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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 29, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DALE W. STRONG to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RESTORING FISCAL ORDER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation faces a myriad of catastrophes, one of which is an open southern border and the mass migration of illegal aliens, Washington's fiscal house sits in utter disrepair.

That is the reality we face. If we don't grasp the reins soon and stamp out wasteful spending, our Nation will suffer serious consequences that will continue to compound.

Not a penny of taxpayer money should be directed to frivolous spending binges overseas while the southern border is sitting wide open. We should take care of our country's needs first.

American families and hardworking taxpayers across the Nation demand that action be taken to cut spending, restore fiscal sanity, and get our country moving in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly agree with them, and I have taken action to restore fiscal order in Washington.

To cut wasteful spending and protect taxpayer dollars from rampant abuse, I have supported commonsense amendments to the ongoing fiscal year 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Operations appropriations package. These amendments slash funding for the United States Agency for International Development by half, transfer millions of dollars from the Peace Corps budget to the spending reduction account, eliminate millions in funding for the Global Environment Facility fund, and prohibit funds from being used to implement the Paris climate agreement.

Our children, grandchildren, and future generations of proud Americans to come deserve fiscal order in Washington and our country's needs being put first. Anything less is entirely unacceptable.

In addition to my continuing efforts to uphold fiscal order and put the needs of our country first, I have also cosponsored H.R. 2445, the Special Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance Act, legislation which would establish an office for an inspector general for Ukraine assistance to oversee all funding made available in support of Ukraine.

Specifically, this legislation requires the President's nominee to serve as the Special Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance to be confirmed by the Senate; directs the Special Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance to submit quarterly reports to Congress on obligations and expenditures of U.S. funds and the provision of military equipment; requires a report on the Ukrainian Government's compliance with anticorruption measures and comparisons of America's contribution to Ukraine to those from our NATO allies.

Mr. Speaker, oversight of taxpayer dollars and resources should never be cast aside or abandoned. We can stamp out wasteful spending, put our country's needs first, and ensure effective oversight of taxpayer dollars all at the same time.

My record on cutting wasteful spending is clear, and I will always fight to ensure that the dollars of hardworking taxpayers are not only respected but also protected.

UKRAINE FUNDING IS IMPORTANT

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2022, the world watched with alarm as Russia invaded Ukraine. Since the start of the invasion, over 100,000 Ukrainians have died fighting to defend Ukraine's sovereignty and the broader principles of freedom and democracy.

Now, it has been 2 years since Putin's unprovoked assault on Ukraine. We can't abandon them in their fight for freedom; not today, not tomorrow, never.

With Ukraine running out of bullets and Russia advancing in Ukraine, the eyes of the world are on the United States Congress. Authoritarian regimes around the world like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea are looking closely to see if we will honor our commitments and stand with our democratic ally or if we will hand over Ukraine to Vladimir Putin. If Ukraine falls, Putin will not stop until all of Eastern Europe is within his grasp.

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If Congress fails to act, it will go down as one of the greatest foreign policy failures in our Nation's history.

Let's be clear about where history will place the blame. If Congress fails to act, history won't be kind in the judgment that House Republicans surrendered Ukraine to Russia.

In the past, House Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Congress have united and come together in opposition to Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. We have just seen 22 Republicans in the Senate willing to vote country over party on this issue. I believe there are Republicans in the House willing to do the same.

As we look ahead, House Republicans have a choice. Are they prodemocracy or are they pro-Putin?

House Republicans can choose country over party or Russia over the United States.

House Republicans can stand with our allies, or they can stand with Donald Trump and the pro-Putin wing of the Republican Conference.

House Republicans can either stand with democratic nations like Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, or they can bend the knee to authoritarian regimes like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea.

The longer we delay sending aid to Ukraine, the more powerful Putin and other authoritarian regimes become. We can't abandon them in their fight for freedom.

That is why I am calling on the Speaker of the House, MIKE JOHNSON, to bring the bipartisan, Senate-passed security package to the floor of the House for an immediate vote.

Now, many of my constituents rightly question the high cost of this aid package. Support for Ukraine and our allies is in our national interest. It is a national security issue for the American people. While the costs are high, we will spend a hundred times more money containing an aggressive Russia around the globe if we do nothing. We must stand with our allies. This will be a vote where Members will be forced to choose between democracy and authoritarianism.

As I have voted now for Speaker of the House 19 times, I have learned how incredibly fragile our democracy is. We must act now to pass a supplemental aid package and stand with Ukraine.

We can either stand with democracies like Israel and Ukraine, or we can bend the knee to Putin and other authoritarian regimes around the globe. Democracy should never be taken for granted. We must be vigilant and proactive to protect it here and around the world.

History is watching what happens next. Let's come together, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans, and stand with our ally Ukraine.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS SCHEME

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, we recently learned that the Department of Education would be shifting another $1.2 billion in student loan debt from borrowers to the taxpayers of this country. This is yet another example of President Biden's administration abusing whatever regulatory lever they can find, every executive action he can think up to usurp Congress and continue this unjust bailout scheme.

Unfortunately, the scheme is working. In recent months, tens of billions of dollars in borrowed money are no longer due for repayment. Let's be clear. Student loan debt can't be forgiven. It is simply being transferred to hardworking American taxpayers, most of whom never went to college or took out student loans.

These tactics come despite what happened last summer when the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the Biden administration's previous student loan handout plan totaling more than $400 billion. The High Court found, in laymen's terms, that a President cannot spend hundreds of billions of dollars with the stroke of a pen.

This is one of the most regressive ideas that I have seen in my time in Congress. It does nothing to solve the ballooning cost of a college education in this country. It simply adds to our national debt, which already, of course, sits at more than $34.2 trillion.

We know that 43 million out of 255 million adults in the United States have some kind of student loan debt. We also know that $1.7 trillion in outstanding college debt is disproportionately held by those earning the highest incomes in this country. It makes no sense for a blue-collar worker in Tennessee to be forced to pay off the college debt of a Harvard-educated doctor or lawyer.

We have the freedom to choose whether to pursue higher education in this country. You can choose to forgo a 4-year degree, as millions of successful Americans have done, but this administration would have you pay for the 4-year degrees of others regardless of your choice.

More than 100 million Americans have built a life without taking on debt. In fact, I represent thousands of Tennesseans who earn a good living without having borrowed money to do so. Why should they foot the bill for those who chose to go to college? This sends a terrible message to an entire generation of undergraduates and soon-to-be undergraduates. Perhaps more importantly, this unjust and wrongheaded action on the part of President Biden incentivizes universities to continue raising tuition with impunity because students can now borrow the money to pay these outrageous tuitions without having to pay it back.

Furthermore, possibly the worst aspect of all of this is that every college graduate and every parent of a college graduate who did the honorable thing by paying off their student loans, often at great sacrifice, is now being harshly punished for having done so. It is also an ugly affront to the families across this country struggling to stay afloat amid record-high consumer prices as a result of Bidenflation.

There are already programs on the books to help those struggling to repay their student loans, like income-driven repayment plans, in which roughly 40 percent of borrowers are already enrolled. I urge the White House to end this cycle of adding billions to our debt with the stroke of a pen. Just as the Supreme Court determined last June, this kind of policy must be approved by Congress before it can be implemented.

WE MUST NOT ABANDON OUR ALLIES

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, for more than 2 years, the world has watched as Ukraine defends freedom and democracy and international law.

Disgracefully, this House has failed to pass additional supplemental aid to that effort for 427 days, more than half the length of this war.

Our inaction is an abandonment not only of our allies but of our values of liberty, democracy, and international law. We are the leaders of the free world, not by choice, but by necessity. We ought to be ashamed. We ought to be disgusted. Indeed, most of us are.

As our Congress sleeps, the enemies of freedom rain hell down upon the defenders of democracy. They do so with greater fury, thinking that this Congress will do nothing to stop them.

Recently, we watched Russian forces take back the city of Avdiivka. Putin's regime killed Russian opposition leader Navalny, silencing a heroic, principled voice against Putin and his criminal invasion of Ukraine. Yet Speaker JOHNSON brings no bill to this floor.

Ukrainian soldiers now face a 10–1 disadvantage in artillery. They report watching Russian forces approach and having to decide in the moment how many grenades they can afford to launch, how many shells can they afford to fire, and how many bullets can they afford to shoot.

□ 1015

That calculation ought to be self-evident—as many as it takes—but it is not. The world is watching what is happening in the trenches of eastern Ukraine.

The people of Ukraine are watching what is happening on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. How can we rationalize that, that we stand silent without action?

The first question Ukrainian troops ask journalists who visit the front line is: What is happening in Washington? What is happening in the House? What is happening when the Speaker does not bring to the floor a bill to respond to the threats to us, to democracy, to freedom?

Ukrainians know that only America can provide them with the aid on the scale and timeline necessary to achieve a victory.

Elsewhere on the front lines, other soldiers told a reporter: You Americans have to decide whether you want to remain a global power.

Think in your heads as to whether we want to do that, for not doing so will cause great danger to the global community and ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, bring this bill to the floor. Let us act. The votes are here to pass that bill in a bipartisan fashion.

For the majority of Members, that decision is clear. We must help Ukraine, as well as our allies in Israel and beyond.

As I said, over 300 votes are on this floor to do just that—a bill to defend democracy, a bill to strike fear into the hearts of Putin and the axis of evil, a bill to restore America's reputation.

Speaker JOHNSON has been unable to handle this issue and fund our government simultaneously, but managing multiple priorities is the most basic part of his job.

It is disgraceful that the speakers from 23 parliaments, our allies, our friends, have written to us and said: America, America, America, respond as you have in the past to defend democracy, defend freedom, and defend the fighters for freedom.

It is disgraceful that they had to write us, but perhaps the Speaker needs that reminder. Leaders ought to lead, Speakers ought to speak up, and the United States Congress ought to stand united in its defense of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, history is watching at this pivotal moment. America ought not to be absent without leave. This is not a partisan issue. This is an issue for the leader of the free world—America. Let's act.

Mr. Speaker, bring the bill to the floor.

FAILED BORDER POLICY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am fascinated by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle being so fixated on Ukraine when our porous southern border, our U.S. borders, are causing so much harm to our American economy and losing American lives such as Laken Riley here most recently.

We have been fairly generous to Ukraine since their problems have started with Russia. Indeed, the amount of money they received is at least 20-fold more than what we are even talking about that would secure our own southern border.

Now we see President Biden will be chasing former President Trump down to the border—in reality, a desperate attempt to stabilize his plummeting poll numbers on the issue, but let's not be kidded by that.

Today's visit, much like Biden's first and only other visit to our southern border, will be basically a photo op.

He will be visiting Brownsville, Texas, an area of the southern border that, according to reports, has had virtually nonexistent activity in recent days, weeks, and months compared to all the other places along the border where you can see plenty of footage of tens of thousands of people coming across. Create a distraction here by going over there.

This is nothing more than a smokescreen and an attempt to distract American people from his disastrous policies and the chaos he has unleashed at our southern border.

For the past 3 years, President Biden has not only ignored the crisis at the southern border, he is directly responsible for it.

Since his first day in office, he has worked to implement his own far-left failed policies which have basically turned every town in the whole country into a border town and destroyed countless American families. We then talk about this issue here on the floor since the media doesn't seem to want to cover that very well.

There are over 60 instances of President Biden and his administration taking actions that undermine our Nation's border security.

The first thing he did when he came into office was to get rid of the procedures and the policies that President Trump had put into place.

Yet, recently in the press, he is yelling at Republicans, saying: You need to back some of our border policies we are working on. Really? Put back in place the policies that already worked.

These eight items, he could do all of these without having Congress fund or come to agreement on a bipartisan fashion on any of them: end catch and release, reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, enter into an asylum cooperation agreement, end parole abuses, detain inadmissible aliens—wow, wouldn't that be something—use expedited removal process, rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for all illegal aliens—wouldn't that be a relief for families who are struggling—issue a proclamation to suspend or restrict entry in the United States.

Those are actions he could take on his own without having to battle through both sides of the aisle in both the House and Senate.

We would be happy to do that as Republicans. Republicans have been standing for these types of policies all along.

It all changed under the Biden administration. That is why we have suffered these last 3 years with the mass amounts of people coming across our border illegally and invading our country.

We know border security is national security. That is why the bill we passed, H.R. 2, earlier on is the right policy.

Yet, it is sitting there languishing under Senator SCHUMER and the Senate Democrats who won't bring it up for a vote or discussion.

Instead, they gave us a watered-down immigration bill that would allow 1.8 million illegal immigrants a year into our country with immediate work permits, benefits, and the ability to stay even longer, thereby codifying illegal immigration.

We are going to automatically concede 1.8 million can come in illegally without process, and we are going to give you stuff. Calling that a border security package and then reaming Republicans for not being for that, it is not even a funny joke.

Let's look at the numbers. Since Biden took office, there have been 7.2 million illegal crossings of our southern border; 8.7 million entries nationwide.

The total number of illegal immigrants who have entered through our southern border is greater than the population of 36 of our individual States.

Let's not forget about the terrorists. Mr. Speaker, 340 individuals whose names appear on the terrorist watch list have been stopped trying to cross the southern border.

So far in 2024, there have been 58 individuals whose names appear on the list who have been stopped trying to enter the border. How many haven't been stopped?

The total is more than the encounters in all fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 combined. That is how bad it has gotten to this point.

It is not just terrorists crossing our border. It is also Chinese Communist Party nationals. Mr. Speaker, 20,000 Chinese nationals have illegally crossed the southern border since fiscal year 2024 began in October.

Just last week, 22-year-old Georgia nursing student Laken Riley's life was taken. How many more examples like that have to happen because of Biden's wide-open policy and today's photo op? We must do better.

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on National Security, I rise to remind the House Republican leadership that actions speak louder than words when it comes to national security and America's defense of democracy and human rights worldwide.

In reference to the current migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border, Speaker JOHNSON has repeatedly stated that ''our national security begins at our border.''

He has indicated that border policy would be the Republican hill to die on. He even insisted that the House would

not act on a foreign aid package unless it included substantive provisions to enhance border security, his ''top priority.''

However, the actions taken by the House Republican leadership do not live up to those words. Three weeks ago, a bipartisan coalition in the U.S. Senate negotiated a national security agreement that proposed the most significant reforms in decades, introducing new emergency border authorities, including granting the President the ability to close the border under certain circumstances, anti-fentanyl and anti-human trafficking provisions, and resources to enhance security at the southern border.

President Biden indicated a willingness to sign the compromise agreement, when passed. Instead, at the direction of former President Trump, Speaker JOHNSON declared the bill dead on arrival in the House before he even received the final text.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should debate and amend, when necessary, and pass a commonsense border security and immigration bill to end the crisis at our border and regain control of our border.

Similarly, following Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, the House Republican leadership released the following statement:

They said, ''We stand in complete solidarity with the innocent Ukrainian people and vow to continue to support them as they defend themselves from Putin's unprovoked onslaught.''

The Speaker personally echoed those commitments during his meeting with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in the Capitol last December.

However, after the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan foreign aid package that includes over $60 billion in assistance to support the Ukrainian military and people, a bill which also included provisions for $14 billion in aid to Israel and nearly $10 billion in humanitarian assistance for civilians in Gaza, the West Bank, Ukraine, and other populations affected by conflict, the Speaker once again declared the bill dead on arrival.

Upon his election to the speakership, Speaker JOHNSON pledged that the House Republican Conference, and I am going to give you a quote, ''And we will restore sanity to a government desperately in need of it.'' That could not be further from the truth.

As evidenced by another looming government shutdown, this Republican majority remains mired in internal party dysfunction and legislative chaos to the great detriment of U.S. national security, our international partners, and the American people.

We are now one day away from a partial shutdown that would disrupt critical Federal programs, including veterans' outreach services, air traffic control training, food assistance for low-income families, and an estimated 200,000 military families who now rely upon WIC to alleviate food insecurity—according to the National Military Family Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House Republican leadership to set politics and partisanship aside and work with Members on both sides of the aisle to immediately address these critical priorities.

We also have an opportunity to urge the United States Treasury to take control of the $300 billion in Russian assets that are in the possession and custody of U.S. and EU banks. Take that $300 billion and give it to Ukraine so they can fight for their freedom and feed their people.

CONGRATULATING MEGAN MORONEY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah-born singer Megan Moroney for ranking among Rolling Stone's ''The 100 Best Albums of 2023'' list.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, Megan Moroney comes from a household steeped in musical talent and traditions influenced by iconic songwriters in classic country, southern rock, and Americana.

After completing high school, Moroney set off to receive a degree in accounting at the University of Georgia. Go Dawgs.

During her freshmen year at UGA, Megan was provided with the opportunity to open for a well-established country artist at the renowned Georgia Theatre.

This unexpected opportunity sparked Megan's interest in crafting her first original song.

Reflecting on her journey, she shared that she never thought she would be a singer professionally.

Moroney connects with her audience through her music by speaking her truth about the emotional experiences she has faced.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Megan. I look forward to seeing her continued success in the future.

□ 1030

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LEANNA PIVER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Leanna Piver, a varsity cheerleader and student at Georgia Tech.

Leanna has been awarded a posthumous degree by Georgia Tech after her passing.

Leanna learned dance and theater, and she was accepted into the Atlanta Workshop Players performing arts company while at Parkview High School. After high school, she was accepted into Georgia Tech and joined the cheerleading squad as a flyer.

Leanna tragically passed after a car accident in 1998. She is remembered by all as a loving member of the Tech family.

The Georgia Institute of Technology granted a bachelor of science in business administration posthumously for Leanna as a gift to her parents, who celebrated their 50th anniversary and love for Leanna.

While Leanna's life was cut tragically short, her legacy lives on through memories, the scholarship created in her name, and so much more.

CONGRATULATING MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT COLT BROCKINGTON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mr. Colt Brockington.

Colt is the 2023–2024 recipient of the Milken Educator Award of the State of Georgia. This award is given to a younger educator who has extraordinary accomplishments and achievements. Only the best of the best receive it.

Colt is an alum of Wayne County High School and a graduate of the College of Coastal Georgia. He now serves as a science teacher and mentor to students and faculty at Wayne County High School.

Colt develops plans to enhance student learning by collaborating with teachers and students alike to provide a nurturing and academic environment.

His leadership abilities in the classroom are also seen on the field, with Colt holding the positions of Wayne County head softball coach, assistant baseball coach, and athletic academic adviser.

Colt inspires his students on and off the field with his dedication to the future of education at Wayne County High School.

Congratulations to Colt.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS HALL OF FAMER KIM GUSBY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a major accomplishment that has been awarded to Kim Gusby.

Kim is a Savannah-raised journalist and has recently been elected to the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. This comes after 20 years of broadcasting in the Savannah area. Kim is an award-winning journalist and the longest-serving morning news anchor in the area.

She is known throughout the community for tirelessly giving back at every opportunity. In 2019, Kim founded The Village Scholarship Fund, which provides necessary resources for high school students aiming to start college.

Kim was also named Outstanding Georgia Citizen in 2019.

Congratulations to Kim. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor.

CONTINUE AMERICA'S LEGACY OF FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, every generation or so, our country is challenged with a fight. It is a fight in which we

invariably line up on the side of freedom, of liberty, of the right of all individuals to make their own decisions, to not be told by dictators or by mullahs or by totalitarians what to think, how to pray, or who will lead them—every generation.

My generation was 9/11 when we were brutally attacked by extremists who hated our way of life; my grandparents' generation was the Cold War in which we stood against totalitarianism and communism in Europe and elsewhere; my great-grandparents' generation was World War II in which we stood up to fascism—always on the side of freedom, always on the side of liberty.

While we don't always get it precisely right, and the cost in blood and treasure has often been horrendous, we are invariably there. We have stood against the odds for freedom and democracy.

Now we waver. This generation, now we waver.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, something that we didn't imagine we would ever see again: Russia invades a sovereign country, crosses a border with tanks. Now we waver.

Our parents and our grandparents, who fought those wars and the Cold War against Nazism, are saying: What is wrong with you? What has become of the instinct to stand for freedom and democracy?

Mr. Speaker, we hear these objections about the border over and over again. My Republican friends are right about the border. We need to move.

By the way, we did move. We had a bipartisan agreement supported by Republicans in the Senate, and the Republicans in the House said no.

Do you know what, Mr. Speaker? This country, this body, can do more than one thing at the same time. We can stand for freedom and democracy and fix the border. Do not tell me that we choose between the two.

We hear that the objectives in Ukraine are unclear. The objectives are as clear as can be. We will sustain this fight until Vladimir Putin realizes it is too expensive for him to stay in that fight.

We hear that the Ukrainians are corrupt. We didn't hear that about our Afghan allies or about our Iraqi allies, but we hear that about the Ukrainians.

Meanwhile, China, North Korea, and Iran are watching. What they are seeing is that Republicans—forget about loss of life—if it is a little bit of money, we don't sustain the fight.

Do you think President Xi is not watching this moment carefully? Can you imagine what the implications are down the road for Taiwan?

Failure to respond to Russian aggression will be something that we pay the cost for in years to come. A leader of this body said it: A failure to respond to that aggression ''empowers other dictators, other terrorists and tyrants around the world, because if they perceive that America is weak or unable to act decisively, then it invites aggression in many different ways.''

That was Speaker JOHNSON, the leader of this body.

Mr. Speaker, in 1938, Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister, went to Munich, where a bunch of us just were, and he appeased. He came back to England and said, I have achieved ''peace for our time.''

Of course, that was not true; that was appeasement. As a result, the name ''Neville Chamberlain'' stands in history for the legacy of appeasement.

Is that the legacy that you want for yourselves? Do we want to abandon, for the first time in hundreds of years, our tradition of standing for democracy and freedom? I don't think so.

Maybe you do. Maybe you do because Donald Trump wants that to happen.

At least bring the bipartisan Senate bill to the floor so that those who are infused with the legacy of this country's fight for freedom, and not infused by doing whatever Donald Trump demands of us on this particular day, can stand up for what this American country has always stood for.

Bring the Senate bill to the floor.

CONGRATULATING PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy boys' soccer team for winning the 3A State championship.

By beating the number one ranked Gilbert Christian School, they secured the title with a score of 2–1.

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy is known for its sports and does not fail to disappoint when it comes to State championships.

Head Coach Geoff Neale led the team to the championship alongside Assistant Coaches Adam Odell and Taric Doyle.

This team has a great future ahead of them. I am excited to see what the future holds for all of them.

As Congressman of Arizona's Sixth Congressional District, I take pride in the accomplishments of these talented young athletes.

Keep up the great work. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salpointe Catholic High School boys' soccer team. The Lancers won their fourth straight 4A State championship, defeating the Mica Mountain High School Thunderbolts 4–1.

Salpointe's fourth straight State title ties the school with Lakeside Blue Ridge, Chino Valley, and Yuma Catholic for the most consecutive State championships in Arizona's history.

Wolfgang Weber, head coach of the boys' soccer program and a legendary local youth soccer coach, led the team to their 11th State championship.

I am so proud of these boys, and I am excited to see where their soccer careers take them.

Go Lancers. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING THE SALPOINTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salpointe Catholic High School wrestling team. Nate Higgins and Che Jenkins, class of 2025, secured the State championship for the Salpointe Catholic Lancers this year.

Their dedication, skill, and perseverance have brought immense pride to their school. Salpointe Catholic High School is a hub for athletes in our district, offering 26 sports with 52 teams. With those, the Lancers have won 78 State championships.

Mr. Speaker, I am excited to see the bright and promising futures of these exceptional athletes as they excel both on and off the mat.

Congratulations.

CONGRATULATING WALDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Walden Grove High School girls' soccer team for winning the Arizona 4A State championship.

In an exciting match, Coach Troy Bosley and his team secured victory over Salpointe by two goals with a final score of 3–1.

This was Walden Grove's first State championship since 2014. Their dedication and perseverance throughout the past year has been truly commendable. It is no surprise that they emerged with the victory this season.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such talented student athletes, determined coaches, and supportive parents.

Keep up the great work, and congratulations.

CONGRESS MUST WORK TO AVOID A SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear: We cannot shut this government down.

Mr. Speaker, 4 pages, 5 pages, or 20 pages of a stopgap measure, the government cannot shut down. The rules of this House and Senate require the Congress to do its work.

As the President said, we have the purse strings to be able to ensure that the government remains open; that law enforcement is paid; that Medicare and Medicaid are provided for our families and our seniors; that we are able to ensure that the young families of young soldiers, men and women of the United States military who put on the uniform unselfishly and are on the front lines, are paid.

As we have seen, a number of tragic incidents have caused the loss of lives of the men and women in uniform, including many of our tragic flight incidents. We have lost many lives over

this last year, including those who are in combat.

Mr. Speaker, are you telling me that we are not going to put pen to paper and work together, work with the Budget Committee that I sit on, to ensure that there are Members who will advocate for your Members to join in, without poison pills, of the funding of the CR?

This paper allows us today to work through an extension until March 8 and an extension until March 22. It includes a response to our student loan crisis, which is extremely important. It ensures that the doors of the government remain open.

What I hope that we will be able to do is to fight against the dastardly position of underfunding or not funding the women, infants, and children program. My community needs to be able to provide funding for women, infants, and children, a major component of the Federal Government's budgeting.

What else do I want to make sure that we do? As I walked through my district over these last couple of days, in particular, I heard about the crisis of seniors and housing.

Mr. Speaker, we know that young families need housing, but do you realize that in the later years of a senior's life, sometimes they are priced out of their own home? Because of building around their home, their home values increase. They cannot afford the taxes or the upkeep. Where do they go?

This government should be committed, with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to developing a serious housing program for seniors. This program would, in essence, ensure that we could provide housing for seniors all over America.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator TESTER, who, in speaking about the House, said that we can't fool around. If that is what it takes to get this done, we need to stop kicking the can down the road. We need to stop it. We need to get a real budget. Mr. Speaker, I am standing with him.

□ 1045

We can't be far right. We can't be far this. We can't be far that. We have to be for the American people. We can't be against the rights of women, where we are denying them the ability to get medication dealing with abortion. We cannot help our veterans who are in need of mental health care and not allowing them to go under the NICS check so that if they are in danger by getting guns that we can protect them. Again, as I said, we cannot stop the nutrition programs for low-income women.

Homeland Security, the border, providing relief for the people in Gaza, humanitarian relief for our children and pausing for peace, we have to work to fund all of those elements and resources at the southern border.

I thank the President for being at the southern border. We already know his insight. We know the work that he can do with Ranking Member THOMPSON of the Homeland Security Committee and those of us who are Democrats who want to see the border solved. We have to do it with a budget, and we have to also do it with passing the supplemental that he has put before us that takes care of the people of Ukraine and the soldiers on the front line and, as well, those elements in Taiwan and around the world.

Let me say this: I am here to work. I started out by saying we cannot shut the government down. There is too much work to be done. I am here to work. I am here to work and get the job done. Pass the budget.

BIDEN'S BORDER DISASTER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, on day one of the Biden Presidency, the President reversed many, if not all, of the successful border policies implemented by the previous administration, the Trump administration, that kept our Nation safe and kept our border secure.

Joe Biden ended remain in Mexico, halted border wall construction, loosened asylum requirements, issued a moratorium on deportations, essentially telling the world: Our border is open. Come on in.

Meanwhile, Customs and Border Patrol, on any visit you make to the border, will tell you that just by instituting remain in Mexico, 75 to 80 percent of those trying to enter our country illegally would be deterred and would not enter.

These policy reversals led to, at the time, caravans of migrants in Mexico wearing ''Biden, thank you'' T-shirts as they approached the United States border.

Since that time, Mr. Speaker, there have been 8.5 million illegal border crossings, as well as an estimated 1.7 million got-aways, over 10 million illegal entries, most of whom we don't have any idea who they are or where they are throughout the United States of America.

So why did President Biden take these actions? Ideological idiocy? What he did was anything but humanitarian or rational. Migrants made this journey here, Mr. Speaker, under false, deadly pretenses. People have drowned. People are drowning. Probably today, Mr. Speaker, people are drowning in the Rio Grande and under false pretenses coming to our country.

People are being killed. The reports are that one-third of women are sexually assaulted. At the same time, drug cartels are getting rich, coyotes are getting rich, and much of Mexico, thanks to the Biden administration's wonderful policies, is a gangland.

Along with the suffering of the migrants, the American people are suffering. During Biden's time in office, there have been over 300,000 American deaths from fentanyl and other opioids which were smuggled across the southern border—nothing to smile about.

American teens and young adults are dying at alarming rates. To date, this administration has done nothing to correct course. We are experiencing all of this locally. Don't we all know an individual, usually a young person, who has died from a fentanyl overdose?

While it is no match for the cost of life that has been lost, we cannot forget the immense financial cost our cities, States, and taxpayers have incurred as a result of Biden's disastrous border policies, exponentially disastrous.

The Center for Immigration Studies reports the annual cost of Biden's immigration crisis to the United States is $452 billion of American taxpayer funds. The Federation for American Immigration Reform notes that the cost to my home State, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is $1.64 billion per year.

Mr. Speaker, what about the crime epidemic? We now have something called migrant crime. Mr. Speaker, is there anything more horrific than we have seen from the Laken Riley situation, how an illegal from Venezuela made it across the border illegally, went to New York, committed all kinds of crimes, was let out by the weak, foolish, ideological prosecutors in New York, and then went on to Georgia and murdered a beautiful young girl?

To add insult to this injury, the Biden administration takes the American people for idiots by trying to blame this border crisis on Republicans and Donald Trump, after 3 years of Secretary Mayorkas and Vice President HARRIS and everybody else in the Biden administration telling us that the border is secure, along with 90 percent of the media.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not buying it. The facts don't lie. Our eyes don't lie. No matter how many times they tell us they do, this unmitigated disaster is a direct result of this administration's weak policies, and it is the height of hypocrisy.

After causing this catastrophe, President Biden going to the border today is clearly nothing more than a sad, sorry attempt to save him from a political standpoint. This trip is not about solving the border problem. It is about solving a political problem that is getting worse.

Perhaps more shameful is Biden's attempt to blame those who want to protect our border for a lack of support for Ukraine. That, too, is outrageous. We can do both. The will of the American people matters. Let's not forget who we represent in our constitutional Republic.

HONORING THE DIVINE NINE

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Black History

Month by honoring the organizations that have served as the training ground for many of our Nation's most extraordinary leaders. I am talking about the Divine Nine, the historically Black fraternities and sororities of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. They serve as a pipeline for Black leaders across business, academia, and, of course, right here in the Halls of Congress.

The Divine Nine organizations are:

Alpha Phi Alpha, whose colors are black and gold, founded in 1906 at Cornell University.

My colleagues who are a part of Alpha are: CBC Chair STEVE HORSFORD; Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER; Congressmen DANNY DAVIS, AL GREEN, GREGORY MEEKS, DAVID SCOTT, and BOBBY SCOTT; the National Urban League president, Marc Morial; and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Their honorable general president is Dr. Willis L. Lonzer, III, my constituent.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, whose colors are salmon pink and apple green, was founded in 1908 at Howard University. Their sisterhood proudly boasts Vice President KAMALA HARRIS; my colleagues SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TERRI SEWELL, FREDERICA WILSON, ALMA ADAMS, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, LAUREN UNDERWOOD, LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, and NIKEMA WILLIAMS; the late, great Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson; civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King; and my current and former staffers Meagan Thompson, April Williams-Luster, Evan Mitchell. Their honorable president is Danette Anthony Reed.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, whose colors are crimson and cream, was founded in 1911 at Indiana University. Among their notable achievers are: Our leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES; Congressmen TROY CARTER, GLENN IVEY, and BENNIE THOMPSON; former Congressmen Al Lawson and William Lacy Clay; the late Don McEachin, Alcee Hastings, and John Conyers; Atlanta mayor, Andre Dickens; tennis champion Arthur Ashe; and my former staffers, Brandon Webb and Brandon Garrett. Their former grand polemarch was Reuben A. Shelton, III.

