection Program", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Annual Report of the Financial Stability Oversight Council", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6609, to amend the Arms Export Control Act to increase the dollar amount thresholds under sections 3 and 36 of that Act relating to proposed transfers or sales of defense articles or services under that Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 7089, to authorize the Diplomatic Security Services of the Department of State to investigate allegations of violations of conduct constituting offenses under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; H.R. 6603, to apply foreign-direct product rules to Iran; H. Res. 82, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need to designate Nigeria a Country of Particular Concern for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, the need to appoint a Special Envoy for Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, and for other purposes; H. Res. 965, calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen, who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban; H.R. 7152, to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes; H.R. 7159, to bolster United States engagement with the Pacific Island region, and for other purposes; H. Con. Res. 27, condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia; H.R. 6046, to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes; and H.R. 7122, to prohibit aid that will benefit Hamas, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "Securing Operational Technology: A Deep Dive into the Water Sector", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, hearing entitled "Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1829, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; H.R. 2925, the "Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2023"; H.R. 4297, the "Bolts Ditch Act"; and H.R. 4984, the "D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5798, the "Protecting Our Nation's Capital Emergency Act of 2023"; H.R. 262, the "All Economic Regulations are Transparent Act of 2023"; legislation on the Information Quality Assurance Act of 2024; H.R. 7184, the "Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act"; H.R. 6972, the "Securing Chain of Command Continuity Act"; H.R. 6283, the "Delinking Revenue from Unfair Gouging Act"; H.R. 5658, the "Vote by Mail Tracking Act"; H.R. 5887, the "Government Service Delivery Improvement Act"; H.R. 3608, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building"; H.R. 5476, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office"; H.R. 5640, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the "Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building"; H.R. 5712, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the "Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building"; H.R. 6073, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building"; H.R. 6162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 379 North Oates Street in Dothan, Alabama, as the "LaBruce 'Bruce' Tidwell Post Office Building"; H.R. 6188, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 420 Highway 17 North in Surfside Beach, South Carolina, as the "Nancy Yount Childs Post Office Building"; H.R. 6651, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the "Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building"; H.R. 6750, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 Mercer Street Southwest in Wilson, North Carolina, as the "Milton F. Fitch, Sr. Post Office Building"; and H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the "Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Energy, joint hearing entitled ''Federal Science Agencies and the Promise of AI in Driving Scientific Discoveries'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Under the Microscope: Reviewing the SBA's Small Business Size Standards'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''The State of American Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining Chronic Drug Shortages in the United States'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 6 through February 9, 2024

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 8, to hold hearings to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress, 9 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: February 8, to hold hearings to examine the administration's pause on liquefied natural gas (LNG) export approvals and the Department of Energy's process for assessing LNG export applications, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: February 8, to hold hearings to examine Artificial Intelligence and Health Care, focusing on promise and pitfalls, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: February 8, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dafna Hochman Rand, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: February 8, to hold hearings to examine the cost of prescription drugs, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 6, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine foreign influence in the United States, focusing on reviewing Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey and Company, M. Klein and Company, and Teneo's compliance with congressional subpoenas, 3:30 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: February 8, to hold hearings to examine S. 2385, to provide access to reliable, clean, and drinkable water on Tribal lands, S. 2868, to accept the request to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota at the request of that Community, S. 3022, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, S. 2796, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and S. 3230, to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, 10:30 a.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 8, business meeting to consider the nominations of Ann Marie McIff Allen, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, Susan M. Bazis, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, Ernest Gonzalez, and Leon Schydlower, both to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Kelly Harrison Rankin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, and Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, February 7, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled ''State of DoD Housing and Aging Infrastructure'', 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, February 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''American Confidence in Elections: Confronting Zuckerbucks, Private Funding of Election Administration'', 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Ways and Means, February 7, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''Advancing America's Interests at the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Meeting'', 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Kurt Campbell, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Amy M. Baggio, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kurt Campbell until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

12 noon, Tuesday, February 6

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H. Res. 863—Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measure under suspension of the Rules: H.R. 7217—Making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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