Omega Psi Phi fraternity, whose colors are purple and gold, was founded in 1911 at Howard University. They include in their ranks: My colleagues, Assistant Leader JIM CLYBURN; Congressman HANK JOHNSON and Congressman KWEISI MFUME; former Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.; poet, playwright, and author Langston Hughes; Earl Graves, Sr., of Black Enterprise; and my former staffers Charles Bolden and Vaughn Roland. Their immediate past grand basileus is Dr. David Marion.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority, whose colors are crimson and cream, was founded in 1913 at Howard University. Delta counts as sisters my esteemed colleagues YVETTE CLARKE, JOYCE BEATTY, STACEY PLASKETT, LUCY MCBATH, SUMMER LEE, JASMINE CROCKETT, VALERIE FOUSHEE, and JENNIFER MCCLELLAN; HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge; former Congresswoman Val Demings; my former chief of staff Mia Keeys; Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress; Nikki Giovanni, Susan Taylor; as well as my current intern, Traniah Neal; my fellows, Ebony Caldwell and Cecilia Vaughn-Guy. Their current honorable president is Elsie Cooke-Holmes.

Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, whose colors are royal blue and white, was founded in 1914 at Howard University. Not only are the Sigmas the fraternity of my late husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, they also include my colleagues ADRIANO ESPAILLAT and MAXWELL FROST; the late Congressman and civil rights leaders John Lewis and Elijah Cummings; and civil rights pioneer and leader of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. Philip Randolph. Their honorable international president is Chris V. Rey.

Zeta Phi Beta sorority, whose colors are royal blue and white, was founded in 1920 at Howard University, the sisters of Phi Beta Sigma. Notable sisters include my colleagues, Congresswomen SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE and RASHIDA TLAIB; former Congresswoman Donna Edwards; the late Congresswoman Julia Carson; Anita Hill; author Zora Neale Hurston. Their honorable president is Stacie N.C. Grant.

Sigma Gamma Rho, whose colors are blue and gold, my sorority, was founded in 1922 at Butler University. The sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho include my colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE; my former colleague Corrine Brown; the late Congresswoman Lindy Boggs; the first African-American winner of an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel; the first African-American woman journalist to cover the White House, Alice Allison Dunnigan; my current and former staff, Glennita Williams, Danielle Echols, and Mia Carter. Our esteemed grand basileus is Rasheeda S. Liberty.

Last, but not least, is Iota Phi Theta, whose colors are brown and gold, and was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University. Their notables include former Congressman Bobby Rush; Terrence Carson, star of ''Living Single''; and former NBA player Calvin Murphy. Their honorable grand polaris is Dr. Sean D. Housen, Sr.

The Divine Nine has helped to make our Nation a better place for all Americans.

As we prepare for the road ahead, I know that the Divine Nine will continue to foster a new generation of great leaders and help guide our Nation on its journey to equality.

Last, but not least, please, let's get money to Ukraine.

A TALE OF TWO PRESIDENTS

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there is an old adage that goes something like: There are no problems in our family; there are a lot of things we don't talk about.

For years, we have been talking about a crisis at our southern border. In 2016, candidate Trump talked about building a wall to protect American citizens from the surge that was taking place. He was laughed at. He was continually laughed at by the current administration until the polling came out that said the number one concern of the American people now is illegal immigration and the fact that we are being overwhelmed at both our southern border and our northern border.

Now, why do I bring that up? Well, the southern border is about 2,000 miles long, and I believe today former President Trump will go to Eagle Pass and President Biden will go to Brownsville to take a look at what is happening.

The current administration is now acknowledging the fact that maybe there is a problem down there and maybe we should be taking a look at what is happening. Polls do cause people to react.

□ 1100

It is truly a tale of two Presidents.

Now, the northern border, which is being totally ignored, is 5,500 miles of border. It is the longest continuous border between two countries anyplace in the world. It is virtually unwatched. Eighty-five percent of the terror watch list suspects caught at ports of entry come through the northern border.

More than 12,200 people were apprehended crossing illegally from Canada into the United States last year. That is a 241 percent increase from the previous year.

Northern border encounters are up 41 percent from last year. Seventy percent of illegal crossings in 2023 happened in New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire. This is called the Swanton sector where there is a surge when it comes to fentanyl coming across our border and killing hundreds of thousands of our citizens.

There are already more northern border land encounters in fiscal year 2024, which is October 2023 until right now, than in all of 2021. To date, in 3 months, 44,801 have come across. Northern border encounters in December 2023 and in January 2024, 31,150 of them, are more than all of fiscal year 2021.

At some point, whether you like it or not, this problem is taking place in real time, in real areas of the United States of America and on your watch, Mr. President. I am sick and tired of hearing that Congress needs to address these problems when the executive office—and I would just mention to people that we are the lawmakers. The executive branch are the enforcement people of the laws that are already passed and on the books.

How can you totally ignore a situation and say that the real problem is

that Republicans haven't stepped up to take responsibility for this?

This administration, without anything else, can end catch and release. They can reinstate the remain in Mexico policy, enter into the asylum cooperative agreements, end parole abuses, detain inadmissible aliens, use expedited removal, and rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for all illegal aliens.

That is right, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, you are paying for all these people who are here illegally. They ought to send you a thank you note for your hard work and issue a proclamation of suspending re-entry.

Mr. Speaker, as we watch what is happening in this country today, everything that you see happening right now, the concern that you see happening by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle is because the polls now indicate that the American people are awake and are aware of this administration's failure to enforce the laws of the land. It is that simple. It is the polling that is driving them to react. It is not the fact that it has been happening; that is incidental.

If you can ignore it long enough, then it will go away.

No. You can't ignore it any longer. Horrific things are happening to our own citizens as this administration sits back and says that there is really no problem and that this is being made up by the Republicans.

I encourage our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to remember that our oath of office is to the citizens of the United States and not to a particular party or to a particular officeholder.

When we ignore our basic responsibilities, then we have a huge problem in the United States of America.

I encourage all my fellow Americans to forget about being woke and wake up. Your country is being taken from you, and we are watching it happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. STEEL). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF SENATOR LOMBARDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative AMO, to honor Rhode Island State Senator Frank Lombardo III, a devoted public servant who passed away this month following his battle with cancer.

Starting with his election to the State senate in 2010, Senator Lombardo was a champion in that body for the working people of Johnston. A successful small business owner with his own HVAC company, Lombardo & Sons, Senator Lombardo was a fierce advocate for the small businesses across our State that are the backbone of our economy.

Moreover, the values that guided his work were rooted in the town of Johnston. He championed legislation to improve public health by guaranteeing insurance coverage for pain treatments, worked to expand programming to combat climate change, and increased transparency in Rhode Island's State tax credit program.

Senator Lombardo was also deeply involved in the community, particularly in the Boy Scouts of America. He was an Eagle Scout with Troop 4 in Greenville and was also a camp counselor for 2 years at Yawgoog Boy Scout Camp.

He was a passionate and hardworking public servant who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. I join Frank's friends, family, and the entire State of Rhode Island in mourning this loss.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MAGAZINER for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the comments made by my colleague to honor the life and legacy of Senator Frank Lombardo. His compassion, empathy, and purpose serving Rhode Islanders will be dearly missed.

SHILOH GOSPEL TEMPLE

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the pain that our community is going through on Senator Lombardo's passing, but another issue involves the Shiloh Gospel Temple community. All of our families should be able to gather and worship free from the fear of harm. Our community in North Providence was attacked on February 11.

That someone would set this community ablaze in a hate-fueled act shakes me to my core.

I stand with Pastor Eric Perry and his congregation during this difficult time. The fact that this incident, this fire at the church, happened at all is despicable. That it happened during Black History Month is abhorrent.

This allegedly racist attack has shaken our community. I am glad a suspect has been identified, and I hope that justice will be vigorously pursued.

Madam Speaker, I yield back to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER).

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, we stand united with the Shiloh Gospel Temple congregation and Rhode Island's Black community in the face of this heinous attack. Churches are more than just a place of worship. They are a place of refuge and community. They are safe spaces and sacred spaces, and no one should fear going to their place of worship or anywhere for that matter and in particular because of their race.

Let me be clear. This attack on Rhode Island's Black community is an attack on all of us and an attack on the principles and values that we believe in as Rhode Islanders.

I am thankful that a suspect was apprehended quickly and charged. Nonetheless, we must recognize that this is a part of a larger trend and an alarming rise of white supremacist violence across the Nation. We have seen too many racially motivated attacks across the country in recent years from Buffalo to Jacksonville to Charleston.

As ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do everything we can to root our domestic violent extremism in Rhode Island and across the country.

Our hearts are with Pastor Perry and the entire Shiloh Gospel Temple congregation. There is no place for hate in Rhode Island or anywhere.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of the new status quo at our Nation's borders.

I am absolutely appalled and disgusted that President Biden and Democrats running sanctuary cities have yet to take any real action after the recent violent crimes committed by illegal immigrants; namely, the murder of Laken Riley in Georgia.

We must take action now to end the reckless open border and sanctuary city policies before it is too late for another American family. Laken Riley's murder was entirely preventable.

Jose Ibarra entered the United States illegally last year, and he was given a one-way ticket to New York City where he was subsequently arrested for child endangerment, but, then, because of liberal bail reform laws in New York, he was released back out on the streets and not held behind bars.

New York's bail reform has shattered lives not just in New York, but now in the State of Georgia. Moreover, now the mayor of Athens wants to gaslight the American people and claim that there is no connection between illegal immigration and this heinous crime.

In less than 1 week, there have been four vicious attacks against innocent young Americans, all committed by illegal immigrants. This is simply madness. It is sickening, and it has to end now. President Biden has the power to secure the border by executive action, and Governor Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams can end New York's sanctuary policies with the stroke of a pen.

Laken Riley and these other innocent Americans deserved so much better from their government. We cannot allow another moment to pass before this border is closed and closed for good.

Mr. President, we must act now.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, President Biden recently announced another $1.2 billion in inflationary student loan forgiveness, further pursuing a reckless policy that only incentivizes

universities to continue to raise costs which are already out of control.

What is particularly troubling is that this burden is being shifted onto the shoulders of hardworking Americans who may not have had the opportunity to pursue higher education for themselves or they consciously opted against doing so.

This policy only adds more financial burden to families as Americans already struggle to keep up with the staggering cost of inflation. Instead of offering meaningful relief, it adds yet another layer of economic hardship, further challenging the financial stability of countless households across our great Nation.

It is simple. If you take out a loan for your education, then you commit to paying it back. It is a simple equation. Biden's student loan redistribution scam is a slap in the face to every American who built their career without attending college or attending a trade school or those who worked to pay off the student loans that they took out, the notes that they signed.

As Representatives of the American people, it is our duty to advocate for policies that help our economy and allow individuals to pursue the American Dream, not ones that perpetuate dependency and fiscal irresponsibility.

Mr. President, abandon this misguided approach and work with House Republicans toward solutions that promote genuine opportunity and prosperity for all Americans regardless of their educational background.

OUR NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, today the United States' national debt is more than $34.408 trillion. That puts our debt per citizen at over $102,000. Since President Biden took office, inflation has increased by more than 17 percent. It is simple: Bidenomics is pricing Americans out of the American Dream.

Bidenomics continues to fail the American people as it creates one of the most unaffordable housing markets in recent memory, putting homeownership out of reach for millions of hardworking Americans. Average monthly home payments have increased by 90 percent since Joe Biden entered the White House.

That is why this legislative body is working to block the policies that drive up our national debt and push costly and burdensome regulations that increase costs for consumers.

Just look at Biden's war on American energy producers. His administration is doing everything it can to block domestic oil and gas production, ban gas stoves and gas cars, and even hinder the export of American energy to our allies.

It is clear that President Biden and my colleagues across the aisle would rather push their woke Green New Deal policies than do what is right for the American people. Hardworking Americans are still struggling to pay their bills and balance their family budgets while the President and Democrats in Washington continue to spend carelessly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HUNTER BIDEN AND JARED KUSHNER

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday I sat in on the Hunter Biden deposition for hours. Republicans, once again, provided zero evidence—zero evidence—and failed to show any sort of link between Hunter Biden and the President. There are no links between those business dealings.

This entire case is a political stunt and a joke. Donald Trump ordered House Republicans to smear President Biden. They tried and tried and tried and failed.

Nonetheless, I want to remind everyone about the real White House crime family.

Why did Saudi Arabia give Jared Kushner $2 billion—billion with a b—just months after he left the Trump White House?

Moreover, why did the Saudis spend hundreds of thousands of dollars at Trump properties while he was still the President?

We also know that Jared Kushner used his cushy White House job to secure a $100 billion arms deal for Saudi Arabia and did other favors, as well.

Some Members of the majority actually agree that this was unethical. In fact, a few weeks ago, Jared Kushner was asked by a reporter about his grift. He responded: ''Are we really still doing this?''

Yes, Jared, we are still really doing this.

The American people deserve answers.

I rise yet again to urge my colleagues across the aisle to answer our calls and subpoena Jared Kushner's companies once and for all. We are not stopping, and we demand answers.

□ 1115

FLOOD INSURANCE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as I prepare to leave office at the end of this Congress, one of my greatest disappointments has been an inability to make progress dealing with our flood insurance system and the dangerous pattern of development and infrastructure.

What is so frustrating to me is that the handwriting has been on the wall. Even though I have tried to sound the alarm, we really have precious little to show for it.

I was on national TV 2 weeks before Hurricane Katrina, sketching in very vivid terms what was going to happen to New Orleans when the big one hit. Sadly, that was true even though Katrina wasn't the big one, but it could have been much, much worse. The devastation was unimaginable, and our efforts at recovery were woefully inadequate, inefficient, and unfair. We keep having to learn the same lessons with new victims in new disasters.

This inspired my first major piece of legislation, which aimed to reform the flood insurance program. However, looking back, it was simply inadequate. We tried to provide incentives which simply weren't strong enough. There are all sorts of examples.

Houston has been a poster child for repetitive flood loss. I used an example of one home flooded 22 times over 35 years and received more than $1.8 million in flood insurance claims for a home worth a fraction of that amount.

While we labored mightily through the legislative process to make modest gains in the flood insurance program, it was too little and too late. Our incentives weren't strong enough to overcome a 200-year history of people making poor decisions on where and how they live and how we designed our infrastructure.

People continue to live in low-lying, flood-prone areas because we are attracted to water. Rich and middle-class people are attracted to it, and poor people are forced to live in vulnerable areas because the land is less expensive.

Both strategies are flawed. What is so frustrating is that we spend enough money to potentially do things much better. Madam Speaker, $1 in prevention saves $6 in costs of damages, but we continue to make the mistakes of the past by spending billions of dollars on flawed reactions to catastrophes like Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

Additionally, it is not just massive storms. Day in and day out, we continue to put people in harm's way. We treat our rivers, waterways, and wetlands like machines that make the inevitable floods worse. We are happy to invest in decidedly suboptimal solutions. Traditional infrastructure that paves wetlands, channelized our rivers, and fortifies our coastlines make the inevitable flooding worse.

By giving people the illusion of protection, we encourage more people to move into harm's way. Over the past 20 years, we have failed in fundamental reforms. Making people respond to accurate flood mapping is too painful in the short term, so more people suffer pain in the long term.

The national flood insurance program is hopelessly inadequate and insolvent. The fundamental solutions have not changed over the last 25 years I have been working on this problem. We need to have accurate floodplain mapping, so people know exactly the situation they face and can act accordingly.

We can begin to make flood insurance actuarially sound. We shouldn't pretend that we can make incremental changes to a system that is fundamentally bankrupt. We should accept those losses and start over.

There must be stronger financial disincentives for people who refuse to do their jobs, and not just for individuals. State and local governments, with their land use planning, zoning, and building codes, should bear more of the financial burden in changing our policies to be sustainable financially, not the general taxpayer.

For people at risk, this is not unduly harsh. It is the reality in a world that is changing dramatically because of climate change. We do not do people any favors by ignoring the reality, subsidizing reckless behavior, and putting more people and property at risk. This does involve some short-term pain but will avoid long-term financial disaster and human catastrophe.

COMMENDING YASMEEN BANKOLE

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yasmeen Bankole, who is here with us today with her mother, Victoria, in the gallery.

Yasmeen is a public servant who always shows up for her neighbors in Illinois District Three. Yasmeen is a longtime resident of Hanover Park, calling it home for over 20 years. At the age of 27, Ms. Bankole's commitment to her community pushed her to serve as the village trustee of Hanover Park, becoming the first and only Nigerian American elected official in Illinois.

As a founding member of Black Women Who Lead, Yasmeen empowers and supports Illinois Black women to succeed in elected and leadership roles.

Ms. Bankole also serves in Illinois District Three and the surrounding region in Illinois as the regional director for U.S. Senator DICK DURBIN and as the economic development chair of the NAACP DuPage County Branch.

Yasmeen brightens every room she walks into, and she inspires others.

Today, on behalf of Illinois District Three, it is my honor to present Yasmeen with a commendation for her contributions to our community and for her commitment to public service, equity, and justice.

I congratulate Yasmeen.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL CHILDRESS

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I also rise in commendation of Michael Childress, a leader dedicated to our multicultural, multiracial democracy.

A longtime resident of DuPage County, Mr. Childress is the first-ever Black member of the DuPage County Board, where he serves as vice chair and represents families from Bloomingdale, Bensenville, Addison, and Wood Dale.

Michael also serves as the president of the DuPage County Branch of the NAACP. Under his leadership, the organization has assisted Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in our community, expanded voter participation, and offered mentorship opportunities to involve youth of diverse backgrounds in leadership and our democracy.

Mr. Childress also spearheads efforts to combat domestic violence, serving on the board of directors of one of the largest domestic violence advocacy agencies in Chicago, Family Rescue.

Therefore, for his contributions to Illinois District Three, our youth, and our multicultural democracy, I am honored to recognize Michael Childress.

THANKING DARA MUNSON

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dara Munson.

Dara is a nonprofit leader who has provided constituents with lifesaving services and opportunities to thrive for more than 25 years.

Native to Detroit, Ms. Munson moved to Chicago when she became the CEO of the Chicago Child Care Center. Under her leadership, the organization became one with Family Focus, expanding services for over 20,000 children and families.

As the president and CEO of Family Focus, she also serves families in my district as the vice chair of the International Women's Forum and the founding member of the Early Childhood Education CEO Roundtable.

In her own words, it is her goal to see families receive equitable support and resources so they may realize their dreams and the dreams of their ancestors.

In the name of my constituents, it is my great honor to thank and recognize Dara for her contributions.

COMMENDING EMANUEL CHRIS WELCH

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in commendation to the Honorable one and only Speaker Emmanuel Chris Welch for his historic and inspirational service to the families of Illinois.

Speaker Welch, a dear colleague and a fierce advocate of racial equity, serves as the first-ever Black speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives.

Speaker Welch has led historic legislation to provide immigrants, independently of legal status, access to driver's licenses; combat homelessness in our State; and create an elected school board for Chicago.

I was honored to serve as assistant speaker of the house as part of his leadership team, where we were able to approve a ban on assault weapons, invest in green jobs, and reform our criminal justice system.

We thank Speaker Welch for his brave leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, justice, and dignity for all Illinoisans.

HONORING TONI PRECKWINKLE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Cook County Board president, Toni Preckwinkle.

From five terms as alderperson to becoming the first Black woman president of Cook County Board and overseeing the Nation's second most populous county, President Preckwinkle has proven her dedication to our communities.

President Preckwinkle believes, like I do, that healthcare is a human right. Under her leadership, Cook County has expanded healthcare to 600,000 residents of Cook County, regardless of citizenship status.

Her work also extends to the criminal justice system, advocating for policies to reduce incarceration.

I am honored to commend President Preckwinkle for her 30 years of public service and the impact she has had on my constituents.

HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Black History Month as today marks the closing of that very important celebration in our community and across the Nation.

However, Black History Month is not just a month. It is every day of the year, and it must reaffirm unity in action.

During this month, we reflect on the significance of the shoulders we stand on, the shoulders of giants in Harlem such as the late, great Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and our former Congress Member, the Lion of Lenox Avenue, Charles B. Rangel.

This month and always, we must acknowledge the achievements of Black Americans throughout the Nation's history. That is why, Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act. This is a noncontroversial measure that would honor the life and legacy of Holcombe Rucker, a World War II veteran, Harlem Junior High School teacher, family man, and graduate of City College in New York City. He dedicated his entire life to uplifting Harlem through compassion, books, and basketball.

My bill would ensure the preservation of Holcombe Rucker Park, considered by many across the country as the ''Mecca of Basketball.'' Rucker Park has helped forge a path to multiple NBA stars, such as Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant, ''Tiny'' Archibald, and the great Earl ''The Pearl'' Monroe.

This Federal recognition would also preserve the park's legacy and ensure that future generations can appreciate his role in shaping the cultural and sporting landscapes of our Nation.

Speaking of Federal recognition, we are also closing out Dominican Heritage Month. This week, I joined Dominican-American leaders and the diaspora to ring the closing bell at Nasdaq in honor of a day of importance, Dominican Independence Day, February 27,

and in recognition of Dominican economic contributions to the United States of America.

Dominicans have more than tripled in population since the 1990s to represent a population of a total of 2.4 million people in the United States, the fourth largest population of Latinos in these United States.

Our contribution to this great Nation grows even stronger every day.

Just 2 weeks ago, we also had Dominicans on the Hill, where thousands of Dominican Americans joined us here to bring forward their message for recovery for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, finally, we will hear a lot about the border this week. We must remember that the border solution lies not just on border safety. We recognize that there must be greater border safety, particularly at the points of entry, where most of the fentanyl comes through in trucks and other vehicles.

□ 1130

However, we must also make sure that we don't gut our asylum system. We need to make sure America continues to be a beacon of hope and an opportunity for people that are persecuted all over the world.

It must be a balanced approach with four underpinnings: one, of course, border security measures to make our southern border stronger; two, one that acknowledges the root causes of migration in the hemisphere; three, one that also acknowledges the economic needs of our Nation for immigrants, such as farmworkers and work permits; and, finally, sensible, comprehensive immigration reform for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and family reunification.

Madam Speaker, I finalize by saying that we do have a bipartisan piece of legislation supported by Republicans and Democrats. It is called the Dignity Act, and it has these four very important underpinnings: greater border security, an acknowledgement of the root causes of migration, the economics, and comprehensive immigration reform.

HONORING THREE AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS FROM OHIO'S NINTH DISTRICT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in observance of Black History Month to recognize three African-American trailblazers who called Ohio's Ninth District their home.

These Ohioans overcame systemic barriers, inspiring others to strive for equality and justice for all, and helped our region develop new horizons for the Nation. Their unwavering dedication to uplift their communities serves as a beacon of hope.

They remind us of the importance of celebrating ''e pluribus unum,'' ''out of many, one'' that defines the valued variants of a common humanity, the United States of America. There is no other Nation in the world like us.

By honoring the legacies of those who paved the way for progress, we remember these individuals for their historic firsts that broke down barriers for future generations; not just of Ohioans but for all of America.

Art Tatum's story is a testament to the power of music and the arts to lift the human spirit. Despite being visually impaired, he possessed an extraordinary gift for music that would propel him to legendary status in the world of jazz.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1909, Tatum's journey began with a passion for the piano. Entirely self-taught by the age of 19, he was already making waves in the jazz world, captivating audiences with his unparalleled virtuosity.

His performance in venues across northwest Ohio attracted the attention of fellow musicians, and Tatum's playing style was characterized by its astonishing speed, precision, and complexity. His mastery of the piano pushed the boundaries of what was thought possible in technique and expression. The smallest perceptible time unit in music, which is called the tatum, is named after him to commemorate his achievement.

His influence extended far beyond the confines of jazz, shaping the very language of music itself in the character of our country. His name has become synonymous with excellence in jazz piano, and his impact on the genre continues to inspire future generations of musicians.

Linda Jefferson, her journey as a trailblazer in women's sports is not only remarkable, but also deeply intertwined with the history of northwest Ohio. Her early involvement in sports showcased her natural talent and dedication as well as her passion for competition.

However, it was her decision to join the Toledo Troopers, a professional women's football team, that propelled her into the spotlight. Responding to an advertisement in her hometown newspaper, the Toledo Blade, Linda seized the opportunity to become a part of something groundbreaking: professional women's football.

The Toledo Troopers, with Linda among their ranks, became dominant throughout the 1970s. Their unparalleled success not only brought glory to Toledo, but also shattered stereotypes about women in sports.

In 1975, Jefferson's exceptional achievements were honored when she graced the cover of womenSports magazine as Woman Athlete of the Year, a well-deserved recognition of her talent and dedication. Her legacy extends far beyond her accomplishments on the field, leaving an indelible mark on the history of Toledo and the world of women in sports as a whole.

Finally, Tony L. Bonner, his journey from his childhood in Sandusky, Ohio, to a trailblazing figure in the city's civil service and as a community activist is remarkable.

Foreshadowing his commitment that would later extend to his local community, his decision to join the Air Force reflects his sense of duty and country over self.

Returning to Sandusky after his military service, Bonner became the city's first Black firefighter in 1971. In this role, he not only served his community in times of emergency but took on the responsibility of fostering diversity within the fire department as its recruitment coordinator.

Apart from his professional endeavor, he was deeply engaged in the social fabric of Sandusky as treasurer of the local NAACP, helping to advocate for marginalized communities.

In essence, Tony L. Bonner's contribution transcends the realm of firefighting and community activism, symbolizing a lifelong devotion to service, equality, and empowerment.

As Black History Month draws to a close, it is important to celebrate the path-breaking individuals who have made significant impacts on our communities from coast to coast. They faced discrimination and they rose above that. They made and built a better Nation.

Ohio's Ninth District proudly celebrates and acknowledges Mr. Tatum, Ms. Jefferson, and Mr. Bonner as historymakers for America who call our district home.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, You have set an awareness of eternity in our hearts that we would spend our days longing to be forever united with You. Hear, then our deep desire to appreciate what is beyond our human capacity to understand and to strive to live into Your perfect will. May we grasp that what we experience this day is but a speck in the vastness of Your eternity.

Teach us to number our days that we may live wisely and well. On this extra day, may the added wisdom we gain enrich our hearts and remind us to honor each moment You give us.

Grant us the strength to be careful how we live, not wasting our time on useless work, the barren pursuit of busyness, but may we make the most of every opportunity and the best of this bonus day.

In Your eternal 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 gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LESKO 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. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PAUL ELMSTRAND

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Paul Elmstrand.

Paul, an officer with the Burnsville Police Department, was killed earlier this month in the line of duty alongside Officer Matthew Ruge and firefighter-paramedic Adam Finseth.

Paul lived in Chaska, but his story began in Isanti County. As senior class president and a member of the law enforcement club, he impressed his classmates with his strong character of ethical integrity, his generosity, and his sense of humor.

Among those classmates was his wife, Cindy, who he met in kindergarten and began dating in high school. Together, they shared two children, a 2-year-old and a 5-month-old.

At 27 years old, his life was cut tragically short. Paul, Matthew, and Adam were killed trying to save seven children barricaded in a Burnsville home with an armed man, an act of heroism and sacrifice beyond measure.

We were privileged to have Paul as a member of our community and as a neighbor and a friend. To Cindy and his children and all who loved him, Paul will never be forgotten, nor will Matthew or Adam.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we work on fiscal year 2024 appropriation bills, I rise to highlight Federal investments that are improving food security in my home State of Massachusetts.

This month, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources distributed over $7 million in Federal funding to local anti-hunger programs like Growing Places in Leominster, the Amherst and Northampton Survival Centers, and Grow Food Northampton.

As a part of this distribution, MDAR is awarding additional State-funded grants to organizations like Together We Eat in my hometown of Worcester to teach kids how to grow food using repurposed shipping containers, and to Just Roots, an incredible nonprofit community farm in Greenfield.

I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Agriculture Commissioner Randle, and Deputy Commissioner Pitcoff for prioritizing food security in the Bay State.

I am proud to advocate for robust funding for these grant programs, which are an example of how leveraging Federal and State dollars can support innovative work to improve food security.

I urge my colleagues to join me so that we can continue fighting to end hunger now.

STUDENT LOAN BAILOUT

(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, last summer, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against President Biden's student loan handout plan, totaling more than $400 billion.

The High Court determined that taking on that kind of debt, spending that much money, must be approved by Congress.

Despite this, we have seen the administration abuse whatever regulatory lever it can find, every executive action they can think up, to do it anyway.

Unfortunately, it is working. In recent months, tens of billions of dollars in borrowed money are no longer due for payment.

Let's be clear. Student loan debt can't be forgiven. It is simply being transferred to the American taxpayers, regardless of whether they went to college themselves or if they did the right thing and paid their own debt off.

I urge the White House to end this cycle of adding billions to our debt with the stroke of a pen. We are already an unprecedented $34.2 trillion in the hole.

ENSURING HEALTHCARE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, while they once again push us to the brink of a government shutdown, extreme MAGA Republicans are attacking our freedoms and pushing to ban in vitro fertilization, or IVF.

We have seen the devastating consequences of the Republican march toward a nationwide abortion ban on display in Alabama where extreme Republican-appointed judges have issued a ruling that prevents women from accessing IVF.

House Democrats believe women and their families should be allowed to make these personal decisions about when to have children.

Republicans claim to support IVF, but Americans should look at their actions, not their words. Led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, most House Republicans are sponsoring a bill that would threaten IVF nationwide and criminalize reproductive healthcare for women.

Republicans have appointed judges to overturn reproductive freedoms for women. This week, Senate Republicans blocked a bill that would protect IVF nationwide.

House Democrats are united to ensure that women, not politicians, can make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

(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, since Biden took office, over 10 million illegal aliens have entered America with over 340 on the terrorist watch list. Dangerously, this includes thousands of military-age young men from dictatorships.

Last month, I joined Speaker MIKE JOHNSON at Eagle Pass, Texas, and witnessed the madness. It is intentional irresponsibility thinking potential mass murderers will be low-information voters for a permanent one-party Democrat Big Government as criminals murder more Americans across our streets. Biden continues falsely to blame others, but he has the ability to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

I point out that war criminal Putin will face trial for the assassination of Alexei Navalny. His widow, Yulia, is a hero for the oppressed people of Russia.

HONORING CHARLES BLOCKSON

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Charles Blockson, a native of Norristown, Pennsylvania, who dedicated his life to the preservation of African-American history.

A prolific writer, collector, historian, and activist, Mr. Blockson authored 13 books and was a leading expert on the Underground Railroad.

Charles Blockson dedicated his life and career to traveling and acquiring rare documents, publications, and photos to explore and expand the study of the Black American experience.

He donated his remarkable collection to Temple University in 1984. Today, the world-renowned Blockson Collection houses more than 700,000 items relating to the global Black experience, serving as a resource not just for Temple students and faculty but for the Philadelphia community and beyond.

An exhibition documenting Mr. Blockson's life's work can also be seen at the Centre Theater in his hometown of Norristown.

Charles Blockson passed away last summer. As a tribute to his tremendous legacy, I am proud to join my colleagues MADELEINE DEAN and DWIGHT EVANS to introduce a bill designating his hometown post office in Norristown as the Charles L. Blockson Post Office.

REMEMBERING LAKEN RILEY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, what is it going to take to get people in this country on both sides of the aisle to understand that the Biden border crisis is killing people?

Laken Riley was a 22-year-old nursing student whose life was taken by an illegal immigrant, not a migrant. I hear this word ''migrant'' used all the time. This is a misnomer, trying to brush it under the rug. These aren't migrants; there is an illegal immigrant invasion of this country.

Earlier this week, another 2-year-old boy in Maryland was murdered by an illegal immigrant, not a migrant.

President Biden is down there in Texas pretending to do something about the border now in Brownsville. This is not a problem area like Eagle Pass, but a quieter area currently.

He is yelling at Republicans and saying: Well, you are not doing anything about the border. Well, his first day in office, he reversed all of President Trump's policies that were helping keep the border in check.

All these eight items on this list he could do by executive order. He could sign with a pen and do a legal constitutional executive action immediately.

Instead, he wants to blame Republicans or somebody else for the policies he invoked on day one that have put us where we are.

Instead, he wants to sue the State of Texas because they say their State is being invaded, and they have laws at the State level to stop invasions. He is suing them to get rid of their razor wire measures along the border. What a joke.

CELEBRATING BLANCHE VANDER BENT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a beloved constituent, Blanche Vander Bent, who turned 100 years old this month.

Blanche Vander Bent's life has been one of service: to God, to her family, and to others. Blanche is a distinguished matriarch, a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother.

She has a servant's heart and has spent countless hours volunteering at schools and food programs throughout west Michigan.

Blanche's commitment to service didn't just stop in west Michigan, though, as she and her husband volunteered throughout their life in disaster relief efforts all across the country, lending a hand to those whose lives had been upended.

Blanche defines what it means to put her faith into action, and I couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate her today.

A very happy birthday, Blanche.

HONORING DR. PETER PINGERELLI

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Arizonan whose passion for Arizona's education has left a lasting impact that will be felt for years to come.

Thanks to Dr. Peter Pingerelli, thousands of young Arizonans were able to receive a high-quality education, cultivating their skills in order to achieve their goals.

As a member of the West-MEC governing board and a professor at Grand Canyon University, Dr. Pingerelli was deeply passionate about education in Arizona.

Dr. Pingerelli's impact on education in Arizona cannot be overstated. He was a great friend, father, loving husband to State Representative Beverly Pingerelli, energetic educator, and valued community member. He will be dearly missed by everyone who had the privilege to know him.

□ 1215

RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, on the second anniversary of Russia's invasion, I reaffirm America's steadfast support of Ukraine.

This is not merely a gesture of international solidarity. It is a strategic imperative of the U.S. Our commitment to Ukraine extends beyond the defense of global freedom and democracy. It is fundamentally aligned with America's national interests.

With an investment of less than 5 percent of our defense budget, we have catalyzed a significant shift in the balance of power, crippled over half of Russian military forces, fortified Europe's stability and prosperity, protected our NATO allies, and ensured the stability of global food prices and supplies.

Let me be clear: A stable, democratic Europe is not just beneficial but essential to America's economy, food security, and national defense. The battlefields of Ukraine are the front lines of our freedom itself, and their struggle is our struggle.

As the deadline looms for Federal funding, House Democrats have consistently extended bipartisanship to ensure our government remains open and our national security protected.

The time for decisive action is now.

HONORING DANIEL AVEGALIO AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

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

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor our Veteran of the Month, Daniel Avegalio, a marine who served bravely in Operation Iraqi Freedom not once but three times. Daniel's dedication to our country is a testament to the spirit of American service.

From Pettis County, Daniel has not only served his country in uniform but continues to serve by guiding fellow veterans in their life after the military. His commitment shines through his work with the Sedalia Military Affairs Committee and his educational leadership as a George W. Bush Presidential Center Scholar.

Today, he furthers his impact with Western Governors University, helping military members transition to civilian life.

Daniel represents the best of us, the best of America. His sacrifice and ongoing commitment to his fellow servicemen and -women exemplify the enduring American values of loyalty, service, and community, for which I thank Daniel.

CHEERING FOR PARKER BYRD ON HIS RETURN TO BASEBALL

(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. Madam Speaker, breaking news: An East Carolina University baseball player was involved in a boating accident.

Communities across eastern North Carolina watched, cheering on Parker Byrd through 22 surgeries over 45 days. He survived, but Parker lost his right leg.

Our community not only cheered for Parker, but we have joined his family in praying for him, and yes, the Lord answers prayers.

Madam Speaker, on February 16, another news flash: Parker Byrd, No. 16, returned to the baseball field. As he stood in the batter's box at the season opener, he became the first-ever Division 1 baseball player to play with a prosthetic leg.

Parker is a testament to the resilience of eastern North Carolina and the miracles of God.

America loves Parker. We are cheering for him, Coach Cliff Goodwin, and the entire Pirate baseball team.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

(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. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate a week honoring one of our Nation's most significant youth organizations, the FFA.

National FFA Week, celebrated February 17 to 22, recognizes the far-reaching impact of this organization. FFA has chapters in all 50 States, and today, there are more than 900,000 active FFA members.

Because of the incredible investment FFA has made and continues to make in agricultural education, more of our Nation's young people have the skills, knowledge, and opportunity to pursue careers in agriculture and related fields.

Access to agricultural education is vital to our country's future, not just our rural communities. Agriculture is the food on our table, the clothes on our backs, and, increasingly, the fuel in our cars. It is also science, technology, and innovation.

Madam Speaker, agriculture is nothing without the next generation, which is why I am so proud to celebrate the FFA.

The blue FFA jackets symbolize hard work, competent leadership, and a commitment to serving one's community.

FFA members are some of the premier leaders in this country. It is an honor to celebrate the past successes of FFA, while looking forward to how future FFA leaders will enact positive change.

RECOGNIZING TOM SKILLING

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, many things have changed in Chicago over the past 45 years. We are grateful that Tom Skilling has been there for all of that time to help us weather the storms and enjoy the good days, as well.

Tom is ''Chicago's Very Own.'' He is our weatherman.

Our city's pride in Tom is evident. He has had a sandwich named after him. He has his own bobblehead, his own beer, his own asteroid. Perhaps most fittingly, he has his own city snowplow named after him that was unveiled just a few days ago. Its name: Skilling It.

These accolades are well deserved. Tom started his broadcasting career when he was just 14. For his entire career, Tom has embodied the professionalism, kindness, and knowledge we have been lucky to watch on TV every day.

I say to Tom: Enjoy your retirement. Of all people, I am sure that you will be able to find warm beaches and beautiful sunsets.

HONORING STEPHEN COLE FOR HIS SERVICE

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

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor the impressive record of one of my constituents, Mr. Stephen Cole, for his service to our Nation.

During the Vietnam war, Sergeant Cole was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division as part of a small patrol reconnaissance and ambush unit operating in Vietnam's Central Highlands near the Cambodian border and the La Drang Valley.

While in Vietnam during a routine reconnaissance patrol, Sergeant Cole suffered wounds during a firefight when he was impaled by a punji stick after stepping into a boobytrap. Had he moved a millimeter to the right or left, he likely would have lost his life.

He was subsequently evacuated to the field hospital in An Khe for medical treatment.

For his service there and his heroism, Sergeant Cole was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic achievement, heroic service, and meritorious actions, in addition to the Purple Heart for the wounds he received in action on July 14, 1970.

Sergeant Cole received numerous other awards for his service, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star attachments, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, all these awards speak to the true grit and service of Mr. COLE. I had the honor to present him and his family with these awards myself. It was a powerful moment in recognition of his service, and to thank him on behalf of our entire Nation and thank all of our Vietnam veterans for their heroism and service.

It is my honor to recognize him here today in front of all of my fellow Americans.

RECOGNIZING CLAYTEE WHITE, DIRECTOR OF ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, today, in honor of Black History Month, I rise to recognize Claytee White, director of the Oral History Research Center at the University of Las Vegas.

Claytee has spent the last 20 years developing an extensive knowledge of the city's history and its people, with an expertise on African Americans.

She studied and documented the role of Black performers in desegregating Las Vegas, expanding worker rights, and the continued fight for equality.

Madam Speaker, her positive impact on our community doesn't end there. She is the founder of the Las Vegas Black Historical Society, a hub for those to learn more about the valley's Black community.

She has held numerous leadership roles at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and she is past president of the Southwest Oral History Association.

I thank Claytee for all she has done to lift up and preserve the rich history of African Americans in Las Vegas.

BRING BACK THE HOSTAGES

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents in Miami and Miami Beach. Many are my neighbors, and they are grieving their relatives and friends who are being held hostage by Hamas.

Their stories are heart-wrenching and chilling. The suffering is immense, and the grief of not knowing, not seeing, and not hearing from their loved ones is torture.

Many of you will remember my hard-fought battle against Boko Haram and my many trips to Nigeria on behalf of the Nigerian school girls. In the spirit of my 7-year journey declaring, ''Bring Back Our Girls,'' to find the Nigerian schoolgirls who were kidnapped in Chibok by the terrorist group Boko Haram, I am launching today the same kind of advocacy and demanding the release of the Israeli hostages kidnapped by the terrorist group Hamas, and I say: Bring back the hostages.

It is time now to turn our attention to the Middle East. We need humanitarian aid, and we need to bring back the hostages.

Next Wednesday, I invite you to join me at a press conference to show our

outrage and advocacy as we demand they bring the hostages back.

You wore red with me for the Chibok girls for 7 years. Please wear shades of blue, royal blue, navy blue, and light blue, to show solidarity.

After the press conference, we will take a picture to share on social media all over the world. I ask you to help me post it everywhere.

MAUI MINUTE 10: MENTAL HEALTH

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, last week in Lahaina, my team and I participated in a morning pule, or prayer, that EPA and Army Corps workers do each day with the cultural monitors who join them.

Standing in a circle, they speak ''olelo Hawaii,'' ''Hawaiian language,'' rhythmically cupping and clapping their hands as they ask for safety while they work.

They do another pule at the end of the day to leave behind any negative energy they connected with during their work.

Looking at the remains of our beloved former capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii, one understands these chants are necessary, both to ask for permission to enter and to have a way to respectfully separate at the end of the day.

This has been a mission assignment unlike any. Under the leadership of Colonel Jesse Curry, the Army Corps has made unprecedented efforts to respect the people, culture, and environment and to protect the sacred spaces throughout Maui that were impacted by the fires.

As Colonel Curry soon departs Maui, I hope he knows his commitment to our people and community will not be forgotten.

Mahalo, Colonel Curry, for taking care of our home like it was your home. Please know that you will always be welcomed back as a ''local,'' a ''kama'aina.''

RECOGNIZING LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL OF MASS COMMUNICATION

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Members of this body are so used to me coming up here to talk about all the national championships that LSU has won. Whether it is football, women's basketball, or baseball, we are up here all the time.

Well, the good news is that LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication is competing for, once again, another national championship. They are participating in Culturs magazine's national championship, a promotional tournament.

LSU represents the incredible diversity of Louisiana, which we refer to as America's foreign country. The culture, the music, the people are like nowhere else in this amazing country.

As the students of LSU Manship School of Mass Communication participate in this national tournament, I wish the best to Brooke Bordelon and the entire team.

Go Tigers.

□ 1230

HELP FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, over 3.5 million young adults and roughly 700,000 young people experience homelessness in our country. We can't keep doing the same thing over and over again. With so many of our youth experiencing homelessness, we worked on a bill together called the Youth Homelessness Guaranteed Income Pilot Program Act.

This bill would launch a pilot program providing direct cash assistance to those experiencing homelessness in the amount of $1,400, or adjusted fair market rent, for 36 months, and then study the effects of the program on housing and health outcomes.

This week, we received an email from someone that said: When I was 17, I was convinced to leave home and family to go live in Texas. I had $400 in my bank account and a car that broke down every month. This would have helped me tremendously.

I think, again, it is important as we come together to try to end the homelessness crisis in our country that we listen to the people being directly impacted.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this pilot program while respecting the dignity of unhoused young people by cosponsoring the bill.

RECOGNIZING FREEDOM HOUSE AMBULANCE SERVICE

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

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the last day of Black History Month, in recognition of the Freedom House Ambulance Service, a group of Black men and women from Pittsburgh who, over 50 years ago, revolutionized emergency medical services.

They were the first to perform tourniquets for uncontrolled bleeding, resuscitation techniques for heart attacks, and to treat breathing problems all en route.

These folks were not doctors or nurses. They were from the poorest, Blackest areas of Pittsburgh. They were overlooked in society still trying, and mostly failing, to deliver on the promise of the Civil Rights Act, yet they set the standard for how medical professionals handle emergency care today while filling the voids of institutions that were failing us.

For the first time, Black folks in Pittsburgh got the medical care we needed, until they were absorbed by the city government when Black neighborhoods started getting better treatment than their rich, White counterparts who refused their services.

Freedom House Ambulance Service saved countless lives in Pittsburgh's most underserved neighborhoods and their legacy has saved countless lives across the country. Today, I am proud to introduce a resolution honoring them.

As we close out Black History Month, let us not forget the Black historymakers who, despite barriers, made this country a better place.

NEED TO PASS SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this House is in danger of helping Vladimir Putin take over Ukraine and attack other countries in Europe.

We have supported Ukraine in their two-year battle against Russia to remain a democratic country and a sovereign nation. They need our help. They need our arms.

The Senate passed, in a bipartisan manner, a bill to help Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan, as well as humanitarian aid in Gaza and Ukraine for victims of war. We need to pass that, but Donald Trump doesn't want it on the floor, and the Speaker of the House will not put it on the floor for a vote, meaning there will be attacks on Ukrainians and carnage unknown.

It occurred when Russia first tried to get to Kyiv and went into Ukraine, and they raped, and they murdered, and they pillaged. We must stand with our friends in Ukraine, support their fight for freedom, or we will have to fight as part of NATO to defend Europe.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LETLOW). 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.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2024

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 7454) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7454

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 ''Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Short title; table of contents.
TITLE I—FEDERAL AVIATION PROGRAMS
Sec. 101. Airport improvement program.
Sec. 102. Extension of expiring authorities; miscellaneous authorizations.
Sec. 103. Federal aviation administration operations.
Sec. 104. Air navigation facilities and equipment.
Sec. 105. Research, engineering, and development.
Sec. 106. Small community air service.
TITLE II—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS
Sec. 201. Expenditure authority from airport and airway trust fund.
Sec. 202. Extension of taxes funding airport and airway trust fund.
TITLE III — MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS
Sec. 301. Counter-UAS authorities.

TITLE I—FEDERAL AVIATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 48103(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

''(7) $2,041,120,218 for the period beginning October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024.''.

(b) OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Subject to limitations specified in advance in appropriation Acts, sums made available pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (a) may be obligated at any time through September 30, 2024, and shall remain available until expended.

(c) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—For purposes of calculating funding apportionments and meeting other requirements under sections 47114, 47115, 47116, and 47117 of title 49, United States Code, for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(1) first calculate such funding apportionments on an annualized basis as if the total amount available under section 48103 of such title for fiscal year 2024 was $3,350,000,000; and

(2) then reduce by 39 percent—

(A) all funding apportionment amounts calculated under paragraph (1); and

(B) amounts made available pursuant to subsections (b) and (f)(2) of section 47117 of such title.

(d) EXTENSION OF PROJECT GRANT AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''March 8, 2024,'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024,''.

(e) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RULE FOR APPORTIONMENTS.—Section 47114(c)(1)(J) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024,'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024,''.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES; MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INSURANCE.—Section 44310(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(b) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TEST RANGES.—Section 44803(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(c) SPECIAL AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—Section 44807(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(d) EXTENSION OF AIRPORT SAFETY AND AIRSPACE HAZARD MITIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—Section 44810(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(e) COMPETITIVE ACCESS REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Section 47107(r)(3) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

(f) MARSHALL ISLANDS, MICRONESIA, AND PALAU.—Section 47115(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(g) SUPPLEMENTAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.—Section 47115(j)(4)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking clause (vi) and adding at the end the following:

''(vi) $340,321,762 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024.''.

(h) COMPATIBLE LAND USE PLANNING AND PROJECTS BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 47141(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(i) NON-MOVEMENT AREA SURVEILLANCE PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 47143(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

(j) WEATHER REPORTING PROGRAMS.—Section 48105 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (5) and adding at the end the following:

''(5) $23,762,295 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024.''.

(k) LEARNING PERIOD.—Section 50905(c)(9) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

(l) MIDWAY ISLAND AIRPORT.—Section 186(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108–176; 117 Stat. 2518) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024,'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024,''.

(m) FINAL ORDER ESTABLISHING MILEAGE AND ADJUSTMENT ELIGIBILITY.—Section 409(d) of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 41731 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(n) CONTRACT WEATHER OBSERVERS.—Section 2306(b) of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–190; 130 Stat. 641) is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

(o) REMOTE TOWER PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 161(a)(10) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 47104 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(p) AIRPORT ACCESS ROADS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS; STORAGE FACILITIES FOR SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT.—Section 162 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 47102 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(q) UAS REMOTE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 372(d) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 44810 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(r) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AVIATION CONSUMER PROTECTION.—Section 411(h) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 42301 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(s) AVIATION CONSUMER ADVOCATE.—Section 424(e) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 42302 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(t) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AIR TRAVEL NEEDS OF PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.—Section 439(g) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 41705 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(u) ENHANCED TRAFFIC SERVICES.—Section 547(e) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40103 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(v) PILOT PROGRAM FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF AIRPORT PROPERTIES.—Section 822(k) of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 47141 note) is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

SEC. 103. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) $7,259,685,792 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024.''; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

SEC. 104. AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7) and adding at the end the following:

''(7) $1,794,357,923 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024.''.

SEC. 105. RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (16) and inserting the following:

''(16) $155,368,852 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024.''.

SEC. 106. SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE.

(a) ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AUTHORIZATION.—Section 41742(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$155,115,628 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024,'' and inserting ''$216,192,407 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024,''.

(b) AIRPORTS NOT RECEIVING SUFFICIENT SERVICE.—Section 41743(e)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$4,371,585 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on March 8, 2024,'' and inserting ''$6,092,896 for the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on May 10, 2024,''.

TITLE II—AVIATION REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY FROM AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9502(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''or the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9502(e)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF TAXES FUNDING AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—Section 4081(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(b) TICKET TAXES.—

(1) PERSONS.—Section 4261(k)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(2) PROPERTY.—Section 4271(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(c) FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS.—

(1) FUEL TAX.—Section 4043(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

(2) TREATMENT AS NONCOMMERCIAL AVIATION.—Section 4083(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM TICKET TAX.—Section 4261(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''March 8, 2024'' and inserting ''May 10, 2024''.

TITLE III — MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

SEC. 301. COUNTER-UAS AUTHORITIES.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking ''March 9, 2024'' and inserting ''May 11, 2024''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 7454.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 7454 extends the statutory authority of the Federal Aviation Administration through May 10, 2024.

The bill provides for key extensions of FAA authorities, such as the continued collection of aviation excise taxes that the safe operation of the National Airspace System is dependent upon.

Importantly, this bill also allows adequate time for the House and Senate to reconcile a final FAA bill to ensure the FAA has a long-term reauthorization.

Last July, the House did its part to provide for a long-term reauthorization of the FAA on time and ahead of schedule when we passed H.R. 3935 in overwhelming bipartisan fashion with more than 350 votes.

I commend my House colleagues for fulfilling the responsibility to ensure the FAA has the tools and resources it needs to maintain operations and safety in our National Airspace System.

The good news is that the Senate Commerce Committee has finally marked up its FAA bill, S. 1939. It is clear that enacting a long-term FAA bill remains the goal of both Chambers, and Congress is on track to do that.

In the meantime, we must act to pass another extension to keep the lights on at the FAA. As frequent flyers ourselves, I know for a fact that we all share a common goal of upholding safety in our airspace so every person who uses the system can travel and return home safely.

I plan to work expeditiously with our Senate counterparts so that this is the last short-term extension before we send a comprehensive, long-term FAA bill to the President's desk.

Failure to enact this extension is going to jeopardize aviation safety and will directly and immediately increase our national debt by more than $50 million a day.

I encourage all Members to support this bill so that we can maintain safety in the National Airspace System while we continue to work toward enacting a long-term reauthorization.

Madam Speaker, I want to take just a moment to recognize one of our Subcommittee on Aviation staffers, Christopher Senn, who will be leaving the committee this week. I thank him for his service to our country, as a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, by the way, and for his work and assistance with the committee, especially when it comes to FAA matters.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7454, which extends the authorization of the FAA and its related authorities for another 2 months.

Back in the July, the House engaged in a thorough and collaborative process to pass the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act.

This bipartisan bill, which passed by an overwhelming 351–69 vote, will protect the safety of the flying public and ensure the future of U.S. aviation.

While I am pleased we are moving closer to passing a longer term bill, we will not be done before the current authorization expires on March 8. We need more time for negotiations between the House and Senate to reconcile the two bills and produce a final comprehensive bill.

I want us to remember that Chair GRAVES and I will continue to fight for House priorities in the final bill to ensure that House Members' voices are heard while we address longstanding issues in our aviation system.

Madam Speaker, I support the short-term FAA extension bill. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to add my voice of strong support to this legislation.

There is no question what we have seen in the aviation industry, these near misses, these runway incursions, and safety issues all across the aviation system.

As both Ranking Member LARSEN and Chairman GRAVES noted, the House did its business. We came together on a bipartisan basis and passed legislation in July by a vote of 351–69. That legislation addresses everything from general aviation, a topic that I know our chairman cares much about and knows a lot about, to topics like new entrants and new aviation technologies. It focuses on safety, and it ensures, Madam Speaker, that this entire legislation focuses ultimately on the passenger experience, making sure that air travelers from all across the United States have a great experience with new technology whenever they enter the airports and whenever they enter the airplanes.

None of those benefits are going to be realized unless and until we pass a long-term authorization bill. This is the last temporary extension we are going to do. This is a clean extension until May 10. If we don't do this, it will cause the Federal Government to incur debt, because we won't be able to collect the user fees that go along with aviation travel.

It is absolutely critical that this clean, bipartisan extension be enacted. It is absolutely critical that we stay on track with bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on the FAA bill, now that the Senate has finally—and I commend them—passed this bill out of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee in the United States Senate.

I thank Chairman GRAVES for his leadership, Ranking Member LARSEN and my friend STEVE COHEN for working together on this to make sure that we can continue a united front and realize all these gains in the aviation sector as a result of the House aviation bill.

I also add my regret to the loss of Chris Senn to the Subcommittee on Aviation. He is overcredentialed, overeducated, and often awes us with his knowledge of drones and other technology. It is going to be a big loss to the committee, but I appreciate his service.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Aviation.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this extension of the FAA. We need to pass this reauthorization. To do so, we need a little more time. This will be the third extension we have asked for, and it is necessary to have this extension for 2 months to be able to reconcile the House and Senate bills.

The Senate wasn't as expeditious as the House was in getting their bill

passed, but they finally did and got it out of committee. We still have to reconcile some provisions.

I think everybody has read about the near tragedies and near contacts of airplanes flying at airports. That is because the air traffic controllers need more help. They need more air traffic controllers. They need a more diverse group of folks that will give them more people to choose from and to be trained.

We need to have more air traffic controllers, we need to pay them more money, and we need to have some improvements at airports and air traffic towers. That will only happen if we can get this FAA reauthorization bill passed.

There are consumer issues that are important and are included in the bill and disability issues which are in the bill, and we just attended a press announcement where Secretary Buttigieg is implementing many of the mobility issues by executive order and rulemaking. The rulemaking is going to take place soon.

There are a lot of improvements in air traffic and air safety, but without the reauthorization bill passing, they won't happen. We need to have this extension. It is unfortunate, but the Senate took a long time. We will work it out and get it done.

I appreciate Ranking Member LARSEN and Chairman GRAVES on the full committee and Chairman GARRET GRAVES on the Subcommittee on Aviation.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee,

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman GRAVES for yielding and for his leadership on the FAA reauthorization bill and on the full committee.

□ 1245

This summer, under the leadership of Chairman SAM GRAVES, Ranking Member LARSEN, Aviation Subcommittee Chairman GARRET GRAVES, and Subcommittee Ranking Member COHEN, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee did our job. We crafted a strong and bipartisan reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration.

It passed unanimously through committee and with overwhelming bipartisan support on this very floor. The Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act is a comprehensive, commonsense bill that Members of this Chamber can be proud of. The historic legislation ensures that we continue to improve safety, encourage innovation, and ensure that the United States remains the gold standard in aviation.

However, since its passage, as has been mentioned, 7 months ago, we have had to vote on two extensions for the FAA reauthorization, and now we are facing a vote on a third because of the Senate's inaction on this important legislation.

Aviation safety impacts every single American, and each day that goes by without Senate passage and the President's signature, the enactment of key safety measures and improved framework for innovation is delayed.

During the development of this bill, we all worked hard in good faith for good policy. I fought for safety provisions that will directly benefit the airports in my district in El Dorado, Hot Springs, Texarkana, and Mena, such as requiring that the FAA implement tower marking rules that protect the general aviation community, especially agricultural aircraft, and ensuring that planes going in and out of Mena Airport have stable radio communication.

These are nonpartisan, good issues, and they are just an example of things all across the country.

While it is unfortunate that we are faced with a third extension to provide ample time for this critical legislation to make it across the finish line, we must pass this additional extension. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to swiftly pass the FAA legislation and the President to sign it into law so the United States can continue its role as the global leader in aviation safety and innovation.

With all this being said about how we can't get things done in the House, we have got something done in the House, and we just need our Senate partners and the White House to come along.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the underlying bill that will keep our airports operational while we work to pass a full FAA authorization bill.

However, I have major questions for the FAA, and I will be brief.

The single worst terror attack in our history started at airports. Yet today, some of our largest airports, including Boston Logan, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, and Chicago O'Hare are housing unvetted illegal aliens from around the world—potentially terrorists.

Who would have thought this was a good idea?

This reeks of danger.

How can we be sure that none of these unvetted illegal aliens are not terrorists who intend to strike our airports or airliners?

In some cases, they are being housed in terminals inside airports or in bus terminals just off active runways. If just one person were to smuggle a shoulder-fired weapon into one of these migrant holding areas, they would have an easy takedown of a jetliner.

Using airports to shelter illegal immigrants is a major national security threat and an outrageous misuse of taxpayer funding. Therefore, as we pass the FAA extension and press on toward a full-term bill, I urge my colleagues to include a section that explicitly bans housing illegal immigrants within airport premises.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation which will provide a short-term extension of the Federal Aviation Administration's authorities to May 10, allowing the Senate to finish work on their 5-year FAA reauthorization before finalizing language with the House.

One of my major priorities is addressing the staffing shortages at the New York TRACON facility. This key and crucial facility directs planes in and out of the New York City and Long Island areas. This facility has been experiencing staffing issues for many years, which has led to many issues for the FAA, pilots, and, of course, passengers. These challenges led the FAA to implement a plan to transfer workers out of the N90 facility right in the heart of my district and ship them off to Philadelphia.

I was proud to secure language in the House's H.R. 3935, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, to prevent any staff cuts or forced transfers from affecting the N90 TRACON facilities—again, in the heart of my district. I was also pleased to see language the Senate's FAA reauthorization also includes regarding this issue. This language would ensure that there is a third-party review on the need for, and the consequences of, a move from the N90 to any other facility.

I look forward to working with leaders of these committees to ensure that these provisions are included in the final FAA reauthorization. Long Islanders should not be forced out of N90. I will continue to fight for these staffing protections. I will continue to fight for Long Island. I will continue to fight for the Empire State.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I don't have any more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I encourage all colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this extension. We will get a bill by May 10, and we can all vote ''yes'' on that, as well.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I urge, as well, all Members to support this bill. This is a must-pass bill so we can keep our aviation system operating safely. H.R. 7454 provides for a clean extension of FAA authorities. It does not include any policy riders.

Failure to extend the FAA's authorities is going to cost the Federal Government more than $50 million a day in lost revenues.

A lapse in authorities would also prohibit the FAA from making new obligations from the aviation trust fund to fund the FAA's important safety, operational, and research functions. Enacting a long-term and comprehensive FAA bill is the goal of both the House and the Senate. I remain committed to doing just that so Congress can deliver certainty to the aviation industry and the FAA.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for putting this extension on the floor to give us more time to work towards a final FAA reauthorization.

Aviation is a $32 billion industry in my home State of Arizona, and growing every day. Our airports are economic engines supporting thousands of jobs. A lapse in the FAA's authorization would be devastating, and today's short-term extension is necessary.

But a long-term, 5-year extension—one that updates Federal policies to meet our current challenges—is essential to ensure the U.S. remains the gold standard in aviation safety.

The House did our job—more than 6 months ago.

On the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, we worked in a bipartisan way to craft a strong, forward-looking FAA reauthorization that improves aircraft and runway safety and invests in our aviation infrastructure and workforce—especially our air traffic controllers.

Over the last year, there have been several near-miss incidents at Sky Harbor in Phoenix—one of the busiest airports in the world. I met with air traffic controllers there last week. They're over-worked and understaffed.

And Phoenix-Mesa Gateway, one of the fastest-growing commercial airports in the country, just opened a brand-new $28 million terminal to keep up with passenger demand. But staffing shortages at their air traffic control tower have forced the airport to reduce operations at the tower by four hours each day.

The House's FAA reauthorization improves recruitment and retention of controllers, and sets up a pilot program to convert towers staffed by private companies, like Gateway, to be staffed by FAA controllers.

The bill we passed also takes meaningful steps—many I was proud to lead on—to improve the flying experience for passengers with disabilities.

My ADAPT Act, WHEELChairs on Airplanes Act, and MOBILE Act were included in the House-passed bill, so that passengers with mobility issues can have proper accommodations . . . from boarding to seating and everything in between.

Now I'm glad to see movement in the Senate on a companion reauthorization bill. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say we're eager to send a final FAA reauthorization to the President's desk as soon as possible. Our economy, and the safety of the flying public, depends on that.

In the meantime, I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on a short-term FAA extension through May 10th—hopefully our last.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, the Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024.

This bill would temporarily extend specific Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs and activities through May 10, 2024.

I have always been a firm believer in the importance of comprehensive transportation and infrastructure funding.

As the proud representative of Texas' 18th District, I understand deeply the immense benefit that having a well-funded airport and airway system can bring to a city's economy.

The George Bush Intercontinental Airport, one of the largest and busiest airports in the world, resides in my district in the greater Houston area.

This airport alone has brought in over $14.1 billion in revenue to the State of Texas, representing over 20 percent of Texas' total international trade.

At the national scale, a study conducted by Airports Council International found that America's airports account for more than 7 percent of America's GDP.

In addition, this revenue is only expected to grow, with a predicted compound annual growth rate of 8.76 percent from 2022 to 2028.

Reauthorizing funding will allow for the continued maintenance and effective functioning of airports just like IAH across the country.

The American people cannot afford a delay to this funding.

This bill will also allow for resources to be directed properly, ensuring that airports are not forced to redirect resources away from safety due to a lack of funding.

While we wait for our colleagues in the Senate to act on H.R. 3935, the ''Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act,'' this bill is a necessary extension of existing funding toward the aviation industry.

The bill currently sitting in the Senate would provide a more comprehensive, long-term FAA reauthorization that updates outdated policies regarding aviation safety and efficiency.

In the meantime, however, we must act now to ensure that FAA is getting the funding it needs to continue operations effectively.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7454.

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. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

EXTENSION OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7463) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7463

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 ''Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2024''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.
DIVISION A—EXTENSION OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024
DIVISION B—OTHER MATTERS

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—EXTENSION OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118–15) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting ''March 22, 2024''; and

(2) by striking the date specified in section 106(4) and inserting ''March 8, 2024''.

This division may be cited as the ''Extension of Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024''.

DIVISION B—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 101. MODIFICATION TO FAFSA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 475(g)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087oo(g)(1)), as amended by the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260), is further amended to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The student's available income is equal to—

''(A) the difference between the student's total income (determined in accordance with section 480) and the adjustment to student income (determined in accordance with paragraph (2)); multiplied by

''(B) 50 percent,

except that the amount determined under this paragraph shall not be less than -$1,500 for award year 2024–2025 and not less than zero for award year 2025–2026 and each award year thereafter.''.

(b) APPROPRIATION.—Section 401(b)(7)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(A))), as amended by the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260), is further amended to read as follows:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any funds appropriated under paragraph (6) and any funds made available for this section under any appropriations Act, there are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated (out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated) to carry out this section—

''(i) $1,170,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

''(ii) $3,170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(iii) $2,170,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

''(iv) $1,236,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each succeeding fiscal year.''.

(c) NO EFFECT ON PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 401(b)(7)(B)(i) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(B)(i)), as amended by the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260) and section 102(b) of the FAFSA Simplification Act Technical Corrections Act (division R of Public Law 117–103), is amended by striking ''or 2023'' and inserting ''2023, or 2024''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect and

apply as if included in the FAFSA Simplification Act and in accordance with section 701(b) of such Act, as amended by section 102(a) of the FAFSA Simplification Act Technical Corrections Act (division R of Public Law 117–103) (including the authorization provided under section 102(c)(1)(A) of such Act).

SEC. 102. 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the motion?

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inquire whether the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is opposed to the motion.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, no.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As such, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) will control 20 minutes in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this short-term continuing resolution. This bill extends government funding until March 8 for four bills and March 22 for the others.

Given the differences between this year's House and Senate bills, we knew finding common ground would not be easy. Nonetheless, we have made progress, and we need a few more weeks to finish drafting the bills. We also need to give Members adequate time to review them.

In the meantime, we can't afford a harmful government shutdown.

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

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, here we are again, kicking the can down the road and for other purposes, buying more time so that we can spend more money that we don't have at a time when we are going to eclipse more interest and more spending on interest than our national defense this year, and by 2026 we are going to be spending $1 trillion on interest. We are going to continue to spend moneys at the NANCY PELOSI-spending level of an omnibus bill that Republicans roundly oppose.

That is what is happening on the floor of the United States House right now.

We are going to continue funding this government at NANCY PELOSI's omnibus spending level. That is a level that will continue, by the way, to fund all of the priorities we oppose.

We are going to continue to fund the open borders that led to the death of Americans.

We are going to continue to fund the United Nations at $12.5 billion that is undermining our freedom and working against us to move people illegally into the United States. We are going to fund UNRWA which is funding Hamas, an enemy of Israel.

We are going to fund the IRS that is targeting Americans.

We are going to fund the Department of Justice that is targeting former President Trump.

We are going to do that today here on the floor of the House of Representatives rather than exercising the power of the purse that James Madison articulated in Federalist 58 that this body—this body—is supposed to check an out-of-control executive branch.

That is what is happening today, and we should oppose it.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, watching House Republicans is like watching a football team whose best plays are the punt and the block.

Now, I have tried to throw a few Hail Marys along the way, and I am glad that we blocked the bad Lankford amnesty bill, but we punted on needed FISA reforms.

We blocked the McConnell supplemental for now, but we punt, yet again, on needed spending cuts.

We blocked additional aid and additional U.S. involvement in the war in Ukraine; and, indeed, we punted KEVIN MCCARTHY who authorized $115 billion to Ukraine.

Be that as it may, here we gather to punt, yet again.

The last I checked, the Republicans actually have a majority in the House of Representatives, but you wouldn't know it, Madam Speaker, if you looked at our checkbook. We are all too willing to continue the policy choices of Joe Biden and the spending levels of NANCY PELOSI instead of showing the will and the courage to say that this woke and weaponized government has to be defanged, it has to be attacked, and it has to see reductions in spending.

Many Americans have lived most of their lives not actually paying a price for the national debt. However, because we are $34 trillion in debt and because we are on our way to $50 trillion in debt, the Americans who work hard all over this country are seeing higher gas prices, higher grocery prices, and higher interest rates, but all we seem to offer is low energy and low-T in the face of those mounting challenges.

□ 1300

We ought to be rejecting this CR. We ought to pass single-subject spending bills. We ought to vote for the spending cuts that this country desperately needs.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution, which will provide us with the short time that is needed to fully conclude the 2024 appropriations process.

The continuing resolution keeps the government open while the Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate finalize the 2024 funding bills that are in line with the agreement that has been the law since last June, reaffirmed in the top lines agreed to by Leader SCHUMER and Speaker JOHNSON earlier this year.

While, at the time of passing our last continuing resolution, I had hoped that we would not need this measure, now we owe it to the American people to do our due diligence in reaching the end of this process. I appreciate the respectful bipartisan cooperation that took place to put forward this continuing resolution and move us closer to the finish line.

There is now a shared understanding that the ultimate conclusion to the saga of 2024 funding will be in the appropriations bills that earned the support of Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate, bills that will likely need to pass under suspension of the rules, like the bill we are considering today.

In addition to passing the 12 appropriations bills, Congress still must respond to President Biden's request for our urgent national security needs. There is no time to waste. We must quickly provide support for Ukraine in their fight against Russian tyranny. We must provide support for our Indo-Pacific and Middle East allies. Crucially, we cannot wait any longer to provide humanitarian aid for the civilians caught in the crossfire of these conflicts.

Without this swift action, the legacy of this Congress will be the destruction

of Ukraine, the appeasement of a dictator, and the abandonment of starving children and ailing families.

We must come to a bipartisan compromise and show the American people that Congress is still able to address urgent needs and show the world that America is still unwavering as a defender of democracy wherever it is being fought for.

Congress must avoid a shutdown. We must enact full-year spending bills and emergency assistance for our national security and deliver for the American people as soon as possible. To those ends, let this be our last continuing resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman, it is important to note, voted against the FRA last year because, specifically noted in the gentlewoman's press release, the side deals that are being put in place in this exercise that we are going to be putting forward next week in appropriations bills, those side deals were not in the law that the gentlewoman just referred to.

To be very clear, everyone is going to go around talking about following the deal that was cut last year under the FRA, that we are spending at a certain level. The fact is another $70 billion was added in side deals, and that is why the gentlewoman opposed the FRA last year. However, those side deals are a part of this agreement that is plussing up and funding the bureaucracy that is at war with the American people.

That is the truth. That is the truth no matter how much people want to gloss over it on either side of the aisle, particularly this side of the aisle, because this side of the aisle wants to be able to campaign on border security. Do you know what? The border is not secure, and we are going to be passing a continuing resolution that continues to fund a DHS that refuses to secure the border.

These Americans are dead. These Americans are dead because illegal immigrants, illegal aliens, were released into the United States by this administration.

Laken Riley, 1 week ago today, was alive and well, and now she is gone because somebody from Venezuela was released on mass parole in El Paso, went into the United States, went to New York, was released after assaulting somebody, moved to Athens, Georgia, and killed this young woman because of the policies of the radical progressive Democrats that my colleagues on this side of the aisle want to campaign against but refuse to use the power of the purse to stop.

James Madison gave us the power of the purse, and we should darn well use it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman is exactly right. What is the legislative branch's remedy to an executive branch that refuses to follow the law? It is to remove spending.

I introduced legislation. I introduced legislation that said: We will fund ICE, CBP. We are going to fund TSA. We are going to fund air traffic controllers and our military personnel, and do you know what? We are not going to fund anything else, except for mandatories, until this administration actually enforces the border.

However, we can't do that because there is this fear of a shutdown. Explain that to the American people. Explain that to the American people in my community. Go down there and take a look at the national forest, where there is now a squatters camp set up, filled with people who are flowing across our border.

Our leader said in November that we are not going to do any more short-term CRs—had it with them. This is the third one. Do you know what happens? We just keep spending money, and we keep the policies that are in place.

That means the border remains open. This country remains in danger because of this administration—but not just this administration but because this body does not use what the Founders gave us as the ultimate tool, and that is the purse strings. It is really shameful.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), the chairman of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chair GRANGER and her outstanding staff and, really, all the staff on the majority and minority sides and in both Houses.

Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers gave us a great constitutional Republic. In that regard, each and every one of the Members of this Chamber stands for reelection every 2 years.

I represent the people of the great State of Tennessee, east Tennessee—wonderful people, God-fearing people. They love this country, our history, and they are just so proud of what we are doing as a nation.

I realize that other people in other parts of our country have a different ethos, have different priorities, but we are where we are. The American people gave us a very slim majority in the House. In the Senate, the other party has a slim majority, and the White House is controlled by the other party.

I want the American people to know, Mr. Speaker, that this negotiation has been difficult, but to close the government down at a time like this would hurt people who should not be hurt.

Let me give one example. I chair, as our distinguished chair has said, the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. It funds our great national labs, our Office of Science, and so many other great things. However, as a part of that, through the NNSA, the National Nuclear Security Administration, it funds our Nation's nuclear arsenal.

We are in a very dangerous world right now. Our adversaries are ramping up. I wish we were not on the precipice of another arms race, but I am afraid we are.

We can't close that down. We can't shut that down.

So that I can be abundantly clear, government shutdowns—and I have lived through three—never work. They cause more harm than they do good. They cost more money. They cost the American taxpayer more money because when they revamp and start up again, basically, we lose all those person-hours, and it just causes havoc.

This continuing resolution, to be clear, is a process continuing resolution. It is just to get these six bills to next week when we will actually pass a fiscal budget, which I think is the obligation of the House, the Senate, and the White House to do. We will do that. We will do that with the other bills.

I do respect my friends, who are very passionate today in opposing this, but the reality is the American people want us to do our work. To do our work well, we have to keep the government open.

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

Mr. Speaker, I note that the gentleman, for whom I have a great deal of respect, was just using a lot of the arguments that I have heard over and over again. It is something that we have come to understand in this town as what we call the glossary.

When you run out of the, sort of, what are we actually going to fight over substantively, we should bring out all the terms, right? We talk about, oh, we only have a slim majority.

Well, I will remind my colleagues on this side of the aisle that the Democrats had a slim majority when they jammed through numerous massive bills, whether it is ObamaCare, whether we are talking about the Inflation Reduction Act. Yet, here we sit, and we are walking away from the majority that we were given, to use that majority, to use the power of the purse to stop an executive branch that is out of control.

A continuing resolution will continue to fund Biden's war on our border, and it is not just Biden. It is the radical progressive Democrats as a whole. It is a war on our well-being, a war on our security and safety.

That young lady who was killed in Georgia last week, that is happening over and over again in Texas: a young cheerleader was found in a bathtub, killed by somebody here illegally; a 2-year-old right here in Montgomery County, Maryland, outside of D.C., was killed by someone here illegally and released; a young person was raped last week in Louisiana by somebody here illegally from Honduras and released.

When are we going to stop it? When is this side of the aisle going to use the

power of the purse to stop it? I can promise you the radical progressive Democrats want it. They want open borders.

We are continuing to fund a weaponized IRS, continuing to fund a weaponized Department of Justice, like the DOJ that went after Mark Houck, went after Scott Smith. We are funding an EV, electric vehicle, mandate.

I heard my colleague talk about energy and water. What are we going to do to preserve American energy while the American people suffer? Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are pursuing unicorn energy policy—EPA rules killing coal and natural gas plants, the World Health Organization, the United Nations, UNRWA, the ATF that is banning pistol braces and our Second Amendment rights, the Department of Education student loan scam that the President of the United States went to the microphone and applauded, ignoring the United States Supreme Court.

What are we going to do? Fund it. We are going to keep funding it.

What about the NIH and the FDA and COVID tyranny? What about the Department of Veterans Affairs, the chief diversity officers, the abortion travel fund, taxpayer-funded sex changes, transgender surgeries?

Your tax dollars are funding all of that, and we are going to continue it with a continuing resolution. To do what? To buy time to cut a deal that will do what? Spend even more money, rack up even more debt, continue these policies at war with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert).

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, let's call a spade a spade. The uniparty's deal to keep spending taxpayer dollars like drunken sailors is a horrible deal for the American people. It is immoral and unsustainable to continue the reckless spending in Washington, D.C.

This debt is going to our children and our children's children. The American people elected a majority that promised to cut spending, cut this out-of-control spending from Washington, D.C., and put an end to the Biden regime's policies that are destroying America.

This bill does the opposite of what we, the majority, promised the American people. Voting for this bill is voting to fund Joe Biden's wide-open border policies that killed 22-year-old Laken Riley last Thursday. Crime in Venezuela sure is going down, and that is because they are all coming through our wide-open borders—criminal, illegal aliens coming through.

Additionally, voting for this bill is voting to enable the cartel, which has operational control of our southern border, to continue the flow of fentanyl into our communities, which is killing our children and our families, our loved ones. They are a foreign terrorist organization, and they are guilty of narco-terrorism. We need to execute our military's ability to stop them. Instead, we are funding these policies to continue.

Voting for this bill is voting to continue NANCY PELOSI's spending, taxpayer-funded abortions, and Green New Deal policies.

Everything we campaigned against and we won this majority on, we are now going completely against it.

We need to govern as we campaign and do what we promised the American people that we would do. That is why I have led to impeach Joe Biden for his dereliction of duty to secure the southern border, and now we must use the power of the purse and not fund a government that is allowing this against its people.

Mr. Speaker, I am voting ''no'' on this continuing resolution, and I urge my colleagues all to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

□ 1315

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman GRANGER and Ranking Member DELAURO for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, 331 million Americans are depending on us to save their lives. If we do not vote today, we will cause the loss of life. We did not vote for the supplemental that the President sent over almost a year ago to deal with the southern border, and lives have been lost. As a Texan, I will not accept your challenge that I want people to die, or that this constitutional right of the power of the purse is one that I have used recklessly.

They have used it responsibly, and the budget numbers, whether it is NANCY PELOSI or the negotiators, are responsible for helping the 331 million Americans.

In my State, your State, you will not pay 172,000 Active-Duty soldiers when we don't pass this today. The Small Business Administration will stop handling $2 billion in loans. There will be no reentry programs for those who are trying to get their life straight. We will eliminate the funding for our public schools at the Department of Education in programs like early education and child nutrition. We will stop 176,000 people from flying and airport travel because you will not be able to fund aspects of Homeland Security. Mr. Speaker, 786,000 people would lose their access to the women and infant program, which I understand is one of those that are being attacked.

You are causing the loss of life, and I will not stand here and accept that challenge. You are my friends and we work together, but your arguments are false. The responsibility of the power of the purse is to be responsible.

Mr. Speaker, 168,000 Federal workers who do vital work will be lost if we do not proceed.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. It is important that the food and drug is able to be funded, that housing is able to be funded, and that the Department of Agriculture is able to be funded.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, as I close, we must be responsible— The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, respecting my friend from Texas, I would say, where were my Democratic colleagues when we were passing H.R. 2, which would actually do the job of securing the border?

It is hard for me to take seriously the claims of my Democratic colleagues, all radical progressives, that want to actually secure the border and don't have complete ownership of the fact that Laken Riley was killed by a Venezuelan let out by this administration under abuse of parole, which H.R. 2 would fix.

It would have fixed it, and my Democratic colleagues were nowhere to be found.

This body, this side of the aisle, did their job in passing a strong border security measure. We have legislation on the floor that did the job, but we had no support from our Democratic colleagues because it would have worked.

Then my colleagues on the other side of the building, in the Senate, passed legislation that would not do the job and now want to hide behind that. That is the actual truth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my good friend.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I will give the American people an overview of the debate that is happening here today. Why are there three Members of Congress controlling time on the floor? I thought there were only two parties. No. When it comes to spending, there is the ''uniparty.'' There is only one party today, and that is because Republicans and Democrats have united to kick the can down the road. They wanted to control all time for debate today, but my colleague, Mr. ROY from Texas, came down here and used a parliamentary procedure to claim time in opposition for 20 minutes so that people who take their oath to the Constitution most seriously, the people who are most concerned about debt, the people who want to represent the good folks back home, have a voice here today.

And what are we doing here today? We are going to pass a CR. We are going to kick the can down the road. Is that going to solve any problems? No. It creates another crisis next week. That is what they want. They want another crisis. They want to threaten you with the shutdown so they can get

more spending. Is this a clean CR? We are told you can't add anything to it. No. It deals with student aid in this CR.

Are the American people concerned about student aid right now? Is that the most pressing issue to address in this spending bill? We have a crisis at the southern border. We could add one sentence to this bill that would help tremendously. Just say: None of the funds hereby appropriated may be used to disassemble border security erected by the States on our border. Put that one sentence in this continuing resolution. That would help tremendously.

I am worried that we are not going to prevail today, the third group who is debating here against the uniparty. If the other side prevails, what will happen? What will happen today, this evening after this passes? Will we stay here and work hard for another week to get the 12 bills done, the 12 separate appropriation bills? No. Guess what we are going do this evening? Everybody has already got their plane tickets. They are sending us home early. Congratulations. You moved the crisis down another week. Go home. Have a 4-day weekend.

We are going to let staff and a few Members in the Senate and a few Members in the House write this big bill, and then you can take it or leave it next week. Gone is any semblance of regular order from this process.

What we have is what the swamp always does, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this continuing resolution that does nothing but kick the can down the road.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), my friend.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, again, opposing the status quo of more reckless spending in Washington. This House is supposedly run by Republicans, and yet here we are continuing to pass the Pelosi-Biden-Schumer spending levels and the policies connected to them, predictably with a majority of Democrat votes.

As a matter of fact, this morning I had a Democrat Member tell me in a private conversation that he likes it when we are in charge because nothing changes, but we get the blame for it because we have the majority.

Our national debt continues to skyrocket. We are at nearly $35 trillion. That is a number that is hard to grasp. It is actually more than $100,000 per citizen and that figure just grows by the day.

Bidenflation is further exacerbating the crisis, and the congressional uniparty is perpetuating it on a daily basis. Thankfully, we may be getting some future relief with the just-announced resignation of the minority leader in the Senate, but some of us here in the House came here to actually represent the American people, to do what we said we would do, and we did not mean constantly kicking the can down the road, passing more continuing resolutions that hurt the American people.

Many people in this body are scared of a government shutdown, and I will acknowledge that a government shutdown is not the ideal thing, but it is not the worst thing. The worst thing is keeping in place the Biden-Pelosi-Schumer policies that are destroying the country and bankrupting our kids and our grandkids.

Worse yet, they are keeping in place the border invasion, the very invasion that we campaigned against, the very invasion that is the greatest threat to our country.

That is what is going to happen here today. We are going to fund that border invasion for another week as a bridge to another spending bill that will keep all the policies in place and actually increase them over the Pelosi-Schumer levels from back before we had the majority.

We could have passed a full year stopgap spending bill that would have cut $100 billion. We could have attached it to border security to stand up for the American people. As a bonus, it would eliminate thousands of earmarks for tens of billions of dollars more, but here we are today. True leadership involves making difficult decisions. Cutting spending is difficult. That is why nobody does it here, but when will the debt matter in this Chamber beyond a campaign talking point? I urge a ''no'' vote.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE), my friend.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the only thing this CR does is prolong the out-of-control spending of Biden and Pelosi that fuels our 17.9 percent inflation rate.

This legislation provides no funding for President Trump's border wall. More than 600,000 illegal alien criminals and 300 on the terrorist watch list have entered our open southern border under Biden, and there is no doubt that American families are in danger.

Just this week in Alabama, two illegal aliens were arrested as part of a child trafficking sex ring.

Last week in Georgia, a young girl, with a bright future ahead of her, was murdered by an illegal alien. The list of tragedies is growing, and it is past time to do something about it.

I signed the Immigration Accountability Project pledge to oppose all government funding until the action is taken to secure our southern border. Instead of kicking the can down the road with another CR, the number one priority of this Congress should be funding Trump's wall and defunding this invasion. We must fund President Trump's wall and defund Biden's backdoor contributions to organizations that are sending illegals to a city near you. It should not take more than one tragedy for our border to become a priority. It is time to finish the Trump wall and protect Americans.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON).

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. ROY) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again.

Today, the House is set to extend the bloated and inflationary spending levels that have left our country $34 trillion in debt and fuels the government that is at war with the American people.

This is now the fourth time that we have kicked the can down the road since just last September. It is now the fourth time that we have shrugged our shoulders and said: Sorry, America. We just don't have the fight in us this time, but we will try again next time.

We all promised we wouldn't do this crap when we got up here. The American people have demanded responsible spending and border security for years, but we fail them.

When will we heed the calls of our constituents to rein in the wasteful spending, secure the borders, and defeat the bureaucracy targeting them?

The last line of the Declaration of Independence has a bold and courageous statement by the people who signed it. They said: ''We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.''

Sadly, we are not serving with people of this same resolve today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this CR.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 1 minute remaining. The gentlewoman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues on either side of the aisle, we have a fundamental responsibility under the Constitution of the United States to use the power of the purse to check an executive branch that is not following the law.

It is not enough to impeach, send to the Senate, sit back, grab the popcorn, and watch. We have a duty to actually defund tyranny and lawlessness. That is precisely what the Founders said. It is what the Founders wrote into the Federalist Papers. It is what they contemplated in Article I in the Constitution.

Do not go out and have talking points about dead Americans because of what this administration is doing by

letting people into this country to kill Americans like Laken Riley last week and then write the check that funds their broken policies.

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

□ 1330

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7463.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. GRANGER. 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.

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 the following bills:

H.R. 7102;

H.R. 7463; and

H.R. 7454.

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

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITY 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. 7102) to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 16, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 57]

YEAS—402

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

NAYS—16

Banks
Cline
Clyde
Comer
Davidson
Edwards
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Griffith
Higgins (LA)
Mooney
Norman
Perry
Posey
Roy
Steube

NOT VOTING—14

Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bowman
Bucshon
Duncan
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gosar
Grijalva
Jackson (TX)
Loudermilk
Obernolte
Pascrell
Rodgers (WA)
Suozzi

□ 1355

Mr. EDWARDS changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CLEAVER, PALMER, and RUPPERSBERGER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 57.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 57.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I unintentionally missed one rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 57, H.R. 7102, the Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act.

Stated against:

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 57, I mistakenly voted ''yea'' when I intended to vote ''nay.''

EXTENSION OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). 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. 7463) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 320, nays 99, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 58]

YEAS—320

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

NAYS—99

Alford	Fischbach	McCormick
Allen	Franklin, Scott	Miller (IL)
Armstrong	Fry	Mills
Arrington	Fulcher	Mooney
Auchincloss	Gaetz	Moore (AL)
Baird	Gallagher	Moran
Banks	Gonzales, Tony	Nehls
Bean (FL)	Good (VA)	Norman
Bergman	Gooden (TX)	Ogles
Biggs	Green (TN)	Owens
Boebert	Greene (GA)	Palmer
Bost	Griffith	Pence
Brecheen	Guest	Perry
Buck	Hageman	Posey
Burchett	Harris	Quigley
Burlison	Harshbarger	Rose
Cammack	Hern	Rosendale
Carl	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Carter (TX)	Houchin	Schweikert
Cline	Hunt	Self
Cloud	Jordan	Spartz
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Stauber
Collins	Kelly (MS)	Steube
Crane	LaHood	Timmons
Curtis	LaTurner	Van Drew
Davidson	Lesko	Van Duyne
DesJarlais	Luna	Walberg
Donalds	Luttrell	Waltz
Estes	Mace	Weber (TX)
Ezell	Maloy	Webster (FL)
Fallon	Mann	Westerman
Feenstra	Massie	Williams (TX)
Finstad	Mast	Yakym

NOT VOTING—13

Bilirakis	Edwards	Hudson
Bishop (NC)	Gonzalez, Vicente	Jackson (TX)
Bucshon	Gosar	Salinas
Casten	Grijalva	Tenney
Duncan		

□ 1403

Mrs. HOUCHIN changed her vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 58.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 58.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2024

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. 7454) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, 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 Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 19, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 59]

YEAS—401

Adams	Costa	Guthrie
Aderholt	Courtney	Hageman
Aguilar	Craig	Harder (CA)
Alford	Crawford	Harris
Allen	Crenshaw	Harshbarger
Allred	Crockett	Hayes
Amo	Crow	Higgins (LA)
Amodei	Cuellar	Hill
Armstrong	Curtis	Himes
Arrington	D'Esposito	Hinson
Auchincloss	Davids (KS)	Horsford
Babin	Davis (IL)	Houchin
Bacon	Davis (NC)	Houlahan
Baird	De La Cruz	Hoyer
Balderson	Dean (PA)	Hoyle (OR)
Balint	DeGette	Hudson
Banks	DeLauro	Huffman
Barr	DelBene	Huizenga
Barragán	Deluzio	Hunt
Bean (FL)	DeSaulnier	Issa
Beatty	DesJarlais	Ivey
Bentz	Diaz-Balart	Jackson (IL)
Bera	Dingell	Jackson (NC)
Bergman	Doggett	Jackson Lee
Beyer	Donalds	Jacobs
Bice	Duarte	James
Bishop (GA)	Dunn (FL)	Jayapal
Blumenauer	Edwards	Jeffries
Blunt Rochester	Ellzey	Johnson (GA)
Boebert	Emmer	Johnson (LA)
Bonamici	Escobar	Johnson (SD)
Bost	Eshoo	Jordan
Bowman	Espaillat	Joyce (OH)
Boyle (PA)	Estes	Joyce (PA)
Brown	Evans	Kamlager-Dove
Brownley	Ezell	Kaptur
Buchanan	Fallon	Kean (NJ)
Budzinski	Feenstra	Keating
Burgess	Ferguson	Kelly (IL)
Burlison	Finstad	Kelly (MS)
Bush	Fischbach	Kelly (PA)
Calvert	Fitzgerald	Khanna
Cammack	Fitzpatrick	Kiggans (VA)
Caraveo	Fleischmann	Kildee
Carbajal	Fletcher	Kiley
Cárdenas	Flood	Kilmer
Carey	Foster	Kim (CA)
Carl	Foushee	Kim (NJ)
Carson	Foxx	Krishnamoorthi
Carter (GA)	Frankel, Lois	Kuster
Carter (LA)	Franklin, Scott	Kustoff
Carter (TX)	Frost	LaHood
Cartwright	Fry	LaLota
Casar	Gallagher	LaMalfa
Case	Gallego	Lamborn
Casten	Garamendi	Landsman
Castor (FL)	Garbarino	Langworthy
Castro (TX)	García (IL)	Larsen (WA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Garcia (TX)	Larson (CT)
Cherfilus-McCormick	Garcia, Mike	Latta
	Garcia, Robert	LaTurner
Chu	Gimenez	Lawler
Ciscomani	Golden (ME)	Lee (CA)
Clark (MA)	Goldman (NY)	Lee (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Gomez	Lee (NV)
Cleaver	Gonzales, Tony	Lee (PA)
Cline	Gooden (TX)	Leger Fernandez
Cloud	Gottheimer	Lesko
Clyburn	Granger	Letlow
Cohen	Graves (LA)	Levin
Cole	Graves (MO)	Lieu
Collins	Green (TN)	Lofgren
Comer	Green, Al (TX)	Loudermilk
Connolly	Grothman	Lucas
Correa	Guest	Luttrell

Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—19

Biggs
Brecheen
Buck
Burchett
Clyde
Crane
Davidson
Fulcher
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Luna
McClintock
Ogles
Rosendale
Roy
Spartz
Steube

NOT VOTING—12

Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bucshon
Duncan
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gosar
Grijalva
Hern
Jackson (TX)
Luetkemeyer
Moskowitz
Norman

□ 1412

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING WEBSITE TO REPORT FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID–19 LOANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 5426) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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.

THE WOSB INTEGRITY ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 7128) to establish requirements relating to size standard compliance of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024; AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2024, TO TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 29, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to the rules of the House of Representatives and consistent with precedent, I hereby resign from the Committee on Homeland Security to allow Rep. Tom Suozzi to serve on the panel.

Sincerely,

DINA TITUS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1034

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Suozzi (to rank immediately after Mr. Menendez).

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Ms. Pressley.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR BURNSVILLE POLICE OFFICERS PAUL ELMSTRAND AND MATTHEW RUGE AND BURNSVILLE FIREFIGHTER ADAM FINSETH

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, we rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation to honor three heroes from my Minnesota community: Burnsville Police Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth. These three public servants gave their lives protecting us on February 18.

Officer Ruge is remembered as quick to lend a helping hand and make his community a better place.

Officer Elmstrand is described by his loved ones as a man with a servant's heart. Putting others first was never a choice for Paul. It was just who he was.

Firefighter/Paramedic Finseth, who gave his life trying to save his colleagues, was a caring husband, brother, father, and friend, who spent decades serving his community and his Nation in Iraq.

There are no words to describe the void that this loss has left for their families, Minnesota's law enforcement community, and for the city of Burnsville and our entire State.

Nothing we say today will bring Paul, Matthew, and Adam back. They

gave their lives to save seven children from harm in that house that awful morning. Nothing could be more heroic.

We can honor their lives by giving the police officers and first responders who keep our communities safe the respect and the support they deserve.

I ask Members to join me in a moment of silence from a grateful Nation to honor the lives of Paul Elmstrand, Adam Finseth, and Matthew Ruge.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB BOOKER

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my dear friend, Bob Booker, who passed away on February 22 at 88 years young.

He was a historian, a U.S. Army veteran, and a passionate civil rights leader who was not afraid to stand up for what he believed. State Representative Joe Armstrong and I named a bridge after him when we were both in the State legislature because of all of his hard work. He really cared about his community and making it a better place.

In 1966, Bob was also elected as Knoxville's first Black Tennessee State Representative.

Bob was a dear friend of mine, and I knew him for many years. He worked with my dad at UT, and he knew my mama because she taught at Knoxville College, a historically Black college. He continued to be a great friend to me and my family after they passed away.

I have one particularly fond memory of Bob. One night when Kelly, my wife, and I were at a noted honky-tonk in Knoxville, Bob was there, as well. Kelly and I had snuck in, and we were in the back row. He belted out a karaoke song and dedicated it to us. He knew his music and had an incredible record collection that I loved and admired whenever I went to his house. He was an excellent host and an excellent cook.

I give my condolences to Bob's brother, Percell, all of his friends at Marie's Old Town Tavern, and everyone who knew and loved him. Bob will be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT CENTER AT METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the new Family Empowerment Center at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark.

For more than 16 years, the church's sacred and cherished Willing Heart Community Care Center has been a pillar of service to the community. It has provided food and clothing to residents and families in difficult times. It has brought relief to community members who have suffered during Hurricanes Ike, Sandy, and Irene. It has guided the desperate toward hope and salvation.

Now, the care center will become the Family Empowerment Center. It will provide more advanced, quality medical care for families, and it will help unemployed workers improve their chances of getting a good-paying job.

I am a strong supporter of job training programs. I secured $1 million for a local program to increase minority employment in advanced technologies. I cannot wait to see what the Family Empowerment Center will do for our community.

COMMEMORATING JOSEF BRODER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Josef Broder for his dedication to the University of Georgia family as he enters retirement.

Known as one of the university's most highly regarded educators, Dr. Broder was tasked with enhancing the college's teaching programs. His efforts resulted in record-breaking student enrollments, increased diversity in student representation, and greater participation in study abroad initiatives.

As a Georgia resident, Josef Broder held prestigious titles, including D.W. Brooks Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics; Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, and Distinguished University Professor.

Dr. Broder played a pivotal role in establishing the Congressional Agriculture Fellowship Program and introducing degree programs on the Tifton and Griffin campuses.

Having dedicated to two distinct terms as interim dean and director, Dr. Broder skillfully navigated the college through critical transition periods. Even after his leadership roles, he continued contributing his time as the associate dean for academic affairs.

May Dr. Broder enjoy his well-earned retirement.

□ 1430

CUBAN STATE SPONSOR OF TERROR DESIGNATION

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound frustration at the continued Trump-era policies toward Cuba. For 65 long years, the Cuban people have suffered under the weight of an American embargo.

Now, Cuba's completely unwarranted designation as a state sponsor of terror is causing new waves of hardship for the people of the island.

It is also impacting our allies and friends. Mr. Speaker, I met with many ambassadors from close partners of the United States when I was in Cuba, and they were unanimously opposed to the state sponsor designation.

Trump and Pompeo created this designation, knowing it has no merit, and it was a political trap for the Biden administration.

Mr. Speaker, I call on President Biden to step out of that trap, finally, and stop this cruel and counterproductive policy. He should remove the state sponsor designation today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALEX DAVID WOLFSIE

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to pay tribute to a remarkable young man, Alex David Wolfsie, whose life was tragically cut short almost 10 years ago on March 10, 2014.

Alex's commitment to our Nation, demonstrated by his service in the United States Navy, exemplifies the best of American valor and dedication.

A Mahopac resident who graduated from Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers and SUNY Cortland, he felt the call to service and enlisted on September 25, 2012. He traveled from the training grounds at Great Lakes Naval Station north of Chicago to Pensacola, Florida, to San Diego, California, to his final post in Guam.

His mission was clear: serving our country. He was preparing for deployment aboard the USS *Bonhomme Richard* in Japan before a tragic accident cut his life short.

He came from a family of service—his father was a member of the NYPD—and sought to carry on that service to our State and Nation.

I know the Carmel Town Board is gathering next week to honor Alex for his service. We will never forget his service and his sacrifice. May God bless the Wolfsie family.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues one simple question: Do you honestly believe that you have any right to tell me or any woman in America what I can do with my own body?

Do you have any right to tell me when, if, or how, I decide to have a family; or the thousands of women across Alabama who had their rights stripped away this week to become a mother; the thousands across this country who are facing the devastating experience of having a miscarriage and not being able to get care; and the millions of women, including myself, who

woke up 2 years ago to the news that the Supreme Court had stripped away our rights.

Yet, you stand here on the House floor denying the rights of women to IVF and reproductive care and telling your donors that you will enact a 100 percent abortion ban this November.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. STANSBURY. It is our body, it is our right, and I will not yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

(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, I rise today to underscore the devastating impacts that we have seen from Republicans' extreme and unrelenting attacks on reproductive freedom.

Since the Trump-packed Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, we have seen children as young as 10 years of age who have been raped who could not get abortion services. We have seen women who have suffered miscarriages and who have had to sit in the car until they were septic to get the treatment that they needed.

Moreover, now we have seen the Alabama Supreme Court strip away the right to in vitro fertilization with its decision last week and three centers stopping IVF services.

Republicans in the House and the Senate say that they support in vitro fertilization, but when given the opportunity to actually preserve it, they failed. Mr. Speaker, 125 House Republicans cosponsored legislation that would ban IVF, and the Senate has rejected legislation to make it legal.

These decisions belong between patients and their providers.

UKRAINE AID

(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, history has its eyes on us. Right now we are facing the most critical threat to the rules-based order since World War II.

The entire free world is at risk as the autocratic Vladimir Putin and his brutal, barbaric army are marching through our democratic ally, Ukraine, heading toward our NATO allies.

Our allies are perplexed and worried: What are we waiting for? Why aren't we stepping up and helping Ukraine?

Furthermore, China is watching to see whether the U.S. will stand up against vicious autocrats and stay the course to defend the free world.

We Democrats have stood in strong support of sending additional aid to Ukraine, but Speaker Johnson has refused to bring any Ukraine support bills to the House floor for a vote at a time when Ukraine is literally running out of ammunition to fight Russia.

I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker: What are you waiting for?

The world has its eyes on you.

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Hallelujah, Mr. Speaker, community college education and all the opportunity it presents with workforce development is finally being implanted in the largest city in the entire northwestern quarter of Ohio at Toledo which has been so long ignored. Community college education is so vital to our future.

I stand here to celebrate this agreement signed this week between the University of Toledo president, Greg Postel; the president of Owens Community College, Dione Somerville; and Toledo Public Schools superintendent, Dr. Romules Durant. I am so proud of them.

I congratulate them for working together to plant seeds of hope and new opportunity for generations denied before us. Education, retraining, GED certification, and workforce skills have so long been denied our citizenry.

I thank them for caring. It would be located on the Scott Park Campus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all citizens to support this new partnership and to offer their indispensable resources to ensure the enterprise succeeds beyond anything that our community has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, help me make a pathway for a brighter, stronger, more educated and innovative Toledo and region.

God bless the partners. God bless our people. God bless America.

[From UToday, Feb. 27, 2024]

UTOLEDO, OWENS AND TPS PARTNER ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCOTT PARK CAMPUS

(By Tyrel Linkhorn)

The University of Toledo, Owens Community College and Toledo Public Schools will work together on an initiative aimed at bringing new educational opportunities to the University's former Scott Park Campus.

The new partnership was announced Tuesday by UToledo President Gregory Postel, Owens President Dione Somerville and TPS Superintendent Romules Durant at an event in which they signed a letter of intent formalizing the agreement.

UToledo sold the Scott Park Campus to TPS last year.

''The University of Toledo is proud to strengthen our long-standing partnerships with Owens Community College and Toledo Public Schools in our shared commitment to ensuring all members of our community have an opportunity to achieve their educational and career goals,'' Postel said. ''By working together, we can help close the educational attainment gap in Toledo to celebrate both individual successes of earning a college degree and also the community benefit of strengthening the workforce and economic prosperity of our region.''

The partnership grew out of a feasibility study commissioned by Owens to look at the potential need for the community college to establish a physical presence within the city of Toledo.

The letter of intent is the first step in the partnership, calling for leaders of the three institutions to collaboratively decide on the type of educational programming that will be offered through the partnership. Partners intend to look at credit and non-credit coursework.

''Our goal is to increase access to high-quality educational opportunities in the city of Toledo that benefit the northwest Ohio region,'' Somerville said. ''With partners at Scott Park, we can build a foundation to address the needs for today's students and workforce development.''

''This new initiative with Owens Community College and The University of Toledo allows TPS to continue providing new and exciting educational opportunities for our students,'' Durant said. ''We are excited that the future of the Scott Park Campus includes not only TPS students but adult learners who are ready to expand their education as they plan for their future.''

UToledo has a number of partnerships with both Owens and TPS. Among them are Rocket Express, which creates a seamless pathway for students to earn a bachelor's degree from UToledo after starting at Owens, and Toledo Early College, which brings hundreds of TPS students to campus as they work toward their high school diploma while also completing college courses.

AKRON REGIONAL TECH HUB PHASE II FUNDING

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Ohio's 13th Congressional District in our quest to become a leader in polymer innovation.

Ohio's 13th Congressional District made its mark as the rubber city capital of the world, building our middle class, growing our population, and literally supporting the movement of people all across the world.

Our community has proudly continued this legacy by becoming a trailblazer in polymer science and polymer engineering.

Last year, thanks to the combined efforts from a variety of local partners led by the Greater Akron Chamber, the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub was named as 1 of only 31 tech hub finalists across the country.

This designation was a significant achievement for our region and made our project eligible for tens of millions of dollars in additional funding through the Chips and Science Act. Now, the sustainable polymer tech hub is, once again, being considered for additional investment.

It is clear Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the perfect home for a tech hub devoted to developing the future of sustainable polymers.

Polymers touch every industrial sector, and this tech hub will help ensure

that northeast Ohio remains a global leader in innovation, while also boosting our local economy and creating good-paying jobs right here at home.

As a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which is the committee that oversees the implementation of the Chips and Science Act which created the regional tech hub, I will continue to bring this to our district and specifically northeastern Ohio and the United States.

MARY AND JOHN MEACHUM LEGISLATION

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today to celebrate the final day of Black History Month and to pay tribute to the contributions made by Black Americans to free enslaved Black people.

I proudly introduced a resolution to honor Mary and John Meachum, formerly enslaved Black abolitionists in St. Louis, Missouri, who dedicated their lives to the liberation of all Black people, especially those who were enslaved.

In defiance of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Meachums' home became a stop on the Underground Railroad, guiding countless enslaved Black people to freedom in Illinois.

Mary continued this work after her husband's death in 1854. In May of 1855, Mary Meachum was implicated in a plot to smuggle a small group of enslaved Black people across the river and was arrested by a group of law enforcement and enslavers working together.

Today, their legacy is memorialized at the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing on the St. Louis Riverfront Trail. I am dedicated to ensuring that the stories of individuals like Mary and John Meachum are told for generations to come.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAUL REYES, JR.

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Raul Reyes, Jr., a leader in west Dallas.

Raul fought every day to make west Dallas a better place. He was a fierce advocate for cleaning up a lot of the environmental issues in west Dallas. He believed in affordable housing, and he absolutely loved Pinkston High School and helping the kids there.

Raul was born in Dallas in the 1970s. He grew up with loving parents who instilled in him the belief that he should help others and help the neighborhood.

He graduated from Pinkston High School in 1992 and then went to Dallas College and ultimately the University of Texas at Arlington.

After graduating, he became an agent for change who believed that the community and the people played the most important role in progress. He was a founding member and president of West Dallas 1, which is a coalition of neighbors and neighborhood associations. His community service involvement was captured through numerous public service and private advisory boards and steering committees which focused on things like education and housing. He was also a very proud West Dallas Little League coach from 2001 through 2007.

More importantly, he was a family man. He was the eldest child. He was known as la guia to his siblings. He was an incredible father to his children whom he talked about all the time and a loving uncle to his nieces, his nephews, and everyone who loved him.

My prayers go out to his family, especially his children, during this difficult time. May Raul's legacy live on forever.

STUDENT ATHLETE CELEBRATION

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Western High School's football team in my district and to congratulate 11 seniors going on to play college football.

Eleven is a 10-year record for the program under Coach Dan Davidson who pushed these athletes to compete at the next level. These players, coaches, and parents put in countless hours and accomplished something very special.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, many professional football players have come and have started in my district, including Heisman Trophy winners John Huarte, Matt Leinart, and Bryce Young.

Now, these 11 student athletes will have the opportunity to blaze their own paths.

Western High School and Coach Dan Davidson, again, have made us proud, and I congratulate them.

□ 1445

EXTENDING AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the immediate passage of legislation extending the Affordable Connectivity Program, a lifeline that connects over 23 million families in America, 274,474 in Nevada, and over 76,000 in Nevada's Fourth Congressional District.

The bipartisan infrastructure law created the ACP, and it has been crucial to ensure that low- and middle-income households can afford their monthly internet bill, yet, without immediate action, the program will wind down in just a couple of months.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act would keep it alive with a $7 billion investment. It would keep Americans in every ZIP Code connected, supporting families who need access to work, education, and healthcare, whether in my home State of Nevada or every other State across the country.

Mr. Speaker, we finally began to close the digital divide. Now is not the time to widen it, so I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act and to make sure that the internet remains accessible and affordable for everyone.

STUDYING REPARATIONS

(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, we have done the right thing. We have kept the government open, but there is much more to do. It is the wide-ranging responsibilities of the United States Congress.

One of those responsibilities is to tell the truth of our history. This is a unique day, February 29, a leap year. There are a lot of unique aspects of America's history, and certainly, one of them is the history of slavery.

I am very proud to have been given the responsibility of carrying forward H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. This is a law that was introduced 38 years ago by the late John Conyers, not for any form of retribution or retaliation, but to know the truth, to address the historical injustices, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States.

By the way, slavery still exists around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in signing on to H.R. 40. In this month of African-American History Month, let us know the truth, and let us know the truth together.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 1, 2024, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–3255. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's joint final rule — Form PF; Reporting Requirements for All Filers and

Large Hedge Fund Advisers (RIN: 3235-AN13) received February 13, 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–3256. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Further Definition of ''As a Part of a Regular Business'' in the Definition of Dealer and Government Securities Dealer in Connection with Certain Liquidity Providers [Release No.: 34-99477; File No. S7-12-22] (RIN: 3235-AN10) received February 13, 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–3257. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to exports, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3258. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Third Clean School Bus Program's Report to Congress for FY 2023, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16091(b)(8); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 741(b)(8)(A) (as amended by Public Law 117-58, Sec. 71101); (135 Stat. 1324); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3259. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — North Korea Sanctions Regulations received February 14, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3260. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting one (1) notification of an action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–3261. A letter from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act [CPCLO Order No.: 12-2021; AG Order No.: 5851-2024] (RIN: 1105-AB66) received February 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–3262. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2024 Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Oil, Gas, and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf [Docket ID: BOEM-2024-0002] (RIN: 1010-AE19) received February 14, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3263. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Statutory Exceptions to Phaseout Reducing Elective Payment Amounts for Applicable Entities if Domestic Content Requirements are Not Satisfied [Notice 2024-9] received February 14, 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.

EC–3264. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a data snapshot titled, ''Medicare Part B Spending on Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests in 2022''; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and 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:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3277. A bill to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–402). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. EZELL, Mr. FRY, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. HILL, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 7476. A bill to counter the malign influence and theft perpetuated by the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, Rules, the Judiciary, Oversight and Accountability, Energy and Commerce, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Agriculture, Science, Space, and Technology, Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 7477. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to complete a data matching agreement with the Secretary of Education in order to ensure individuals who are current or former active-duty military service members or civilian employees and are otherwise eligible for assistance under the public service loan forgiveness program have their periods of employment automatically certified and counted towards the public service loan forgiveness program; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 7478. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education, as a condition of participation in programs under title IV of such Act, to include a prohibition of antisemitic conduct in all documents relating to student or employee conduct; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 7479. A bill to authorize certain States to take certain actions on certain Federal land to secure an international border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. WILD, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. BARR, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 7480. A bill to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 7481. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 7482. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the WISEWOMAN program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 7483. A bill to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to establish a Financial Agent Mentor-Protégé Program within the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7484. A bill to require Members of Congress who are foreign nationals to file a statement of their status as a foreign national, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7485. A bill to amend section 13105(l) of title 5, United States Code, to require the reporting of periodic transaction reports not later than 24 hours after receiving notification of the requirement to report a transaction but in no case later than 72 hours after such transaction; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 7486. A bill to authorize additional funds for the Shelter and Services Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. FINSTAD):

H.R. 7487. A bill to statutorily establish Operation Stonegarden, through which eligible law enforcement agencies shall be awarded grants for border security enhancement; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 7488. A bill to increase the total maximum Federal Pell Grant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BACON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 7489. A bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 7490. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish a pilot program to identify and refer veterans for potential employment with Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7491. A bill to establish a task force on waterway freight diversification and economic development in the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela River corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 7492. A bill to direct the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a task force for the purpose of studying the effects of automated accounts on social media, public discourse, and elections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 7493. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations to the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security to provide assistance to Israel, Ukraine, and the Indo-Pacific region, 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. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. OGLES, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ESTES, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BOST, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. SELF, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 7494. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit exchanges from effecting transactions in securities issued by natural asset companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 7495. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to create a demonstration project for competency-based education and clarify eligible competency-based education programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 7496. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve responses to emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

H.R. 7497. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 7498. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to create a national zero-emission vehicle standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 7499. A bill to amend chapters 95 and 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential election campaigns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mrs. PELTOLA):

H.R. 7500. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to allow an Indian Tribe to request CFIUS review of certain transactions between the Indian Tribe and foreign persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. MOONEY):

H.R. 7501. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Chad Robichaux, Sarah Verardo, Tim Kennedy, Kevin Rourke, Sean Gabler, Dave Johnson, and Dennis Price, in recognition of their exceptional efforts and selfless dedication during the Afghanistan evacuation in 2021, which led to the safe evacuation of over 17,000 people from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 7502. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to provide for data collection and dissemination of information regarding programs under the national apprenticeship system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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

H.R. 7503. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide health equity for people with disabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. VASQUEZ):

H.R. 7504. A bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GAETZ):

H.R. 7505. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the issuance of nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 7506. A bill to improve financial literacy training for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 7507. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the ''Bill Barrett Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 7508. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the ''Gladys P. Todd Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 7509. A bill to limit resettlement in certain States or localities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 7510. A bill to establish an interagency Working Group to study financial safety and inclusion for survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 1034. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. NICKEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CARSON, Ms. BROWN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. IVEY):

H. Res. 1035. A resolution recognizing the significance of the Greensboro Four sit-in during Black History Month; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. CARSON (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. TRONE):

H. Res. 1036. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 29, 2024, as ''Rare Disease Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER (for herself, Mrs. STEEL, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H. Res. 1037. A resolution providing the sense of the House of Representatives that In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) is necessary for women who cannot conceive naturally, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. EMMER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. STAUBER):

H. Res. 1038. A resolution recognizing and honoring Burnsville, Minnesota, law enforcement and first responders for their heroic actions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

H. Res. 1039. A resolution recognizing the significance of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and the need for robust funding of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 1040. A resolution recognizing and celebrating the significance of Black History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BOST, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SELF, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H. Res. 1041. A resolution condemning the order issued by the International Court of Justice on January 26, 2024, imposing provisional measures against Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. WILD):

H. Res. 1042. A resolution recognizing the historical contributions and value of the Freedom House Ambulance Service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. BACON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. LALOTA, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H. Res. 1043. A resolution expressing support for continued access to fertility care and assisted reproductive technology, such as in vitro fertilization, in light of the Supreme Court of Alabama's ruling that has jeopardized access to in vitro fertilization and other assisted reproductive technology; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Ms. MACE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BACON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. FROST, and Ms. CROCKETT):

H. Res. 1044. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 2024 as ''National Youth Leadership Month''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H. Res. 1045. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 3, 2024, as ''National Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. MOONEY):

H. Res. 1046. A resolution honoring the brave men and women who participated in the Afghanistan evacuation in 2021 following the United States withdrawal, for their extraordinary efforts and exceptional service in the safe evacuation of over 17,000 people from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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. HERN:

H.R. 7476.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Countering Communist China

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7477.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

Article I, Section 8, clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Defense to complete a data-matching agreement with the Secretary of Education in order to ensure individuals who are current or former active-duty military service members or civilian employees and are otherwise eligible for assistance under the public service loan forgiveness program have their periods of employment automatically certified and counted towards the public service loan forgiveness program.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 7478.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would condition Title IV financial aid funds, authorized under the Higher Education Act, on the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism in university student and employee codes of conduct.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 7479.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reform States' Authority to Secure the Border.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 7480.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amends the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 7481.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish the Social Determinants of Health Program to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities by, for example, coordinating activities across the CDC.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 7482.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause I (Taxing and Spending Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 7483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Financial Services
By Mr. BURCHETT:
H.R. 7484.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require Members of Congress who are foreign nationals to file a statement of their status as a foreign national.
By Mr. BURCHETT:
H.R. 7485.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require the reporting of periodic transaction reports not later than 24 hours after receiving notification of the requirement to report a transaction but in no case later than 72 hours after such transaction.
By Ms. CARAVEO:
H.R. 7486.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
To authorize additional funds for the Shelter and Services Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.
By Ms. CARAVEO:
H.R. 7487.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
To statutorily establish Operation Stonegarden, through which eligible law enforcement agencies shall be awarded grants for border security enhancement. Additonally this bill provide enhanced resources for local law enforcement agencies across the country.
By Mr. CARBAJAL:
H.R. 7488.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Higher Education Legislation
By Ms. CHU:
H.R. 7489.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill directs the Department of Education (ED) to establish a grant program and a student loan forgiveness program to increase the number of school-based mental health services providers in elementary and secondary schools.
By Mr. CRANE:
H.R. 7490.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish a pilot program to identify and refer veterans for potential employment with Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes.
By Mr. DELUZIO:
H.R. 7491.
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:
Transportation and Infrastructure
By Mr. DESAULNIER:
H.R. 7492.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.
By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:
H.R. 7493.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To provide global humanitarian assistance for emergency food, shelter, and basic services to refugees and civilians trapped in war zones.
By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 7494.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill will stop the SEC from implementing the proposed rule or future similar rules that would allow Natural Asset Companies to list their assets on the NYSE or any other securities exchange.
By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 7495.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
The single subject of this legislation is:
Education
By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:
H.R. 7496.
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 modernizes authority for certain vehicle permits during emergencies and certain other conditions
By Mr. KILMER:
H.R. 7497.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
The bill amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to make reforms to the composition and functioning of the Federal Election Commission.
By Mr. LEVIN:
H.R. 7498.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
National vehicle standards
By Mr. LIEU:
H.R. 7499.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Campaign Finance
By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 7500.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to allow an Indian Tribe to request CFIUS review of certain transactions between the Indian Tribe and foreign persons, and for other purposes
By Mr. NORMAN:
H.R. 7501.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Chad Robichaux, Sarah Verardo, Tim Kennedy, Kevin Rourke, Sean Gabler, Dave Johnson, and Dennis Price, in recognition of their exceptional efforts and selfless dedication during the Afghanistan evacuation in 2021, which led to the safe evacuation of over 17,000 people from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.
By Mr. PAPPAS:
H.R. 7502.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Office thereof.''
The single subject of this legislation is:
Workforce
By Mr. PAYNE:
H.R. 7503
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
health care.
By Ms. PEREZ:
H.R. 7504.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Veterans Affairs
By Mr. ROSENDALE:
H.R. 7505.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Work Visas
By Ms. SEWELL:
H.R. 7506.
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:
Military
By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 7507.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution: ''Congress shall have the power . . . to establish post offices and post roads.''
The single subject of this legislation is:
To designate the Post Office located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the ''Bill Barrett Post Office Building''
By Ms. SPANBERGER:
H.R. 7508.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
US Constitution, Article I Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1285 Emancipation Highway in Fredericksburg, Virginia, as the ''Gladys P. Todd Post Office''.
By Mr. TIFFANY:
H.R. 7509.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 7510.

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

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes an interagency working group amongst the financial regulators and task them with collecting data on the impacts of economic abuse of survivors carried out through regulated financial institutions. The working group would also provide recommendations on how Congress and federal regulators can help financial institutions improve existing products and services and launch new ones to meet survivors' financial and safety needs

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 40: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HOYER, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 491: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 531: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 549: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 594: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 619: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 661: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mr. ROSENDALE.

H.R. 681: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 743: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 766: Ms. ROSS, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 798: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 964: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 977: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 987: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1077: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1097: Ms. JACOBS, Mr. CASE, and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 1179: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1184: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 1190: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 1255: Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1277: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 1323: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 1328: Mr. SOTO, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1403: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 1413: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1526: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1610: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1637: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 1740: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1775: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1788: Ms. NORTON and Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 1794: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1814: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1831: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 2377: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 2400: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2407: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 2410: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 2474: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. IVEY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KEATING, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SORENSEN, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2595: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 2630: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2662: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 2663: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2748: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2846: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 2870: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 2909: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 2923: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2941: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 3170: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 3192: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3227: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. PENCE, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 3325: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 3347: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3381: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 3382: Mr. POSEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3394: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. MCBATH, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 3413: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 3418: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 3433: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 3503: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3507: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3651: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 3776: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 3792: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 3869: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 3882: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 3894: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 3933: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3950: Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 4052: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4173: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 4175: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 4189: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4268: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4335: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H.R. 4363: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 4445: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 4466: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 4519: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 4579: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4613: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 4731: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 4740: Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 4757: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 4758: Mr. TRONE, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4818: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4856: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 4867: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 5027: Mrs. STEEL.

H.R. 5057: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 5076: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 5084: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 5097: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 5113: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 5294: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 5295: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 5403: Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. CLYDE.

H.R. 5406: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 5470: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 5566: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 5568: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 5603: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5641: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 5694: Mr. GUEST and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 5717: Mr. MOONEY and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 5728: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 5757: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. AMO.

H.R. 5825: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 5829: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 5879: Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 5938: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 5979: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 6049: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 6094: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 6121: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 6163: Ms. DELBENE and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 6183: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 6212: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 6286: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 6302: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 6319: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 6331: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 6373: Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 6381: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 6437: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 6446: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 6487: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 6534: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6600: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 6610: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 6639: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 6641: Mr. AMO.

H.R. 6643: Mr. CASAR and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 6644: Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 6664: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 6682: Mr. LATURNER and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 6698: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 6711: Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 6720: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 6727: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 6860: Mr. SOTO and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 6887: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 6934: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 6969: Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 7007: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 7015: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 7042: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 7056: Mr. TRONE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BEYER, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 7060: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 7109: Mr. PALMER and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 7131: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 7171: Mr. BEAN of Florida and Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 7185: Mr. GALLAGHER and Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 7218: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 7248: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 7256: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 7305: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 7309: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 7310: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 7322: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 7334: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 7343: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 7346: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 7354: Ms. OMAR and Ms. BUSH.

H.R. 7357: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 7361: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 7365: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.

H.R. 7367: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 7372: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 7373: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 7378: Mr. FROST, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 7380: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 7384: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.
H.R. 7397: Mr. COSTA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 7404: Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 7408: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 7424: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 7428: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 7433: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 7434: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 7443: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. GALLAGHER.
H.R. 7445: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 7447: Mr. DELUZIO.
H.R. 7455: Mr. LATURNER.
H.J. Res. 37: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.J. Res. 76: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.J. Res. 115: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H. Con. Res. 82: Mr. HILL.
H. Con. Res. 92: Ms. PRESSLEY.
H. Res. 100: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 551: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 886: Mr. GOMEZ.
H. Res. 901: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BEYER.
H. Res. 904: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 929: Ms. ADAMS.
H. Res. 942: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 946: Mr. HARDER of California.
H. Res. 965: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H. Res. 1015: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H. Res. 1025: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 1031: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. EZELL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. ELLZEY.
H. Res. 1032: Mr. SORENSEN and Mr. FROST.

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

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 *No. 37*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, wonderful in glory, who keeps Your promises to those who serve You, consecrate with Your presence the path You desire our lawmakers to take.

Lord, kindle in the hearts of our Senators the true love of peace, and guide them with Your wisdom. May the faith they confess with their lips put such courage and hope in their hearts that they may live each day in the spirit of Your love. Cleanse them from every thought displeasing to Your goodness; that with pure hearts, clear minds, and calm hope, they may honor You.

And, Lord, have mercy upon our war-torn world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 29, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, congressional leaders announced that we have come to an agreement to avoid a shutdown this weekend. So we can finish our work to fund the Federal Government for the rest of the year.

The House is set to vote today on extension of government funding until March 8 and March 22.

Once the House acts, I hope the Senate can pass the short-term CR as soon as tonight, but that will require all of us working together. There is certainly no reason this should take a very long time. So let's cooperate and get it done quickly.

I am very glad we got this done before Friday's deadline. I worked very hard with Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, and all the appropriators to reach this agreement. It is consistent with the top-line agreement I reached with the Speaker back in January, without the unacceptable poison pill riders that we said would not fly.

As I said directly to the Speaker over and over and over again, the only way to get things done here is with bipartisanship, and this agreement is another proof point.

This agreement is proof that when the four leaders work together, when bipartisanship is prioritized, when getting things done for the American people takes a high priority, good things can happen even in divided government. And I hope this sets the stage for Congress to finish the appropriations process in a bipartisan way very soon.

On top of all that, I am very glad the American people won't have to deal with the pain of a government shutdown. Even a partial shutdown would have threatened services for moms and children, would have hurt our veterans, would have hurt farmers, home buyers, law enforcement, and so much more. Thankfully, we are on track to avoiding all of that.

If there is anything that this appropriations process has made abundantly clear, it is this: When serious-minded Democrats and serious-minded Republicans engage each other with a desire to get things done, good things happen even in divided government. We avoid shutdowns. We invest in the American people. And we make our country stronger.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now on the border, today, President Biden will visit the

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

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U.S. border at Brownsville, TX, where he will meet with local leaders and border enforcement agents. Three hundred miles up the Rio Grande, Donald Trump is expected to visit the border at Eagle Pass, TX.

When President Biden and Donald Trump visit the border today, Americans will see a glaring contrast between the sitting President who negotiated the strongest border bill we have seen in years and a former President exploiting the border for political gain and making sure nothing gets done.

President Biden knows the border is a serious problem. So look at what he has done: He sat down with Republicans to draft the strongest, most comprehensive border security bill America has seen in decades. And we worked with him here in the Senate to make that happen.

Let me say that again: President Biden knows the border is a serious problem, and that is why he sat down with Republicans to draft the strongest, most comprehensive border bill America has seen in decades.

But what did Donald Trump do? Donald Trump deliberately sabotaged the very same border reforms he spent years calling for because he wants to exploit the border for the campaign trail. He explicitly took credit for the bill going down. ''Please, blame it on me''—those were his words.

It was Donald Trump who sabotaged the bill with dramatic updates to asylum. It was Donald Trump who sabotaged a bill that reformed parole authority. It was Donald Trump who sabotaged the bill that provided new resources to Border Patrol agents. And it was Donald Trump who sabotaged the bill endorsed by the Border Patrol union, the Wall Street Journal editorial page, and the Chamber of Commerce—hardly liberal groups.

So when Donald Trump goes in front of the cameras to lament the mess at the border, he should look in the mirror—he should look in the mirror—because he is the one who tanked the best chance we have seen in ages to fix it. Until Donald Trump said ''oppose it,'' it would have passed here in the Senate and even in the House. And when Republicans in Congress say they will shut the government down or bring this legislative process to a halt unless we fund the border, that is bull, because they are the ones who blocked the deal.

Republicans are the ones exacerbating the border by pushing things like H.R. 2, which not only did not get a single Democratic vote, it wouldn't even solve the problem—it wouldn't even solve the problem.

And, again, as I have reminded Speaker JOHNSON over and over again, he can't do anything without bipartisanship when we have divided government. So to simply write what you want and put it for a vote when it gets no Democratic votes is a path to not solving the problem but, in a sense, doing the same thing Donald Trump did: use it for political purposes, say the problem isn't solved for political purposes when you are the ones who prevented the problem from being solved.

Republicans cannot—cannot—claim to be serious about fixing the border while voting against the very same border policies they have spent years calling for. Republicans can't can be serious about fixing the border when they say it is an emergency, and then when they have a chance to stop it, they refuse for crass political purposes.

That is what happened in the last few weeks, and Democrats will make sure the American people know it.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now, on Ukraine, in the meeting with President Biden and congressional leaders earlier this week, I relayed what President Zelenskyy told me when I visited Ukraine: If Ukraine gets the aid they need, they will win the war. If they don't get those armaments, they will almost certainly lose.

Russia's recent advancements haven't been because of a lack of a Ukrainian plan or lack of a will to fight or a lack of courage or strength or dedication on behalf of the Ukrainian President and the Ukrainian people. I can assure you that after meeting with President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people, their resolve to win the war is stronger than ever. Russia's advancements have come simply because the Ukrainians are running out of ammunition.

If we don't provide this aid ASAP, not only will Ukraine lose the war but the United States will lose out to the Putins, the Xis, and the other autocratic heads of state. We will lose out. The American people will lose out over the next decades economically, militarily, diplomatically, and politically.

So I say to Speaker JOHNSON, this is a true turning point for America—for our strength, for our credibility on the world stage, for our national security. Speaker JOHNSON, please don't shrink from this moment. Let the supplemental bill, which passed with 70 votes here in the Senate, move forward. History—history—is watching you.

(The remarks of Mr. SCHUMER pertaining to the introduction of S. 4 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

REMEMBERING JIM KETCHUM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, to the Senate Curator, last week, I was saddened to hear about the passing of the first permanent Senate Curator, Jim Ketchum.

Very few in the history of the U.S. Senate have been tasked with the immense responsibility of preserving the history of this storied institution. Jim was one of them, and the very best.

A proud son of New York, Jim's career took him on a tour through some of America's greatest national landmarks, including the Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, and, of course, the U.S. Capitol.

At the White House, Jim served as Curator for not one, not two, but three administrations: Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon. When President Kennedy first appointed him at the ripe age of 24, he was concerned he was ''too young'' to hold the post, to which Jackie Kennedy responded: ''That's what they told Jack.'' So Jim was truly special, and everyone saw it.

Here in the Senate, Jim led a long list of initiatives to preserve the Capitol Building, not just as a museum of American history but as a bustling beacon of democracy.

It is thanks to Jim that the Old Senate and Supreme Court Chambers were restored and now welcome millions of visitors every year. It is thanks to Jim that countless paintings, artifacts, and pieces of furniture documenting our history were recovered and preserved. And it is thanks to Jim that we all have a better understanding today of this building, this institution, and our place in history.

So Jim will be deeply missed. But I think it is safe to say that Jim will live on in this institution he worked so doggedly to preserve.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as I said earlier this week, government shutdowns never produce positive outcomes. That is why Congress is going to avoid one this week. Leaders in both parties and both Houses have agreed to a plan that would keep the lights on while appropriators complete their work and put annual appropriations bills on a glide path to becoming law.

I appreciate our colleagues' commitment to see this process through and make good on this essential governing responsibility, and I expect the Senate to act swiftly on a first step this week.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. President, on another matter, the serious challenges facing America's national security today illustrate some pretty timeless lessons about how the world works—basic realities about geopolitics that were true before I got a front row seat to President Reagan's foreign policy 40 years ago and which are just as true today.

The first lesson is the value of alliances. America is the world's preeminent superpower—economically and militarily. But our influence and prosperity are facilitated by a network of partnerships. I don't mean this so-called international community of

multinational debating societies; I mean the hard power of America's military alliances and partnerships. The strength of these alliances rests on the credibility of the commitments we make to our friends.

The second lesson is peace through strength. Those who wish us harm speak the language of power, and we have to be able to speak it as well. In other words, our deterrent capabilities here have to be as credible to our adversaries as our commitments are to our allies.

Congress's most fundamental constitutional obligation is to provide for the common defense. That is why I urged the Senate so forcefully to pass a national security supplemental and why I believe passing full-year defense appropriations is absolutely critical.

When America is strongest, Congress provides sufficient funding to preserve America's military primacy. And our adversaries and allies alike actually trust that the Commander in Chief is prepared to use force decisively.

The last lesson is the importance of clear strategy. Even the most capable force—the most formidable hard power—is only as effective as the strategy it serves. Understanding our interests is a prerequisite to actually advancing our interests.

The challenges we face today test whether and how well America understands these lessons. The threats to our personnel, our interests, and our allies in the Middle East are particularly illustrative.

Since October 7, America's closest ally in that region has been engaged in a serious fight to rescue its people and restore its security against Iran-backed terror. As I said repeatedly since that day, we owe it to Israel—a fellow democracy under assault by savage terrorists—to provide the time, the space, and the support necessary for them to destroy the threat posed by Hamas.

To prioritize a cease-fire at all costs is to actually ignore that the terrorists exploited precisely such a cease-fire to slaughter innocent Israelis on October 7. To blame Israel for conducting operations to free hostages and kill terrorists in hospitals and schools is to excuse Hamas for violating laws of war and exploiting civilians by militarizing such civilian infrastructure in the first place.

As negotiators work on further hostage releases, it is critical that Israel operates from a position of strength backed by a rock-solid ally whose policies are driven by our Nation's interests, not influenced by one party's perceived political interest.

I hope that President Biden will demonstrate enough political courage to stand up to those in his party who want him to tie Israel's hands or put his own hands on the scales of Israel's domestic politics.

Meanwhile, the chief architect of chaos in the Middle East—the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism—speaks the language of power. Plain and simple, America has to invest in rebuilding our arsenal, but we also have to show Iran that we are not afraid to actually use it. Flattening a few warehouses in response to hundreds of Iran-backed attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria, frankly, is not a meaningful exercise of strength. Nor is wasting expensive precision weapons to intercept expendable drones launched by Iran's expendable proxies.

The commander of the U.S. task force contending with Houthi terrorism in the Red Sea acknowledged recently that even though his forces were succeeding tactically, the Houthis and their Iranian patrons were simply not deterred. Frankly, tactical proficiency and hitting Houthi targets with F–35s and Tomahawk missiles should be a low bar of the world's most advanced military. It is also beside the point.

In reality, unless these tactics are nestled in an effective strategy to change an adversary's calculus to sufficiently degrade his ability to threaten our interest, it doesn't matter how tactically proficient our efforts are.

So this isn't a matter of dense, academic theories of international relations. The questions we need to ask ourselves are really quite basic: Are we being reliable allies to our friends? Do we credibly strike fear into the hearts of our enemies? Are our tactics aligned with a coherent strategy? If not, what are we doing here?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Republican whip.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday, we learned that Leader MCCONNELL, the longest serving party leader in Senate history, will be stepping down from his leadership role next January. There will be time later for a fuller discussion of all his contributions to our party and to this institution, but for today, I just want to express my gratitude for his service.

Had he done nothing else, his successful efforts to build up the judiciary with judges who are committed to the rule of law and to the Constitution would secure his place in the history books.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve with him.

ECONOMY

Mr. President, 3 years ago around this time, the Senate was considering Democrats' so-called American Rescue Plan Act. With a $1.9 trillion pricetag, this reckless spending bill was packed with liberal priorities and progressive giveaways.

Before it even passed, Democrats were warned that it was too big. They were warned even by liberal economists that that kind of spending risked setting off an inflation crisis, but they chose to go ahead anyway. Inflation almost immediately—immediately—began accelerating, and 3 years later, we are still dealing with the crisis the Democrats helped create.

In the last 3 years, inflation reached levels not seen since the early 1980s. While inflation may have descended from those stratospheric heights, we are still—and I say ''still''—stuck with an inflation rate well above the Federal Reserve's target rate of 2 percent.

Three years of persistent price hikes have taken a serious toll on Americans' budgets. Working families have had to scrimp and save to stretch their dollars. Many Americans have had to turn to their credit cards to cope with higher and higher costs. Families have had to cut back on saving and investing for the future.

Today, it costs a typical family $1,000 more per month to maintain the standard of living it had when President Biden took office—$1,000 more per month just to tread water. And it is no wonder. Energy costs are up 31.7 percent. Housing costs are up 19.4 percent. Car repairs are up 27.5 percent. And the list goes on.

Where inflation has really hit many Americans is at the grocery store. Grocery prices are up 21 percent under President Biden. The cost of food now takes up a larger share of Americans' disposable income than it has at any point in more than 30 years.

Faced with higher prices, shoppers have had to adjust. Families are opting for cheaper alternatives. They are putting items back on the shelves, and they are hunting for deals at multiple stores. Tighter budgets have become a fact of life in the Biden economy.

As I said, many Americans have had to turn to credit cards to cope with higher prices, and with the Federal Reserve having to keep interest rates elevated to fight inflation, paying off that debt has gotten harder.

High interest rates have also put the American dream of owning your own home increasingly out of reach. The average mortgage rate has more than doubled since the President took office.

The Biden inflation crisis has made life harder for a lot of people. It is harder to save. It is harder to get ahead, harder to make ends meet. Yet President Biden still tries to claim his economic policies are working, that the economy somehow is doing well.

Well, Americans disagree. A January poll found that 63 percent of Americans believe economic conditions are getting worse. Another poll found that 54 percent of voters rate their personal economic situation as fair or poor, and 7 out of 10 voters in the same poll also said they expect that higher prices are here to stay.

For the last 3 years, the White House has attempted to disclaim responsibility for the inflation crisis that has done so much to harm family budgets. Despite economists agreeing that the President's reckless spending led to higher inflation, the White House has taken every opportunity to pin the blame somewhere else.

The latest strategy? Complaining about ''shrinkflation,'' which refers to instances where goods have gotten smaller but the price has stayed the same.

The President even released a video on Super Bowl Sunday lambasting snack companies for shrinking their packaging and ''ripping off'' consumers. It is a tactic that fits well with the President's previous attempts to blame price gouging for higher prices, but these arguments are political spin and not serious explanations.

Jason Furman, an economist who served in the Obama administration, previously ''described the focus on price gouging as a distraction from the real causes and solutions'' of inflation, to quote one article where he was quoted. And the New York Times referred to the President's focus on shrinkflation as ''a blame-shifting message.''

I expect we will get more blame shifting from President Biden in the State of Union Address next week, as well as more of the same reckless spending proposals that helped create the crisis in the first place. Meanwhile, the American people will continue to suffer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

ISRAEL

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today in pursuit of peace in the Middle East. After nearly 5 months of war in Gaza, the human suffering must end. Just today, Americans woke up to the news that Israeli troops had opened fire on Palestinians desperate for humanitarian aid, killing dozens and adding to the more than 30,000 people in Gaza who have been killed during this conflict.

Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack on Israel took more than a thousand lives. Israel, like every nation, has the right to defend itself and the right to prevent another terrorist attack like this one from ever occurring again.

Other rights are important as well. The people who live in the Middle East deserve a lasting peace and deserve to live their lives with dignity and self-determination.

For decades, the United States Government has supported a two-state solution to guarantee those rights for both Israelis and Palestinians—two states for two people. For years, I have spoken out against the diminishing prospects for a two-state solution. For years, Palestinians have been poorly served by their leaders, both in the West Bank and in Gaza. For years, even before October 7, Hamas's governance of Gaza was a major impediment to peace. And also for years, I have believed that Israel's long-term strategic interests were endangered by Prime Minister Netanyahu's leadership.

Since October 7, it has only gotten worse. Prime Minister Netanyahu and his rightwing war cabinet have created a massive humanitarian disaster, pushing the region even further away from a two-state solution. Indiscriminate bombings in Gaza have killed tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, wiping out entire families and leaving thousands of children orphaned. Nearly 2 million people have been displaced, and 45 percent of the residential buildings in Gaza have been destroyed. The Israeli Government's refusal to allow adequate humanitarian aid into Gaza has left hundreds of thousands of people on the brink of starvation.

And still, more than 100 hostages are held by Hamas. The Israeli Government's top priority should have been to bring those hostages home, but, instead, Prime Minister Netanyahu focused on revenge. He publicly invoked the plight of hostages to justify indiscriminate bombing that thwarts the negotiations that would bring them home. This is a betrayal of the families whose loved ones are still held hostage by Hamas.

Netanyahu's opposition to a two-state solution is fierce and long-standing. For decades, he has undercut Palestinian independence. He has deliberately propped up Hamas to try to keep the Palestinian people divided. He approved Qatar's payments to Hamas—payments that may have been used for Hamas's military operations. He expanded settlements in the West Bank, turning the region into a patchwork of disconnected parts that undermine Palestinian hopes for a united homeland.

The result has been a vicious cycle of violence. That is why, for years, I have advocated that U.S. military aid should help Israel and Palestine move toward peace, not subsidize policies that move peace further out of reach.

Today, Netanyahu is doubling down on his opposition to peace. The Prime Minister has openly and directly rejected U.S. policy. He has promised he will not compromise and he will hold fast to his rejection of a Palestinian State.

Under his leadership, the Knesset has backed him to the hilt. The Prime Minister has also tried to pressure Egypt and other countries in the region to accept Gazan war refugees, raising the specter that his government is working toward permanently expelling Palestinians from their homes. He has insisted that Israel and Israel alone must control the entire area of the Jordan River, leaving no room for a Palestinian State.

And the fallout from his bombing campaigns is not limited to Gaza. He has given cover for Hezbollah, the Houthis, and other terrorist groups to expand the conflict.

The bottom line is clear: Netanyahu's leadership in this war has been a moral and strategic failure that is in direct opposition to American policy and American values.

Netanyahu cannot bomb his way to the return of the hostages. Netanyahu cannot bomb his way to security in the region. Netanyahu cannot bomb his way to peace.

The only path to protect Israel's long-term security and to ensure that Palestinians have equal rights, equal freedom, and the self-determination they deserve is a two-state solution—two states for two peoples.

This has been the stated policy of the U.S. Government dating back decades, and if this far-right Israeli Government does not share that goal, then it is our responsibility to make clear that the Netanyahu government does not get a blank check for U.S. aid.

That is why I have been fighting to condition aid to Israel and protect civilians in Gaza. Over the last few months, I have called for Israel to prevent harm to civilians and for accountability when U.S. weapons are used to target refugee camps and safe zones. I have challenged the administration's decision to bypass Congress in approving arms transfers to Israel. I have worked with my colleagues, led by Senator VAN HOLLEN, on an amendment to condition aid to Israel.

Earlier this month, President Biden delivered a critical step, issuing a national security memorandum that makes clear that any country that receives aid from the United States must follow international law, including Israel. This is a good policy, but enforcement is crucial. Oversight of its implementation is necessary to ensure that it is a meaningful step and not just lip service.

Netanyahu has made clear he plans to launch a military offensive in Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians with nowhere safe to go are currently taking refuge. The administration has warned that expanding operations to Rafah would be a ''disaster'' that the U.S. Government does not support.

Meanwhile, humanitarian aid remains strangled and hunger and disease are sweeping Gaza.

Netanyahu is on dangerous ground. Every day that he continues, more innocent civilians in Gaza suffer and are killed, and thousands more Americans say ''enough'' and call on our government to end U.S. aid for such actions.

President Biden has indicated that we are on the verge of a cease-fire that would free the hostages and would allow desperately needed humanitarian aid in. I hope that is true, and it is a meaningful step toward an enduring peace.

But until then, the United States has a responsibility to ensure that our weapons aren't used to target innocent children and families in Gaza. We also have a responsibility to ensure that our support is used to advance long-term peace and stability in the region.

We recognize that it takes two parties to negotiate a meaningful peace, and we should also urge the allies of the Palestinians to do the same. All nations should push in the same direction: Condition aid, return the hostages, resume the cease-fire, and advance peace through a two-state solution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, in the Hawaii Legislature, there was a common custom to ask the presiding officer that the previous speaker's remarks were adopted

as if they were my own. And although I didn't listen to the entirety—I am not prepared to do that because I only got the back end—I just wanted to commend the senior Senator from Massachusetts for her moral clarity about the conduct of the war in Israel and the fact that it is a strategic and moral failure, and that the Prime Minister of Israel must be held to account for the fact that so many people are suffering so unnecessarily.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. President, overturning Roe v. Wade, as outrageous and devastating as it was, was never going to be the end for Republicans. They knew that, and we knew that because they weren't exactly keeping it a secret.

Except there was a set of sort of center-right and even center-left Republicans and pundits who swore privately that it wouldn't open the floodgates to an even greater assault on women's reproductive freedoms. They scoffed at even the possibility of the very kinds of outcomes that we are seeing playing out across the country today—like last week, when the Alabama Supreme Court effectively banned IVF and left people who are trying to start a family with nowhere to turn.

It turns out people were right to be worried, and one of the worst infirmities in this town is that somehow—somehow—you are considered savvy, thoughtful, a centrist, an institutionalist if you never, ever freak out.

''Everything is going to be fine.''

Everything is always going to be fine. He is not going to try to overturn the results of this election. They are not going to go through with overturning Roe v. Wade. Every savvy person at every cocktail hour that I don't attend is always telling us to chill out.

But now it is happening. They went through with it. They repealed Roe, and all of the worst-case scenarios from all of the organizations that pushed for reproductive freedom were deemed right.

I still remember the great Senator from the State of Colorado who made as an emphasis in his reelection campaign women's reproductive freedom. Do you know what everybody called him on the Republican side? Not Mark Udall—Mark Uterus. They thought that was hilarious. Look at this weird focus on women's reproductive freedoms. And he sat there and said: But look, if the Supreme Court changes hands, then Roe is in peril.

Everyone was told to chill out. They made fun of this U.S. Senator for predicting the future.

People were right to be worried. Extreme Republicans are going after women and reproductive freedoms through every way that they can—in Congress, in statehouses, in the Supreme Court, and in State courts.

Gutting Roe was never going to be enough; it was a gateway to all-out war. Right now, millions of women in America are paying the price. They are terrified of what they can and cannot do and what may or may not land them in prison. It is not a crime to start a family, but now it is. It is not a crime to dispose of a nonviable embryo in a lab, but Republicans have made sure that it is a crime.

Do you know how hard it is to do IVF? Everybody who is at least my age knows somebody who had a struggle getting pregnant, and that thing is emotionally and physically and financially exhausting. I have never thought of IVF through a partisan lens. I honestly hadn't. It didn't occur to me that they were going to go after people actually trying to get pregnant.

This is not about babies and life and families. This is about punishing women. This is about taking away their autonomy. This is their objective.

You know, 5 years ago, you might have come to me, and if I had made this kind of speech, you would have been like: Whoa, that is a little much, buddy. They are not going to do that.

They did that. They are still doing that. Republicans in Congress were quick to dismiss it. They even got a memo from their campaign committee to distance themselves from the very policies that they enabled for literally decades. They will try to on the one hand say they are for IVF but on the floor block legislation to enable IVF, and support fetal personhood legislation and block bills to protect IVF federally. They did it yesterday. So no one is fooled.

I know—and the Senator from Connecticut and I have been talking about this—sometimes it is very difficult to see through the fog on policy. On this one, it is not unclear who did what and what they are in the middle of doing. There is nothing pro-life about ripping away the only options available for someone trying to have a kid. There is nothing pro-life about jeopardizing a woman's life by forcing her to carry a nonviable pregnancy to term. That is not a principled belief; that is insanity. It is actively harming an innocent person.

In the wake of last week's decision, fertility clinics in Alabama are abruptly pulling the plug on IVF treatments because they are afraid of being prosecuted. That is leaving people wondering if they will be able to have a kid or not.

Not only can they not go through the process in Alabama, they can't even move their embryos because they are afraid of getting in legal trouble. They can't even move their embryos, right? Like, this was supposed to be—in the most optimistic scenario as well, laboratories of democracy, States can do whatever they want. You can't even take your own embryos and move them to another place where IVF is legal. Say you are a couple in Birmingham close to completing the IVF process. Suddenly, you can't continue it in your home State, and you don't have the ability to finish it somewhere else either. Overnight, these patients are left without options, with no notice and no recourse.

The human implications of the Alabama Supreme Court decision are as obvious as they are devastating, but it is also important to be crystal clear about how we got here politically, because this decision is not an anomaly. It is not a fringe view held by a few whacky judges in a single State. It is the direct result of a decades-long, organized, national effort by Republican hardliners to dismantle reproductive freedoms that were, until recently, the law of the land. They have shown zero restraint in going after people's rights, and there is no reason to believe that they are going to stop anytime soon. They will not. They did this, and they want more, and they have a plan. This is on them. This record is theirs to own.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, before I close, I want to briefly address the ongoing appropriations process. I am glad that we are avoiding a needless and harmful shutdown as we work to finalize the spending bills, including one from the subcommittee I chair overseeing transportation, housing, and urban development.

Our subcommittee, along with our House counterparts, worked on a bipartisan basis to deliver a bill that both adheres to top-line funding levels and provides resources for vital programs that millions of Americans rely on every day. That includes supporting affordable housing, helping to alleviate homelessness, improving roads and highways in communities big and small so that people can get around, and hiring air traffic controllers and rail safety inspectors to make sure our flights and our trains are safe and on time.

It is not a perfect bill. Everyone did not get what they wanted. But I can tell you that Democrats and Republicans worked in good faith and made the most of the funds we had available. I am glad we are near the finish line on our bill and really hope we can find bipartisan agreement on all of the bills so that we can finally fully fund the government. This funding cannot wait any longer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, Senators Stabenow and Wyden be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each prior to the scheduled vote.

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MURPHY. So here is a snapshot of what happened. Republicans said that fixing the border was their top priority. They appointed a hardline conservative, my friend Senator JAMES LANKFORD, to come up with a bipartisan bill to fix the border. They said that if Lankford can get the deal, they would support it.

We got that deal. If it had passed, it would have been the toughest border

security bill in our lifetime. Arguably, it would have been the toughest border security bill ever—$20 billion for border security, more detention beds, more patrol officers, more asylum officers, more equipment to intercept fentanyl, a new power for the President to close parts of the border when crossings get too high, an end to the era in which an asylum applicant could spend 10 years in the country before their application was heard.

It was tough. It would have helped to fix the border. It was a compromise. Get this: It was supported by the conservative pro-Trump Border Patrol union and the left-leaning association of immigration attorneys. The Washington Post was for it, and the Wall Street Journal was for it.

It was a true compromise, but within hours of the bill's release, Republicans killed it. When it came to the floor, only four Republicans voted for the bill they asked for.

It has now been 22 days since Republicans killed the toughest border security bill of our lifetime—a bipartisan bill that would have helped us control the border. Why did Republicans do this? Because Republicans do not want to fix the border. The secret is out. For Republicans, the border is a moneymaking grievance machine, and if we passed our border bill and fixed the problem, Republicans literally wouldn't know what to do with their days. FOX would lose ratings. Republican Senators would lose clicks and donors. Donald Trump would lose an issue to campaign on. What would some of my Republican Senate colleagues do with their weekends if they couldn't go down to the border and dress up as Border Patrol officers and scream about fake outrage? If the border bill passed, if the border was under control, Republicans might have to get hobbies.

If the bipartisan bill to control our border had passed, our border would be more orderly, our immigration system would be vastly improved, and America would be better off and more secure, but, yes, Republicans would lose their moneymaking grievance machine—the broken border.

That is what happened. Republicans killed the toughest bipartisan border bill that they have ever seen because they don't want to fix the border. They want to keep it a mess because they think it helps them politically.

Twenty-two days since Republicans killed the toughest bipartisan border security bill in over a decade.

Do you know who does want to fix the border? President Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress. Joe Biden asked for those additional resources to hire more Border Patrol Agents, to build more detention capacity, and to install more technology at the border to interrupt the fentanyl trade. Joe Biden helped write the bipartisan border bill which gave him those new powers I talked about.

Today, Joe Biden is going to be at the border to talk about his agenda to put border security first but also to make other badly needed changes to our immigration system, like improving our asylum system and getting a pathway to citizenship for people who have been living in the shadows of our society for far too long.

Donald Trump is going to be at the border today, too, but for a different reason. Donald Trump does not see the border as a problem that needs to be fixed; Donald Trump sees the border as a problem to be exploited. He openly brags about instructing his followers here in the U.S. Senate to kill the bipartisan border bill because its passage would have been good for Joe Biden and the country.

To Joe Biden, the border is a serious issue that he wants to fix, and he has a plan to do it. For Donald Trump and Republicans, the border is just a moneymaking grievance machine that they refuse to solve.

The problem is, nothing can pass in Washington without Republican support. I know there are Republicans who voted for the bipartisan bill—only four—but the rule is that Republicans refuse to support more resources, more patrol officers, more detention beds, and the rule is that they will vote against any bipartisan legislation to make the border more secure.

So 22 days since Republicans killed the toughest border security bill during our time in the Senate, and unfortunately the border is going to remain unresolved so long as Republicans don't want to solve it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank Senator MURPHY for his extraordinary leadership. He and Senator LANKFORD and Senator SINEMA came together, leading an effort that was amazing—intense, hard-fought negotiations on something so very, very important. And they got it done. They got it done—a bipartisan border security bill, the toughest in our generation.

I want to thank Senator MURPHY for that and for his continual advocacy and putting a spotlight on the fact that we can still do this. We have this bill. We have this bill in front of us.

The President of the United States, President Biden, has gone to the border to say: Pass the bill, the bipartisan bill.

Donald Trump has gone to the border to say: Yay, more chaos. Keep it coming.

The truth is—and we hear it all the time; I have heard it my whole time in the Senate—Republicans like to portray themselves as being the party of national security. If you want your family to be safe, you need to vote for Republicans.

Well, 22 days ago and counting—we will see how high this number gets—22 days ago, we had a chance to boost our national security by voting for the strongest border security bill in our lifetime; and 22 days ago, they killed it. That is a fact, and we all know why. Donald Trump told them to do it, and if Donald Trump tells Republicans to jump, the only question they ask is, How high, sir?

Democrats are committed to solving the challenges at the border. There are multiple issues that need to be addressed and that are addressed in this bill, and we know it is critical that we give President Biden the tools he has been asking for, ever since he came into office, to be able to resolve these issues. Again, that is exactly what this legislation would do. It is bipartisan. It meets all of the tests that people have been asking for for months.

And, if it passed, it would significantly improve our Nation's security in a number of important ways. It would reform our broken asylum system so that decisions would be made more quickly on who should be allowed to remain in the country and who should be deported. Those allowed to stay would be provided authorization to work so that they could take care of themselves and their families and fill crucial jobs in our economy while waiting for their cases to be resolved.

The legislation would create a new emergency authority that would allow the President of the United States to pause the processing of asylum claims of migrants who arrive between ports of entry when cases rise beyond a certain number.

The legislation provides important resources to increase our border security: more border security agents and more equipment that our agents have been asking for over and over again and that the President has asked for over and over again. This is one of the reasons that the border security union strongly supports this as a major step forward that will make a major difference in solving the problems at the border.

And, so importantly, this legislation included the FEND OFF Fentanyl Act, which would make our communities safer by helping government Agencies more effectively disrupt the flow of opioids and penalize traffickers. By the way, that is the whole country impacted by that. People in Michigan, families in Michigan, are impacted by that, not just those at the border. Oftentimes, people forget that Michigan is, in fact, a border State. We are a border State.

This bill would provide up to $75 million in grants that are critically needed for our State and local communities and Tribal law enforcement Agencies to help secure our northern border.

You know, Republicans say they care about our national security, but actions speak otherwise. Growing up, I had heard over and over again from my mom, ''Actions speak louder than words,'' and it has never been more true than on this issue of border security.

Democrats stand ready. We have been ready. We are ready. We are ready tomorrow. We are ready next week to

pass this critical legislation to improve our border security and keep our communities safe. Now, 22 days have gone by—22 days have gone by—since the Republicans said no. Let's come together and do the right thing. It is not about just talk; it is about action. The American people deserve action, and we are ready to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF MARJORIE A. ROLLINSON

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a few minutes, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Marjorie A. Rollinson to serve as Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, and I want to make a few key points about her.

First, she has exactly the right experience to do the job. She has decades of tax and management experience in both the private sector and the public sector. She spent several years at the IRS Office of Chief Counsel. She has also been the Technical Deputy Associate Chief Counsel and the Associate Chief Counsel—both times on international tax issues—so she has real expertise on these issues. That is a big reason she got bipartisan support in the Finance Committee.

And this is a crucial time for the Agency in terms of implementing and enforcing tax laws, and I will just give colleagues a couple of quick examples that I know Members feel strongly about, and I would like to start with energy.

One of the big implementation jobs in the works—something that I have been very involved in and I know Members on both sides have—deals with a key part of the Inflation Reduction Act, specifically the area of incentives for energy production. This was the centerpiece of the Finance Committee's Clean Energy for America Act, a bill that I first introduced in 2015.

What motivated that legislation—and I see a number of my Finance Committee colleagues here—is we said that, for the future, to tackle climate in the right way, we had to set aside the old system of picking winners and losers and just propping up the old, carbon-intensive technologies and, in effect, go to a new system—a brandnew system—of technological neutrality—in effect, giving all the energy sources in America the opportunity to compete and compete in a way where there are no mandates—in effect, private sector style competition—with one goal: reducing carbon emissions.

The Senate Finance Committee—and there are several members on the floor right now—understands this. Our committee had never done anything like this in 100 years—to create this kind of market incentive, a market incentive to actually reduce carbon emissions.

Now, the administration has been working through, right now, a number of challenging rules. Technology neutrality is the next big one for them. It is essential to get this guidance out there so that taxpayers and clean energy producers can take full advantage of the law and, particularly, be part of this new system, this new approach, that we call technological neutrality. It will give every Member of this body—and I see additional members of the Finance Committee coming in—an opportunity to be part of this very new world in energy, and Ms. Rollinson will play a chief role as IRS Chief Counsel once she is confirmed.

If she is confirmed, she is going to play another important role in terms of tax enforcement. Every member of the Finance Committee feels strongly about making sure audits are dealt with in a responsible way. We want to do it by the book so it is not just low-income families who get audited. Everybody who is skirting the law should be subject to equal treatment under the law, and we ought to crack down on the sophisticated, wealthy tax cheats who pay for the best tax lawyers and accountants. It is a matter of basic fairness with respect to audits, and Ms. Rollinson will handle that in the right fashion.

I will close by saying I think Ms. Rollinson is an excellent pick for the job. This is a crucial time for this position. They are going to be implementing a very new energy world, a world based on technological neutrality and marketplace competition, and they are going to have the responsibility of ensuring the enforcement of tax law in a fair way, particularly as it relates to audits. That is why she got bipartisan support in the Finance Committee. It is why she deserves bipartisan support today.

I urge my colleagues now to approve the Rollinson nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON ROLLINSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rollinson nomination?

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, 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 Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 60 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Cassidy	Hickenlooper
Bennet	Collins	Hirono
Blumenthal	Coons	Kaine
Booker	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Brown	Duckworth	King
Butler	Durbin	Klobuchar
Cantwell	Fetterman	Luján
Cardin	Gillibrand	Manchin
Carper	Hassan	Markey
Casey	Heinrich	Menendez
Merkley	Rosen	Tillis
Murkowski	Rounds	Van Hollen
Murphy	Schatz	Warner
Murray	Schumer	Warnock
Ossoff	Shaheen	Warren
Padilla	Sinema	Welch
Peters	Smith	Whitehouse
Reed	Stabenow	Wyden
Romney	Tester	

NAYS—41

Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Moran	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). 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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO ''WAIVER OF BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS''—VETO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of the veto message with respect to S.J. Res. 38, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message, a joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to ''Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes prior to the vote.

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong opposition to override President Biden's veto on S.J. Res. 38, a Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove of the Biden administration's phase-in of ''Buy American'' requirements for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

We continue to see almost daily reminders that our planet is on fire. Scientists tell us we are running out of time to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid the worst of the climate crisis. The world is looking to the

United States for leadership right here on this floor.

If we override the veto of the President, Senator RUBIO's resolution would undermine domestic production of EV chargers. This resolution would create greater uncertainty for our domestic EV charging industry, directly contradicting our goal of having this equipment made and assembled right here in America. That is why groups like the AFL–CIO and the United Steelworkers oppose the Rubio resolution. It would mean shipping jobs overseas instead of building our supply chain right here at home.

This resolution would actually weaken ''Buy American'' requirements. It would result in more EV charging projects being built overseas, not less. It would undermine American workers and our Nation's ability to be global leaders in electric vehicles.

Put simply, a vote to override the veto is a vote against American manufacturing of EV chargers.

That is why I oppose this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do so as well. Thirty-five percent of our emissions in this country for global warming come from our mobile sources—35 percent. It is imperative we continue to work on that and go after that as our target.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON VETO MESSAGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are required under the Constitution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Ricketts	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Coons	Hassan
Butler	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Cantwell	Duckworth	Hickenlooper
Hirono	Murray	Smith
Kaine	Ossoff	Stabenow
Kelly	Padilla	Van Hollen
King	Paul	Warner
Klobuchar	Peters	Warnock
Luján	Reed	Warren
Markey	Rosen	Welch
Menendez	Schatz	Whitehouse
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Murphy	Shaheen	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Moran	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote the yeas are 50, the nays are 47.

Two-thirds of the Senators voting, having not voted in the affirmative, the joint resolution under consideration fails to pass over the President's veto.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise today on the final day recognizing Black History Month to bring attention to this Chamber and to the American people watching the very harmful and anti-democratic practice of book banning happening or being attempted in States all over our country.

The First Amendment in our Constitution is clear:

> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

This amendment gives all Americans the right to speak, publish, and read what they wish, free from government censorship. But a nationwide campaign in States like Florida, Texas, Utah, North Dakota, and even California has been deployed to limit our children's learning and enforce restrictions on one of our most fundamental freedoms.

Right now extremist politicians are working overtime to strip our Nation's bookshelves of essential literature that helps to tell the complete story of America, including the stories of great sacrifice, contribution, and pain of Black Americans. These include stories of struggle and triumph against hatred and bigotry. They recount efforts to reconcile the promise of American ideals with the reality of our most pervasive challenges. Authors who have long been recognized as chroniclers of our Nation's journey have been written off by lawmakers who seek to narrow the scope of what our children can learn about our history.

Now, the organizers of these State-by-State battles would have you believe that they are upholding parents' choice, that imposing these book bans would somehow protect the innocence of our children. But I and so many others who have been watching this contend that the mass effort to shield young learners is an utter slap in the face to communities who too long had to fight to have their very stories told.

Our Nation's most ethnically and racially diverse generation have seen themselves reflected in these pages, and for these extremist adults to deem these stories inappropriate is a direct attack on their experience and their very existence.

Over the past 2 years, these blanket attacks on our books have become more organized and well funded. In 2022, more than 2,500 books were targeted. According to the American Library Association, the majority of those books were about Black or LGBTQ-plus people.

As only the 12th Black Senator to serve in this Chamber and the first openly LGBTQ Black Senator to serve, I will not stand by silently as our stories get erased. That is why I will be joining the Freedom Readers and their efforts to ensure the freedom to learn by regularly taking to the Senate floor and inviting my colleagues to join me to read excerpts of books that tell the story of our Nation, its legacy, and the people who contribute to America's character of imperfection, of resilience, and of progress.

''SISTER OUTSIDER''

I will start today by offering excerpts from an essay in a book titled ''Sister Outsider,'' by Audre Lorde. Anyone who is remotely familiar with Lorde's exceptional body of work can contest to her genius as a writer, a poet, a philosopher, and a civil rights activist.

Her book ''Sister Outsider'' is a collection of speeches and essays in which Ms. Lorde explores the questions surrounding race, identity, life, community, and meaning from her lens as a Black queer woman from Harlem, encouraging readers to do their own self-reflection and inviting them to draw new conclusions about the world around them, and to speak and take action.

Ms. Lorde's work ''The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action'' first appeared in the Cancer Journal, where she shares her journey of having breast cancer, which ultimately led to a mastectomy. It reads, in part:

> In becoming forcibly and essentially aware of my mortality, and of what I wished and wanted of my life, however short it may be, priorities and omissions became strongly etched in a merciless light, and what I most regretted were my silences. Of what had I ever been afraid of? To question or to speak as I believed could have meant pain, or death. But we all hurt in so many different ways, all the time, and pain will either change or end. Death, on the other hand, is

the final silence. And that might be coming quickly, now, without regard for whether I had ever spoken what needed to be said, or had only betrayed myself into small silences, while I planned someday to speak, or waited for someone else's words. And I began to recognize a source of power within myself that comes from the knowledge that while it is most desirable not to be afraid, learning to put fear into perspective gave me great strength.

She writes:

Within those weeks of acute fear came the knowledge—within the war we are all waging with the forces of death, subtle and otherwise, conscious or not—I am not only a casualty, I am also a warrior.

What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say? What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence? Perhaps for some of you here today, I am the face of one of your fears. Because I am woman, because I am Black, because I am lesbian, because I am myself—a Black woman warrior poet doing work—who has come to ask you, are you doing yours?

Ms. Lorde continues:

And it is never without fear—of visibility, of the harsh light of scrutiny and perhaps judgment, of pain, of death. But we have lived through all of those already, in silence, except death. And I remind myself all the time now that if I were to have been born mute or had maintained an oath of silence my whole life long for safety, I would still have suffered, and I would still die. And where the words of women are crying to be heard, we must, each of us, recognize our responsibility to seek those words out, to read them and share them and examine them in their pertinence to our lives. That we not hide behind the mockeries of separations that have been imposed upon us and which so often we accept as our own.

We can learn to work and speak when we are afraid in the same way we have learned to work and speak when we are tired. For we have been socialized to respect fear more than our own needs for language and definition, and while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us.

The fact that we are here and that I speak these words is an attempt to break that silence and bridge some of those differences between us, for it is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken.

In closing, the writings of Ms. Lorde's in ''The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action'' are not only a beautiful articulation in examining the cost of being silent in the face of what could have been for her a terminal illness, she gives us an even better gift: She invites us to acknowledge our commonalities as well as our differences in order to give them voice and to deepen our understanding and expand the power of our words and turn those words into action.

While Ms. Lorde first wrote and delivered this essay in 1977, I think we could all agree that it could easily have been written just yesterday.

Shamefully enough, school administrators in Tennessee took steps to target this book and to issue educational gag orders with a goal to suppress hundreds of other stories from being told.

Now more than ever, we must heed Ms. Lorde's call to speak into the silence, to raise our voices and reject the intimidation of those who would have the history of our Nation, the beauty of our differences, and the complexity of our humanity disappear from generations of learners to come.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me as Freedom Readers, to challenge those who attempt to undermine our history, and uplift the diversity of our stories against the attacks to erase them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

BICENTENNIAL OF VERMILLION COUNTY, INDIANA

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Vermillion County, IN, on the occasion of its bicentennial, which occurred earlier this month.

I begin this tribute thousands of miles and an ocean away from West Central Indiana, in Iejima, which is an island off the coast of Okinawa. There in Iejima, in a park by the side of a road, stands a small monument made of white stone. There is a bronze plaque that is placed near its base, and it reads:

At this spot the 77th Infantry Division lost a buddy, Ernie Pyle, 18th April 1945.

They weren't the only ones who lost a friend that day. No other writer so vividly captured the experiences of the American soldier or better chronicled the war that they fought during World War II than Ernie Pyle. The warmth and directness of Ernie Pyle's columns channeled the voice of the GI and communicated it clearly to the countrymen back home.

Pyle was by so many accounts America's greatest war correspondent. He was a shy farm boy from the town of Dana in Vermillion County. In fact, the house he was born in is still there. His writing style reflected his upbringing in the warmth of smalltown America and Hoosier common sense.

That monument that I mentioned near the spot he died is just one of the incredible things that Vermillion County's people have accomplished and how the values instilled there made them possible.

Now, I will allow that not all Americans have heard of this part of Indiana. After all, it is a small spot on the map, bounded to the east by the Wabash River—7 miles wide, 37 miles long—home to less than 16,000 citizens, but as Ernie Pyle's life demonstrates, we are all, each and every one of us, better off because of the Hoosiers who have called Vermillion County home.

They have done great things, and they have done them quietly, in and far away from their own communities. In fact, when our Union was in peril, our freedoms threatened, Vermillion County's residents answered the call again and again and again.

They fought in the siege of Vicksburg, suffered in the misery of Andersonville. Their bodies rest far from Vermillion County's Hoosier soil. They are in American cemeteries abroad. Their names can be found on the tablets of the lost. Their families still hold the Purple Hearts and hang the Gold Star banners.

These Hoosiers have not only defended America, but with their industriousness and creativity, they have contributed to all of our walks of life.

The area's first settlers discovered the richness of Vermillion County soil. Two centuries later, their descendants still work the land. In fact, hundreds of farms—many of them family-owned—help drive the local economy and feed our Nation.

Vermillion County has provided much else, though: leaders—leaders who have risen to Indiana's highest offices; but not just leaders—explorers, actors, athletes, engineers, and, of course, one legendary journalist who was the voice of the American soldier and won the Pulitzer Prize.

The rich history of Vermillion County isn't simply characterized by a list of outbound citizens, though. It is also characterized by hopeful new arrivals.

At the end of the 19th century, the town of Clinton was a destination for Italian immigrants seeking employment in the nearby coal mines. They embraced their new home and their country, and they left a legacy in Vermillion County that is still visible and recalled every September. The Little Italy Festival is a 4-day celebration of Clinton's Italian heritage held almost every Labor Day since 1966. It is one of the most cherished local traditions.

With its small towns, their historic buildings, family businesses, its beautiful landscapes, and beloved covered bridges, Vermillion County is quintessential Indiana and quintessential America. But it is the Hoosiers who live there that we can celebrate on this anniversary.

A story Ernie Pyle recorded from ''good old Dana''—as he put it—catches their spirit just as clearly as his reports from the front gave voice to the GIs. You see, when Pyle's mother suffered a stroke, she badly needed a hospital bed. There was only one in the entire county. It was the property of a family living 8 miles away. They were happy to loan it, but the Pyles had no way to transport their bed to their home. When he heard about this dilemma, one Claude Lockeridge, who lived just down the road from the Pyles, fired up his old Model T truck and drove 16 miles in the snow to fetch the bed.

It is a little gesture of kindness, perhaps, but a million of these are what makes America—and I would argue, it is what makes America great.

The occasion of its 200th anniversary is a fitting time not simply to honor Vermillion County but to remember—to remember how much our small towns and our local communities matter and how essential the decency, kindness, and patriotism found in places like Vermillion County is to our Republic.

To the people of Vermillion County, we join you in the celebration of your

bicentennial; we thank you for all you have done for our State and our country; and we look forward to the days ahead.

God bless.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO RON WANEK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Mr. Ron Wanek, a great business leader, innovator, and philanthropist from the great State of Wisconsin, as he, his family, and his company celebrate his induction into the Wisconsin Manufacturing Hall of Fame.

Wisconsin has a long history of being the home of many successful manufacturing businesses. With his induction into the Manufacturing Hall of Fame, Mr. Wanek joins the ranks of past inductees, such as Jerome Case, Patrick Cudahy, Sam Johnson, Walter Kohler, Oscar Mayer, Frederick Miller, and Gustave Pabst, just to name a few of the 78 iconic titans of business who helped to make Wisconsin a proud manufacturing State.

For his part in continuing the long legacy of Wisconsin manufacturing, Ron Wanek founded Arcadia Furniture in the small town of Arcadia, WI, back in 1970. Back then, Mr. Wanek employed just a total of 35 people. Through hard work and innovation, in 1982, Arcadia Furniture merged with Ashley Furniture Cooperation and became Ashley Furniture Industries.

During these last 42 years, Ashley Furniture has grown into the world's largest manufacturer of home furnishings, with over 30 million square feet of worldwide manufacturing and distribution capability, with retail locations throughout the United States and in 67 countries worldwide. Ashley proudly employs 16,000 people in the United States, including 3,000 hard-working Wisconsinites.

Throughout his successful professional career, Mr. Wanek has become the personification of the phrase ''business is a force for good.'' With his focus on philanthropy, the Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation has contributed tens of millions of dollars in support for important charitable causes in Wisconsin and across the country.

Through his charitable work, Mr. Wanek has become an unmatched supporter of technical and STEM education at both the K–12 and postsecondary levels. Through his various programs, partnerships, and scholarships, the Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation aims to encourage students to pursue careers in STEM fields and improve the quality of life in their own communities.

In addition, Mr. Wanek is an ardent supporter of America's veterans. His establishment of the beautiful Soldiers Walk at Memorial Park in Arcadia, WI—a premier war memorial in the United States, with 29 monuments and statues honoring all of those who have served our country—is just one example of his dedication to those who have sacrificed and, in some cases, paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedoms Wisconsinites and Americans enjoy every day. Some would say the Arcadia Soldiers Walk rivals the magnificence of the war memorials around our Nation's Capital.

Finally, Mr. Wanek is not only a great personification of the American dream, but he actively and enthusiastically supports a steadfast American free enterprise system—a system which has made this country the economic engine of the world.

I congratulate Ron Wanek on his recent induction into the Wisconsin Manufacturing Hall of Fame. It is well-deserved.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Michigan.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, when my three children were born, it was unlike anything else I have ever, ever experienced before. Those 3 days were the best in my life, and it is hard to put into words how beautiful and how daunting it is to have a child.

Every American who wants to be a parent should have that opportunity, and when they are faced with medical challenges while starting a family, they should have the right to pursue every resource to help them navigate that process. IVF is one of those tools, and it has helped countless Americans. For those who have experienced frequent miscarriages, suffered from genetic disorders, or are otherwise affected by infertility, IVF is an essential procedure. It is safe. It is necessary. And it has given millions of people the chance to have a family.

Last week, a ruling from the Alabama Supreme Court put the future of IVF in jeopardy. So my Democratic colleagues and I went to work. We proposed a bill that would protect the right to seek IVF treatment for all Americans. I am grateful to Senators DUCKWORTH and MURRAY for leading the charge on this legislation, and I was proud to be one of the cosponsors.

But, yesterday, Republicans blocked the Senate from passing it. They decided to put politics before protecting a critical medical procedure. They have put this resource at risk, one that has allowed millions of women and LGBTQ Americans to have children. They think that they know better than doctors. They think they know better than parents. They think they know more than four decades of proven science. The bill they opposed is literally pro-life and pro-family. Yet Republicans refused to put it on the floor.

Let's not forget how this all started. Senate Republicans stood with former President Trump when he stacked the Supreme Court with extreme judges. And when the Court overturned Roe v. Wade, it ripped the right to make choices about reproductive healthcare away from millions of women.

And now conservatives across the country feel empowered to take it even further. The ruling in Alabama is just the latest instance in the war against reproductive freedom. It could keep millions of Americans from starting families, and Senate Republicans are just fine with that.

We don't know how far this will go. We don't know what other proven procedures Republicans will try to take away from families in the future. We don't know what effect these rulings will have on new innovations in fertility science. We don't know if they are going to come after birth control next. But one thing is very, very clear: This is just the beginning of their efforts to deny reproductive freedom.

IVF should be available to every American citizen who needs it. And when someone is choosing to have children, politicians should never get in the way.

I call on my Republican colleagues to support the Access to Family Building Act, to stop playing politics and instead stand behind the millions of Americans who simply want—who simply want—the chance to start a family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday, my good friend Leader MCCONNELL shared some big news. At the end of this year, he will step down as the Republican leader of the U.S. Senate after having served the longest tenure of any leader in Senate history. For more than 17 years, he has been the steady hand at the helm, guiding us through some of the most consequential debates in recent history. He steered us through multiple wars, through a pandemic and countless high-stakes political battles under four different Presidents. Under his leadership, Congress rewrote the Federal Tax Code to help families across the country, unleashed American-generated power, and reshaped the Federal judiciary for a generation—and so much more.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Leader MCCONNELL and witness a modern-day ''Master of the Senate.'' I will have more to say about our friend from Kentucky at a later date, but the good news is he is not going anywhere. Senator MCCONNELL will lead our conference through the end of this Congress, but he will remain in the Senate through the rest of his term. During that time, he will do as he has always done: represent the State of Kentucky and put his expert knowledge of this Chamber to use on their behalf.

For now, let me just say thanks to Leader MCCONNELL for everything he has done for this body and our great country.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on another matter, this week, the Senate finds itself in familiar territory. For the fourth time since last September, Congress is rushing to avert a government shutdown. Unless a funding bill is signed

into law before the clock strikes midnight tomorrow, portions of the Federal Government will shut down. And if nothing changes by the following Friday, we will be plunged into a full government shutdown.

I have made my feelings about government shutdowns crystal clear. No. 1, they don't save money. No. 2, they don't solve any problems. No. 3, they hurt innocent Americans and dedicated public servants. Government shutdowns are not in anyone's best interest, and I am glad that all four congressional leaders agree that we need to avoid a lapse in funding.

Before the end of this week—before tonight, I hope—I expect Congress to pass another stopgap funding bill. This will provide more time to advance regular appropriations bills, and I hope we can see some real progress this time.

But I must say that responsibility for where we are today lies at the feet of the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. Yes, the House has its problems, but here in the Senate, Senator MURRAY, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator COLLINS, and the entire Appropriations Committee have produced bipartisan—in some cases unanimous—appropriations bills that Senator SCHUMER has simply refused to put on the floor. So, without a doubt, he is complicit in where we find ourselves today.

It is just another example of how the Senate is broken. While the ongoing game of brinkmanship is extremely dangerous, it calls into question our military readiness and jeopardizes our national security at an increasingly dangerous time.

Making matters worse, this saga is completely avoidable. As I mentioned, the Appropriations Committee in the Senate passed 12 bills last summer, providing a lot of time for Senator SCHUMER to bring those bills to the floor. That is the earliest the Appropriations Committee has acted in the last 5 years. Thanks to Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS, they laid the groundwork for a thorough and ontime appropriations process. But Senator SCHUMER has ball control, and he simply failed to put those bills on the floor in a timely fashion, leading us to where we are today.

As I said, the Senate did not pass a single regular appropriations bill before the September 30 deadline. This was September 30 of last year. I don't know if people really appreciate how broken the Senate is, thanks to a lack of leadership. We are working on appropriations bills from last year. The fiscal year began the end of September of last year. As a result of the failure to do his job, Congress had to pass stopgap funding bills in September, November, and January.

And just think about it for a minute. If we weren't lurching from one crisis to the next, what other things might we do to benefit the American people? That is what economists call an opportunity cost. Each time, the Democratic leader vowed to use the extra time to make progress on regular appropriations bills, but each time he failed to do so.

We are now 5 months into the current fiscal year, and it is embarrassing—it should be embarrassing—to note that not a single full-year funding bill has been signed into law.

Members of this body are charged to do the hard work of negotiating, debating, and passing bills to provide government Agencies with ontime funding. It is hard to do when Senator SCHUMER has us in session 2½ days a week—2½ days a week. It is hard to get your job done when you are working 50 percent of the time. But he is the one who controls the agenda. He can say we are starting Monday morning, like most Americans do, and we are not leaving until we finish Friday night, but instead, he has canceled votes on Monday so we come in on Tuesday. We have our first vote at 5:30 on Tuesday, and then we leave after lunch, typically, on a Thursday. No wonder the Senate is broken and not doing its job.

The Senate has a number of big cliffs that are fast approaching as a result of the mismanagement of the Senate schedule. We have major funding deadlines tomorrow, but we also have one a week from now, on the 8th. In addition, here is what else has not been done on a timely basis: the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. That has to be done by next Friday. We need to reauthorize and strengthen section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act before April 19 or else it lapses, making us blind to the efforts of our adversaries to undermine our national security. And, yes, we need to pass a new farm bill before the end of September. We can't do that working half weeks—2½ days a week.

It is important to note that all of these tasks—funding, the FAA, section 702 of the farm bill—should have been completed last year. We are doing last year's work. We are not doing the American people's work today, looking forward, with the challenges with which our country is confronted.

We should have wrapped up our work on each of these items in 2023 instead of punting the deadline to 2024. We are now 2 months into the new year and still struggling to complete the work that should have been done months ago.

As I said, this backlog comes with a serious opportunity cost. When the Senate is dealing with overdue assignments, we don't have the time to work on other critical issues that deserve our attention on behalf of the American people. We don't have the ability to work on legislation to address the border crisis, the fentanyl epidemic, public safety concerns, or other issues that are top of mind for the American people.

Virtually all of the time is focused on one of two things: rushing to complete work that should have been done last year or processing nominations. That is it.

Under Senator SCHUMER's leadership, regular order has been thrown out the window. He has broken the Senate. And this Chamber has simply lurched from one deadline to another.

This should be embarrassing. This is malpractice. It is not negligent because it is by design. It is intentional. This is, regrettably, what we have come to expect under Democratic leadership. This is the new norm.

For the sake of the country, I hope that in the coming weeks, the Senate will prove more productive than the past several months have been. And, yes, I hope we have new management next year after the November election. That is the best way the 330 million people in this country can contribute to changing the status quo, which is a broken Senate, and fixing it, which we know how to do if we change management.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, 3 weeks ago, I stood here and spoke about the consequences of my Republican colleagues walking away from the border agreement.

After decades of crisis after crisis at our border, we had a chance to be the Senators who actually did something about it. We had a real opportunity, a real bill ready to be signed into law by the President—technology to stop fentanyl, more than 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents, authorities and policy changes to prevent the border from being overwhelmed, visas to keep families together, and more. That is what Senators SINEMA, MURPHY, and LANKFORD worked on together for months, with both Democrat and Republican Senate leaders at the table and with the administration at the table, and that is what Senate Republicans turned and walked away from.

I said then that some politicians see more advantage in shouting about problems than actually solving them. Well, let's take a look at what has happened in the last 3 weeks.

A couple of my Republican colleagues traveled to Texas so they could record videos about how bad things were at the border. Neither of them supported the bipartisan border bill. Other of my Republican colleagues have stood on this floor giving speeches, pointing fingers at President Biden. They have done the same on cable news. President Biden supported the bipartisan border bill; they did not.

In fact, one of my Republican colleagues said in his floor speech the other day that he hasn't seen the two Arizona Senators on this floor giving

speeches about the border. To that Senator, I say this: That is because we are not here to just talk about the problem; we are here to do something about it.

By the way, that same Senator did not support the bipartisan border bill.

A group of House Republicans came to my State for what they called a ''factfinding tour.'' What more facts do you need? That it is bad? Of course, it is. It would be better if Border Patrol agents had the resources and staffing and policy changes from the bipartisan border bill we could have passed. That would have helped them. But the folks who went on that trip didn't want to vote for that bill. So, no, this wasn't a factfinding tour; it was just another photo op, because they would rather keep talking about the problem instead of solving the problem. Who does that help? It doesn't help Border Patrol—who, by the way, supported this bipartisan bill. It doesn't help border communities that desperately need some relief.

The problems at the border do not go away when you fly back to Washington, DC. They just don't. And they don't go away when the TV camera stops rolling.

In Arizona, these aren't just talking points; it is a challenge that we face every day that strains our communities, and it strains law enforcement. That is why I am not going to stop working to solve these issues with our border and our immigration system.

Because while anybody can talk about a problem, those of us here in this building have the power to actually do something about it.

That is our job. That is what we were elected to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

ISRAEL

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, it has been several months now since Hamas carried out a truly heinous terrorist attack against Israel. The barbarity of October 7 should not be brushed aside and cannot ever be excused.

We are talking about terrorists gunning down innocent civilians—including in their homes—committing horrible acts of torture and sexual violence, and taking hostages, among them women and elderly people and infants.

As I have said repeatedly, Israel has a clear right to defend itself and its people against the very real and continued threat that Hamas poses to Israeli civilians.

As I have also said many times, that has to be done in accordance with the laws of armed conflict and international humanitarian law.

I appreciate that this is a tough, emotional topic. War always is. But at times like this, we cannot let passion kill compassion. We cannot let the horrors of the present end the hope for a brighter future.

As Israel seeks to eliminate the threat posed by Hamas, it must make every effort to protect innocent civilians in Gaza, who make up the vast, overwhelming majority of people in the Gaza strip.

But as we have watched this conflict escalate, it has become increasingly clear that is not what is happening. Just consider, hundreds of Palestinians were injured or killed today after Israeli troops fired on civilians crowded near aid trucks desperate for something to eat. While we are still learning more about the details, you have to believe that this kind of bloodshed should be completely avoidable.

I come to the floor today as a friend of Israel. I understand the very real threats Israel—home to about half of the world's Jews—faces outside its borders and in keeping its population safe.

And I come to the floor as someone who feels very strongly that Israel absolutely must change course. The collective punishment in Gaza has got to stop, and Israel must do more to protect civilian life.

We need a mutually agreed-upon cease-fire to end the fighting as soon as possible. We need the return of all the hostages by Hamas. And we need a massive surge in humanitarian aid.

Israel needs to understand the casualties they have inflicted on the people of Gaza. The devastation they have caused cannot continue. It is not in line with American interests nor does it make Israel safer.

The prosecution of this war so far by Netanyahu's far-right government has been nothing short of an unquestionable strategic failure. Many of the families of hostages have been protesting Netanyahu themselves, demanding a mutually negotiated cease-fire to see their loved ones safely returned.

Let's consider what is actually happening in Gaza, the human reality on the ground. There are over 2 million people in Gaza who have been displaced from their homes and 1.7 million people facing imminent starvation.

Most of the water in Gaza is unfit for consumption, and two-thirds of the hospitals are no longer operating—there are only 11 left.

Think about that. Think about what that means for the countless people who are starving, who are sick, and who are scared, the survivors. Or better yet, listen to the firsthand accounts. I did.

There are more than 150,000 pregnant and lactating women in harm's way. Doctors who had worked on the ground in Gaza spoke to me about performing emergency C-sections on rubble or in tents without anesthesia and women bleeding out because they couldn't get medical care.

Since the start of the war, 66,000 Palestinians have been injured, 29,000 have been killed, and more than half of them are women and children.

We all understand that war is not a simple thing. But I will just say, I don't know how you call a military operation targeted when there are 29,000 deaths.

I don't know how you call it targeted when there are babies and children being pulled from the rubble. Who does this serve? It cannot continue this way. The situation in Gaza and in the West Bank where there has been a disturbing rise in brazen violence from rightwing Israeli settlers against Palestinian families does not lead to peace and security for Israelis or Palestinians. It just doesn't.

And the rhetoric and stated policies of the Netanyahu regime—like abandoning a two-state solution—have been nothing short of deeply dangerous and wildly counterproductive.

I have voiced my strong support for the President's Executive order to allow sanctions on Israeli settlers in the West Bank who threaten or perpetrate violence against Palestinians.

I also want to make it crystal clear now: Indefinite Israeli control over Gaza is unacceptable, as is any contraction of territory for the Palestinians.

As someone who voted against the war in Iraq, I am acutely aware of mistakes our country made. You cannot defeat terrorism through sheer military force alone. That much is clear. And it is my hope that Israel can heed that lesson.

Winning a war against terrorism isn't a matter of how many people you kill. That approach isn't just bloody and brutal; it can be self-defeating. Terrorists don't care how many people you kill. They certainly don't care how many civilians you kill, because terrorism is not a human enemy of flesh and blood. It is an idea, it is a hatred, a violence, and it thrives on suffering.

So while Israel must work to eliminate the threat posed by Hamas, that fight must be targeted if it is to be successful. You have to fight the hopelessness extremism feeds on. You have to fight the sprawl of violence that entrenches conflict. And you have to stay clear-eyed and strategic in pursuit of justice and in pursuit of lasting peace.

I may be just one of a hundred Senators here, but I have been using my voice to help move things in that direction. On humanitarian aid, I have pressed the Biden administration repeatedly in many conversations to take steps that would dramatically increase aid to Gaza.

And I made including humanitarian aid for Gaza in our national security package a red line for me as the Senate put together our bill—even as Republicans tried over and over and over again to chisel it away.

I also want to be clear about the fact that the taxpayer-funded military aid we provided for Israel for their self-defense is subject to the Leahy Law. I have insisted throughout many conversations that this law is implemented as intended and that civilians are protected and that international law is followed.

And, finally, on moving towards a lasting peace, as President Biden recently noted, talks are ongoing and

productive towards a mutually agreed-upon cease-fire and the safe return of all the hostages. Recent developments like the deaths we saw today in Gaza City will likely make that more difficult, but diplomatic efforts must continue—even after this conflict—to ensure a lasting peace.

That is why I have backed efforts to reiterate America's longstanding policy of support for a two-state solution and will rebuff any statements by Netanyahu or his government that reject Palestinian sovereignty. It is why it is important to me that we don't just talk about fighting the enemy and winning the war but that we also talk about facing the hatred, the Islamophobia and anti-Semitism that have been on the rise in the wake of this conflict and doing the work of peace, creating a future that ensures dignity and security for both Palestinians and Israelis alike.

I want to close by saying a bit about what is happening here in America and in my home State of Washington. Because while this war may be happening across the world, it has been painful for our Arab and Jewish communities at home. They are seeing not just horrific news—including sometimes about relatives and friends—but also a horrific rise in anti-Arab and anti-Semitic violence.

Synagogues in my State have faced bomb threats. A 6-year-old Palestinian boy in Illinois was stabbed to death. And across the nation, there have been other disturbing reports of violence and threats against people perceived to be Arab, Muslim, or Jewish. It is heartbreaking, and it is incumbent upon all of us to stand against that hatred.

Our North Star has to be valuing the humanity in others and listening to the humanity in ourselves. That is my message today, and it is a message I am going to keep working to see put into action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize February as National Children's Dental Health Month. Since 1981, this month has given us the chance to acknowledge the importance of dental health for children, recognize the progress we have made on this front, and renew our commitment to ensure that all children in our country have access to quality, affordable dental care.

Oral health is an aspect of health that is often overlooked, despite its critical role in the overall health of a person. As former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop once said, ''There is no health without oral health.''

In my state, like many others, we have witnessed firsthand the consequences of neglecting oral health in young people. One story that has shaped my view on this issue is that of Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Prince George's County resident who tragically died in 2007 due to a lack of comprehensive dental services. Deamonte's death was particularly heartbreaking because it was entirely preventable. What started out as a toothache turned into a severe brain infection that could have been prevented by an $80 extraction. After multiple surgeries and a lengthy hospital stay, sadly, Deamonte passed away, 17 years ago this month.

Stories like this underscore the need for access to affordable oral health care for all Americans, particularly vulnerable and underserved communities.

While trends over the past several decades show promising reductions in tooth decay among young children, tooth decay remains one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood. About 1 in 4 preschool children experienced tooth decay in primary teeth and at least one in six children aged 6 to 11 years experienced dental tooth decay in permanent teeth. It is also important to note that neglecting oral health at a young age increases the need for more advanced and expensive dental services, which are even less accessible than more standard types of dental care.

There is a persistent pattern of oral health disparities, as children from lower-income and minority racial and ethnic groups generally experience more disease and have less access to treatment.

Children from low-income households are twice as likely to have cavities, compared with children from higher-income households. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for children aged 2 to 5 years, about 33 percent of Mexican-American and 28 percent of non-Hispanic Black children have had cavities in their primary teeth, compared with 18 percent of non-Hispanic White children. For children aged 12 to 19, nearly 70 percent of Mexican-American children have had cavities in their permanent teeth, compared with 54 percent of non-Hispanic White children.

In its most recent Oral Health in America report, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, one of National Institutes of Health, identified disparities as one of the primary challenges facing oral health in the United States. Last year, I held a hearing in the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee to focus on these issues. The hearing highlighted disparities in access to oral health care, which have persisted and have serious consequences for children, adults, families, and communities. I was proud to have Dr. Warren Brill, a distinguished pediatric dentist from Maryland who has long provided care to low-income children and provided valuable insights for our conversation, serve as a witness.

Poor dental health can have lasting impacts on children. Tooth and gum pain can impede a child's healthy development, including the ability to learn, play, and eat nutritious foods. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and get lower grades than children who have good oral health.

While it might be easy to view oral health as an afterthought, it is clear that the issues resulting from a lack of care can have wide-ranging, serious impacts, especially when access to care is a struggle from a young age. Poor oral health can contribute to severe outcomes like the tragic story of Deamonte while also manifesting in broader disparities across racial and ethnic groups.

Since the loss of Deamonte, I am proud to say that we have made significant progress in improving access to pediatric dental care in our country and in my state. In 2009, Congress reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, with an important addition: a guaranteed pediatric dental benefit. Research shows that CHIP generally offers more comprehensive benefits at a much lower cost to families than private coverage.

Additionally, the Affordable Care Act, ACA, has significantly improved access to affordable dental care for millions of Americans by requiring most insurers to cover essential health benefits. I was particularly pleased that pediatric services, specifically pediatric dental care, were identified as part of the ten categories of healthcare services included in the EHB package. As a result, pediatric dental insurance coverage is available for purchase on all State-based insurance marketplaces and the federal marketplace. The dental coverage offered through ACA plans in all States covers a minimum set of benefits to ensure children have coverage for essential dental services.

Expansion of dental insurance coverage has enabled early intervention for more children from low-income households. Today, 9 in 10 children in the U.S. have dental insurance. Dental care is also a mandatory benefit in Medicaid for children since it is provided through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program. Still, research has found that although State Medicaid programs cover children's dental services, fewer than half of all publicly insured children get the recommended care.

This figure demonstrates that there is more we can do to ensure children are receiving proper dental care. This effort is a priority of mine and an area where I believe we can make tangible changes to the lives of many Americans.

For several Congresses, Senator STABENOW and I have introduced the Ensuring Kids Have Access to Medically Necessary Dental Care Act. Our legislation would eliminate lifetime and annual limits for dental care for children under CHIP. The bill would also require

States to provide ''wraparound'' CHIP dental coverage, meaning CHIP would cover dental services for eligible children who are not enrolled in CHIP. Currently, if a child is eligible for CHIP but instead has coverage under a group health plan or employer-sponsored insurance, States have the option of providing dental-only coverage to this child through CHIP. This bill requires that dental coverage be offered.

In recent years, dentists nationwide have seen a significant decrease in operating room access for dental procedures. This problem has primarily impacted children and adults with disabilities who are in need of urgent dental care and cannot access it in an office-based setting, necessitating care in an operating room. Earlier this Congress, Senator BLACKBURN and I sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging them to include the recently established code for dental surgical services in the 2024 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System. Thankfully, the code was included in CMS's final rule to expand access to these critical procedures and shorten the waitlists to receive care under general anesthesia in operating rooms.

While ensuring dental coverage for our young people is the most direct way to support their oral health, it is also important to keep in mind that providing dental coverage for adults also improves outcomes for their children. A 2021 study found that Medicaid adult dental coverage was associated with a reduction in the prevalence of untreated tooth decay among children after parents had access to coverage for at least one year. The study found that all children saw improvements in oral health, and non-Hispanic Black children experienced larger and more persistent improvements than non-Hispanic White children. A Medicaid dental benefit for adults would enhance the progress for children and provide much needed dental care and improve oral health outcomes for adults.

That is why I am proud to have introduced the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act, which would extend comprehensive dental health benefits to tens of millions of low-income Americans on Medicaid. The legislation would provide States with a 100 percent federal match for the dental benefit for three years. This investment of federal funds would support states to set up or improve their dental benefit and assist in provider education and outreach efforts to better connect enrollees to oral health care.

Oral health is a crucial part of overall health, and it should be a priority for Americans from a young age. Dental care should not be a luxury or reserved for the most privileged. Access to quality, affordable care is not only important in the fight against tooth decay and related complications, but also plays a valuable role in combatting the health disparities that plague our communities. As we recognize our progress on this issue, we must recommit to expanding access to oral health services. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

S.J. RES. 60

Madam President, we are shortly going to be voting on a motion by Senator PAUL in regards to the F–16 sale to Türkiye. Recently, the administration noted an F–16 sale to Türkiye to modernize its F–16 air capacity.

I understand my colleague from Kentucky's concern about President Erdogan's record. I share some of those concerns. The State Department's most recent human rights report on Türkiye found significant issues, including credible reports of: forced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrests, and continued detention of tens of thousands of persons, opposition politicians, former members of parliament, lawyers, journalists, and human rights activists.

In addition, Türkiye has targeted U.S. partners in the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces and supported Azerbaijan in its brutal war last year to conquer Nagorno-Karabakh.

This is unacceptable, and I have not hesitated to make it clear that Türkiye needs to change course. I have consulted closely with the highest levels of the Biden administration about this transition over several months.

I believe they share my concerns, and I believe we are making progress. And our former colleague Ambassador Flake is engaging regularly on these issues with the government in Ankara.

So I want to be clear, my approval of the Biden administration's sale of the F–16 aircraft to Türkiye was not a decision I came to lightly as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It was contingent on Turkish approval of Sweden's NATO membership. That condition has been met. Türkiye's parliament ratified Sweden's NATO membership bid. This comes at a critical time.

(Mr. BOOKER assumed the Chair.)

President Putin is continuing his brutal war in Ukraine and threatening NATO and all of Europe. Given the stakes, not only is Sweden's membership vital to NATO, so is Türkiye's.

Türkiye is a key to the defense of the southern flank of NATO. It is host to a major U.S. military presence. And Türkiye's F–16 fleet contributes to NATO, including in the Black Sea, which is critical to our national security.

That is why it is in the national security interest of the United States and our allies for Türkiye to upgrade its aging F–16 fleet to a more capable model, a model that is compatible with the United States and NATO partners. That is exactly what this sale will do. It will usher in an important new chapter in our relationship with Türkiye.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to reject the resolution being offered by my friend from Kentucky and allow this sale to go forward. It is in our national security interest. It is in the security interest of our allies. It will strengthen NATO and strengthen our resolve against Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, the United States and Türkiye have an important and complex relationship, and I have been repeatedly outspoken about my concerns regarding Ankara's actions under President Erdogan. These include President Erdogan's ongoing attacks against our Syrian Kurdish allies, his aggressive actions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and the role he played in supporting Azerbaijan's military assaults against Nagorno-Karabakh. The Biden administration recently briefed me on these issues and provided some answers around my concerns.

Though I have been glad to see that President Erdogan has ceased the incursions by military aircraft into Greek airspace, the administration informed me that they continue to monitor this matter closely in order to encourage the ongoing dialogue between Greece and Türkiye. Additionally, I received assurances from the administration that it will continue to warn Azerbaijan against taking further military action against Armenia and that they will work with Türkiye to prevent any further escalation of that conflict. I remain deeply troubled by President Erdogan's attacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces—SDF—in Northeast Syria; however, the administration assured me that they continue to voice their strong objections to these attacks, including the threat posed to U.S. forces working with the SDF, and reaffirmed their ongoing commitment to supporting this crucial partner, who has served as the tip of the spear in our campaign to defeat the Islamic State. The administration told me that they would more clearly communicate that commitment to the SDF to allay concerns that have been expressed about a reduced American commitment to our partnership.

While Türkiye's ratification of Sweden's NATO membership was long delayed, it has been a welcome step forward and an important signal to the NATO community. I hope that this step indicates a broader realignment of Türkiye's actions with U.S. national security interests and serves as a platform upon which we can address these other lingering issues in the bilateral relationship. It is for these reasons that I will be opposing S.J. Res. 60, which would disapprove of the sale of 40 F–16s and other defense articles and services to the Government of Türkiye. I will continue to stay in regular communication with the administration regarding their assurances on these and other key issues. It is clear that we must keep a close watch on Türkiye in the weeks and months ahead; actions speak louder than words.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today in respect to S.J. Res. 60, which, as I understand it, will be up for vote here fairly quickly. And I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 60. S.J. Res. 60, in essence, says that we would not keep the commitment that we have made to sell or refurbish the F–16 jets to Türkiye.

I am not here to tell you that Türkiye is the best partner that we have had. Indeed, as former chairman and now ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I deal and have to deal with them regularly on a lot of issues. They are an ally in NATO. NATO, as we all know, is the strongest political and military alliance that has ever been created on the planet, and Türkiye is a member of that alliance.

To be honest with you—and I tell them this face-to-face—they are not acting like a partner; they are not acting like an ally, and there are a long list of complaints that we have in that regard.

This actually started with defense missiles that they wanted to buy, and we offered them the Patriot missiles, as we do to all of our NATO allies, and, indeed, instead, they chose to purchase Russian S–400 missiles.

At the same time, they had purchased, or were in the process of purchasing, four F–35 of ours—which everybody wants, understandably. But at the time that they bought the S–400s, I told them they can't have S–400s in the same country as F–35s. If they are going to do business with Russia, so be it, but there are consequences for that.

So as a result of that, I put a hold on the F–35s, and I was followed by the other three corners and that hold was successful and the F–35s have not been transferred to Türkiye. And that was the fight we had with them over the S–400s.

We have made them a number of reasonable offers to try to resolve this, but they have not accepted any of those offers, and the result of that is they still got the S–400s, and we still got the four F–35s, which are going to stay here until the S–400s leave the country.

So the next thing that happened was they came to us and said, well, their F–16s were aging. They needed to be refurbished, and they needed a number of new F–16s.

About that time, they decided to put a hold on Sweden and Finland entering NATO. And as we all know, Finland and Sweden really, really wanted to enter NATO shortly after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and everybody in NATO agreed with that, with the exception of Türkiye and Hungary.

Both used the accession to NATO by those two countries as a way to use leverage against other countries within NATO on some parochial disputes that they have. That is not the way you do business as an ally. When your allied, yes, you will always have issues that you have to deal with other allied countries, but you don't use the security of the whole. You don't use the good of the whole as a bargaining chip to try to get a leg up on those.

So the result of that was for a long, long time, Türkiye held up the accession of those two countries into NATO. As a result of that, I held up the F–16 purchases that they wanted to make.

Negotiations went on for a long time. We were made promise after promise. The promises were broken. But, finally, they did roll over earlier this year, late last year, and allowed the accession of both Sweden and Finland. The result of that was that we agreed that we would do what they wanted to do with the F–16s.

This particular resolution, the S.J. Res. 60, really undoes that agreement, and I can fully understand Senators being upset with Türkiye for this and a long list of other complaints that we have. But a deal is a deal and we made this agreement and they kept their side of the bargain—admittedly not very timely, but they did keep their side of the bargain. And now Finland is in, and Sweden is about to come in so that will be the state of play.

I would urge a ''no'' vote on this simply because it is imperative to the United States, when we give our word on something, that we keep our word, and so that is where we are.

Having said that, I have urged Türkiye on a number of occasions to examine their conscience and really think about what their commitment means to NATO. That commitment to NATO all the rest of us have is very, very strong, and Türkiye and Hungary have not been behaving the way the rest of us in the coalition behave.

One of the most troubling things to me is both of them hold hands with Putin under the table, and that is a very, very bad state of affairs as far as what is going on in Europe, as far as NATO's relationship with Russia, and just the overall situation.

So although we have a lot of things to complain about with Türkiye, on this particular occasion, I am going to urge that we defeat S.J. Res. 60 and actually keep the agreement that we made regarding the F–16s.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, what we have here is a clear case of quid pro quo. If Türkiye releases its hold on Sweden's membership in NATO, then Türkiye gets America's F–16s.

You may remember the last time we had a famous case of quid pro quo here. Boy, everybody was all up in a lather, and they said that we had to impeach Donald Trump because it is a quid pro quo. Apparently, it depends on what the quid is and what the quo is.

Quid pro quo, though, is actually more the norm than it is actually the exception. The speakers you have seen here today were adamantly against Türkiye and adamantly against them getting the F–35 because they possess a Russian defensive weapon system that may well allow exploitation and allow Americans to become more vulnerable.

But now they are adamantly for it because it got Sweden into NATO. Thank God Sweden is in NATO. We can all rest easy.

Rewarding Türkiye with the sale of $23 billion of F–16 fighters, though, has some repercussions, and we should think about it before we do it. I maintain that there are deep concerns about the sale as it was initially proposed in 2021, and I have maintained my opposition given Türkiye's dismal human rights record, its unreliable behavior as a NATO ally, and its disruptive military actions in the Middle East, the Caucuses, and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Congress must not serve as a rubberstamp for President Biden's side deals. The quid pro quo to expand NATO should not come at the expense of rewarding the alliances most embarrassing member.

President Biden pledged to center U.S. foreign policy on the defense of democracy and the protection of human rights. But Biden's own State Department issued a human rights report for Türkiye in 2022 which identifies significant human rights issues, including arbitrary killings, suspicious deaths of persons in custody, forced disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest, and the continued detention of tens of thousands of persons, including opposition politicians, former members of Parliament, lawyers, journalists, human rights activists, and even an employee of the U.S. Mission.

It doesn't sound like one of our best allies. The Human Rights Foundation of Türkiye, a nongovernmental organization operating out of Ankara, reports that some 1,130 individuals were subjected to torture and other forms of mistreatment while in custody or at extra-custodial places—meaning not jails, some, you know, out-of-the-way place that no one can see where the torture happens—and this sadly also includes the torture of children.

In March 2023, it was reported a 14-year-old boy on his way home in southeast Türkiye was stopped by the police with no justification. He was subsequently abducted and subjected to torture. The police beat him with their guns and, according to the boy's lawyer, tried to force him to say: I am a Turk, a curse upon the Kurds. When he refused, the police instructed him to memorize the Turkish national anthem by the next day, threatening to shoot him if he failed to do so. The police then bound his hands and threw him into a swamp, before local villagers, hearing his cries for help, rescued him and brought him to the hospital.

The State Department's report also identifies—our State Department—identifies severe restrictions on the freedom of expression and assembly in Türkiye, violence and threats of violence against journalists in Türkiye, increased censorship, criminal liable laws, and unfortunately much more.

Since 2014, it is estimated that more than 160,000 people were investigated

for insulting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and more than 35,000 went to trial.

Imagine if it were a crime in the United States to criticize the President how many people would be in jail.

Of these trials, 12,881 individuals were convicted and 3,625 people—including 10 children—were sentenced to prison.

While Erdogan is imprisoning men, women, and children for insulting him, he is openly praising Hamas.

So these people come to the floor and they say: Oh, we were against giving the planes to Türkiye before we were for giving them. And we don't like that Türkiye gives to Hamas, but we are playing real politics here because we want Sweden in NATO, and whether Türkiye gives money to Hamas, we are going to turn a blind eye. That, to me, is a quid pro quo not worth taking.

After Hamas's brutal October 7 attack on Israel, Erdogan defiantly claimed: Hamas is not a terrorist group; it is a liberation group.

Do you think we should be sending our best weapons to a country that said, after one of the worst terrorist activities in modern history, October 7, Hamas is not a terrorist group?

Should we be sending our prized F–16s to a country that says Hamas is not a terrorist group; it is a liberation group—mujahideen—waging a battle to protect its lands and people? No. They went to a concert and killed young people, and we are going to send our weapons to them? Why? Because we made a quid pro quo. We got Sweden in NATO, so we are going to look the other way with Türkiye giving money and support to Hamas.

This is the type of government we want to send our weapons to? Shouldn't the United States require countries to reflect our values before we send them billions of dollars' worth of advanced weapons? Shouldn't we demand that a NATO ally in particular at least respect the rule of law and basic human rights? President Biden certainly doesn't seem to think so.

The United States cannot proudly proclaim human rights to be at the center of our foreign policy while it arms a country that commits gross violations of human rights.

I also remain deeply concerned about the negative strategic implications of this proposed sale given Türkiye's reckless military actions in recent years.

Just last October, a U.S. F–16 shot down a Turkish combat drone in Syria that was operating dangerously close to U.S. forces. Ironically, this sale provides Turkey with 40 brandnew F–16s and modernizes an existing fleet of 79. We are giving them the weapons system that we just used to shoot down their drone.

Why was a Turkish drone operating so close to U.S. troops? It was targeting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, whom we have supported for years to fight against ISIS. Türkiye views the Syrian Democratic Forces as terrorists, so in the eyes of our NATO ally, our partners in Syria are their enemy and legitimate terrorists.

Does something seem a bit confusing here? They are shooting against people we consider to be our allies in the war against ISIS. They have drones up close to us, so we have to shoot down their drones. And we are sending them our modern planes and updating their fleet. The American taxpayers are paying to arm and train these Syrian Democratic Forces, and the Biden administration is giving Turkey advanced fighter jets that will inevitably be used to shoot and kill these same people. This utter lack of strategic foresight has unfortunately become commonplace in Washington foreign policy.

This was also not the first time that U.S. forces were threatened by Türkiye's reckless military actions in Syria. In November of 2022, a Turkish drone strike on Syrian Democratic Forces put U.S. soldiers at significant risk, leaving the Pentagon to call for an ''immediate de-escalation.''

In October 2019, U.S. forces came under Turkish artillery fire which sources claimed was a deliberate effort to push American troops away from Syria's northern border. The shelling was purportedly so severe that U.S. personnel considered firing back in self-defense.

This is our ally. We are sending these people F–16s who have been shooting at us and shooting at our other allies.

There is also the fact that Türkiye—and this is not an insignificant fact—Türkiye bought the S–400 air and missile defense systems in 2019 from Russia despite strong U.S. protest. That decision prompted the Trump administration to remove Türkiye from the F–35 Joint Strike Fighter Program.

At that point, the leadership on the Republican and the Democratic side were opposed to the F–35 Program. They have now only switched their minds because of the quid pro quo. They have been given membership for Sweden, they salivate over making NATO bigger, and they do that in exchange for now sending these weapons to Türkiye.

But there are concerns that the S–400 could expose classified F–35 stealth capabilities to Russian intelligence gathering.

You see, when you have missile defense, you are gathering defense on the plane that is flying towards you. If you own both the planes and the defense system, you can coordinate with them to learn more about the vulnerabilities of the planes that might be attacking your defense system. The same is true with the F–16.

So this is strategically and militarily, No. 1, a huge cave-in to the Turks, but it actually puts our soldiers and our pilots at risk because now we are exposing the F–16, one of our planes, to the S–400, the Russian weapons system, and allow the intermatching of the two, and this will inevitably put our pilots more at risk.

The risk of the S–400 serving as a Russian Trojan horse to compromise NATO's most advanced stealth fighter was clear to everyone in the alliance, but Türkiye proceeded nevertheless. President Trump subsequently imposed sanctions on Türkiye's defense procurement agency, which the Biden administration has kept in place.

Nobody has really reversed themselves and said Türkiye is behaving and deserves a plane because they have switched course. Everybody is just saying Türkiye gets what they want because Türkiye used a form of extortion. You can call it ''quid pro quo''—that sounds better than ''extortion''—but basically Türkiye said: We are not going to let Sweden into NATO unless you give us more planes.

It looks like extortion works. This actually reinforces bad behavior. What will Türkiye do the next time they want something? They will simply act like a bad ally and hold up something we need in order to get something they want.

So both the Trump and Biden administrations don't trust our supposed ally Türkiye to keep the F–35 capabilities secure, but now we are giving them the F–16. Perhaps Congress should examine some of the ways in which Türkiye has used F–16s recently.

The Armenian Ministry of Defense claims that on September 29, 2020, in support of Azerbaijan's war to conquer the Nagorno-Karabakh region, a Turkish F–16 shot down an Armenian Su-25 attack aircraft in Armenian airspace. Türkiye has stood closely by its Azerbaijani ally in its efforts to subjugate the region, providing combat drones, military equipment, training, and, if we are to believe the Armenian Government, direct combat support.

So the planes we give to the Turks, the F–16s, are actually being used in another war with Armenia. I have not heard of any debate on which side of that war we are supposed to be on—Azerbaijan or Armenia—but your weapons will be going in the middle of that war as well.

The war in 2020 and Azerbaijan's subsequent military operation in 2023 killed thousands and created a humanitarian disaster, forcing more than 100,000 people to flee—more than three-quarters of the population of that region.

Türkiye also continues to be an unreliable ally within NATO. Not only did Türkiye blackmail the alliance by delaying Sweden's NATO bid to extract concessions, the Turks continue to regularly threaten Greece, another NATO ally. In 2022, Turkish fighter jets and unmanned aerial vehicles violated Greek airspace more than 10,000 times. President Erdogan continues his hostile rhetoric, threatening to hit Athens with missile strikes and claiming that Turkish forces may land in Greece ''suddenly one night.'' It sounds like the unstable ramblings of a leader who

doesn't deserve to have our most advanced fighter jets.

Last August, Mesut Hakki Casin, an adviser on security and foreign policy to Erdogan, claimed that ''the Mediterranean Sea belongs to us, and no one should even think about raising a sword against us there. They [Greece, Cypress, and their allies] better not forget this.''

These are the people banging the drums for war with another fellow NATO ally that we are sending these weapons to. Without a hint of remorse on their side, they just held us hostage over Sweden. Sweden gave in. Quid pro quo. You get your jets.

These statements from Türkiye sound more like the bombastic threats from North Korea's dear leader than a NATO ally.

Do we really think giving Türkiye more fighter jets will modify their behavior? Actually, withholding them was the only chance of modifying their behavior. This sale will only embolden Türkiye to continue its disruptive actions at the expense of American interests and regional stability. What do we get in return? Greater risk to U.S. troops in Syria, instability in the Caucasus, continued threats to Greece, and the privilege of defending Sweden.

While NATO is supposed to be a collective security agency, the reality is that if Sweden were ever attacked, it would be American forces doing the majority of the fighting—unless anyone truly thinks Turkish F–16s will come to their aid.

The $23 billion sale is reckless. It fails to advance the security of the American people and does nothing to alter Türkiye's immoral human rights record, its unruly behavior within NATO, or its irresponsible actions in the Middle East, the Caucasus, and eastern Mediterranean. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the joint resolution of disapproval to reject this disastrous deal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to respond for up to 2 minutes, please.

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

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, first of all, I want the record to be absolutely clear. This is not a gift to Türkiye; this is a sale to Türkiye. They are going to pay for the munitions they are going to get, the aircraft they are going to get.

As I stated when I started out, Türkiye is very, very less than a desired or good ally in the current NATO framework, and certainly, as I said, we have a long list of complaints with them.

One thing I think that I would disagree with my good friend from Kentucky—the accession of Sweden and Finland to NATO was a huge, huge matter. It wasn't something that was just a parenthetical thought. It added 800 miles of direct border against Russia, which is what NATO was created to push back against. And the same thing with Sweden. Sweden has a very, very robust defense system itself.

With all due respect to my friend from Kentucky, I wouldn't put this in the vein or argument that we are going to come to the defense of Sweden. Sweden is going to come to the defense of NATO and in a very, very robust way.

Yes, we wanted them, and yes, that is exactly why I withheld the F–16 sale and refurbishment—so that we could get those two. It was extremely important.

Also, my good friend has reiterated some human rights violations that this country has. I would remind my good friend that Russia does the same thing. I have a resolution that came out of the Foreign Relations Committee that is on the floor that reiterates all those human rights and condemns Russia for those exact human rights things that my good friend reiterated, but he has a hold on it. There is one hold on that piece of legislation, and it is from the Senator from Kentucky, which I would respectfully request that he lift.

In any event, I am not here to defend Türkiye or the other things that they do. What I am here to do is to defend the importance of NATO, the importance of adding Finland and Sweden to NATO, and the fact that negotiations are the way these things get done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. The difference between Russia and Türkiye is no one is offering to sell F–16s to Russia. I am not for selling F–16s to Russia; neither am I for selling F–16s to Türkiye.

This is a clear case of quid pro quo. All of the folks who are now for it were against it just months ago. The reason they have changed their opinion is they have been given something. Türkiye extorted us. Türkiye said: If you want Sweden to be in NATO, you have to give us these planes.

So they gave up Sweden in exchange for getting the planes. It doesn't change any of the facts. The facts are these: Them having F–16s and Russian S–400s allows them to steal some of our technology, to match the technology of our fighter jets against a Russian defense system and potentially give that to Russia.

This is a problem. It has been a problem. It hasn't changed. These are the same problems that opponents of this were mentioning over and over and over again. That is why for 2 years they have been opposed to this. They have flipped. They have sold their opposition to Türkiye for admission for Sweden. It is a quid pro quo. It is a trade.

They made a trade, but publicly they will have to acknowledge they made a trade and they think somehow it is more important to sell these planes to Türkiye than it is to protect the integrity of the technology of these planes against Russian military systems.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. RES. 60

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I move to discharge S.J. Res. 60 from the Foreign Relations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 60, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Türkiye of certain defense articles and services.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I yield back my time, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge?

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 West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 13, nays 79, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—13

Braun	Paul	Warren
Fetterman	Peters	Welch
Lee	Sanders	Wyden
Markey	Scott (FL)	
Menendez	Stabenow	

NAYS—79

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Risch
Booker	Hawley	Rosen
Boozman	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Hickenlooper	Rubio
Budd	Hirono	Schatz
Butler	Hoeven	Schmitt
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Sinema
Carper	Kelly	Smith
Casey	Kennedy	Sullivan
Collins	King	Tester
Coons	Klobuchar	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Luján	Tuberville
Cotton	Lummis	Van Hollen
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	McConnell	Warner
Cruz	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Mullin	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Murray	
Gillibrand	Ossoff	

NOT VOTING—8

Barrasso	Daines	Romney
Britt	Manchin	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Moran	

The motion was rejected.

(Mr. FETTERMAN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7463, which was received from the House and is at the desk, and that the only motions and amendments in order to the bill be the following: Paul amendment No. 1614; Marshall motion to commit, which is at the desk; Lee motion to commit, which is at the desk; and Cruz motion to commit, which is at the desk; further, that the Senate vote on the above motions and amendment in the order listed, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption of amendment No. 1614; that upon the disposition of the Cruz motion to commit, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage, without further intervening action or debate, and with 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each vote; further, that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader but no later than Friday, March 8, 2024, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 3853; that there be up to 1 hour for debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, all without intervening action or debate, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage.

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

EXTENSION OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2024

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7463) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am pleased that Democrats have just reached an agreement with the Republicans to pass a temporary extension of government funding tonight. We will have up to five votes: four on amendments and then final passage. This agreement is an important step because we not only avoid a shutdown on Friday, we also clear the way for passing the first six appropriations bills next week.

We want to move quickly. So I ask Senators to stay in their seats or near the floor until we finish our work. We are going to try, starting on the second vote, to keep votes limited to 10 minutes. So please stay in your seats.

Now, Mr. President, this year, the good Lord gave us an extra day in February. So let's make sure we finish the job and don't drag this debate into March.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. SCHUMER. Excuse me. Just one more thing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all votes in this series after the first vote be 10 minutes in duration.

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

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am really glad that we have cleared consensus that no one wants to see a government shutdown and that preventing one now will require a very short CR so we can continue making good progress on our full-year funding bills.

I have been at the table for a long time now pushing to make progress every single day, and we are genuinely close. And if bipartisan cooperation prevails, I am very confident we can, at long last—at long last—wrap up our fiscal year 2024 bills.

And, as my colleagues are aware, we plan to release the first six bills in the coming days to give everyone time to review them before a vote next week, while we continue to lock up the last six bills.

I am confident we can get all of our funding bills done in the next few weeks, as long as partisan poison pills are taken off the table.

We are working in a divided government. That means, to get anything done, we have to work together in good faith to reach reasonable outcomes. That has been true from day one of these negotiations, and we will only reach the last day of these negotiations if that happens.

Again, we are close. We are moving in the right direction. It is full speed ahead. And we will keep working hard with our colleagues to get this wrapped up and take a shutdown completely off the table by passing the strongest bipartisan spending bills we can and, hopefully, soon.

I urge all of our colleagues to vote yes on this CR so we have the time to get these done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, several of the amendments that we will vote on propose a full-year continuing resolution that would lock in dangerously inadequate funding levels for our national defense and lead to cuts in other vital programs serving our veterans, farmers, low-income families, and older Americans.

In a briefing last month, the Commander of U.S. Central Command told me that this is the most dangerous security situation in 50 years. The idea that we would consider hamstringing our military under a yearlong continuing resolution at such a time is unconscionable.

The Department of Defense has never operated under a yearlong CR. It would reduce defense spending by $27 billion relative to the level called for under the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Further, there would be problems with the misalignment of funds that in many cases would prevent critical funding from being executed. For example, 30 percent of the Navy's shipbuilding request could not be spent because the funding would be misaligned.

According to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, under a yearlong CR, ''thousands of [defense] programs will be impacted with the most devastating impacts to our national defense being to personnel, nuclear triad modernization, shipbuilding and maintenance, munitions production and replenishments, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command priorities.''

Let us also remember that we would be wasting taxpayer dollars as we would forego billions of dollars in potential spending reductions and rescissions carefully identified by the Appropriations Committee.

A yearlong CR would result in a military that is less able to respond to serious security threats around the globe, and it would harm important domestic investments in biomedical research, infrastructure, and other priority areas. It would result in furloughs or hiring freezes for food inspectors and air traffic controllers, as well as slash housing assistance at a time when we already face a severe affordable housing shortage.

I urge my colleagues to reject these motions and support the responsible approach of passing the short-term measure to fund the government. We will then move to the six completed conference reports on appropriations bills and continue our important work on the remainder of the full-year appropriations bills.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 1614

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up Senate amendment No. 1614 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 1614.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish prohibitions relating to the purchase or sale of State or municipal securities)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OR SALE OF STATE OR MUNICIPAL SECURITIES.

(a) EMERGENCY LENDING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may not establish any emergency lending program or facility, including pursuant to section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 343(3)), that purchases or sells any security issued by a State or municipality, including a bond, note, draft, or bill of exchange.

(b) OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS.—No Federal reserve bank may purchase or sell any security described in subsection (a), including pursuant to section 14 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 353 et seq.).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, here we go again. Senators of both parties will once again kick the can down the road.

Our national debt is over $34 trillion and growing at an alarming rate.

The majority of the Senate meets today to vote once again for more deficit spending. We now know that the Federal Reserve is not only buying the Federal debt; they are buying the debt of profligate, large-spending States like California, New York, and Illinois.

My amendment would make it explicitly illegal for the Federal Reserve to buy the debt of these big-spending, profligate individual States. It was never intended that Congress give the Fed the power, and we should make sure that it is explicit that the Federal Reserve cannot buy the debt of individual States.

I urge a ''yes'' vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the Paul amendment.

As part of the effort to support our economy following the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic, the Federal Reserve established a liquidity facility to help State and local governments better manage their cash flow and those pressures that existed and that they faced as a result of the increase in State and local government expenditures related to the pandemic and the delay and decrease of some tax revenues and other revenues. And all of the funds borrowed by municipalities under this program have been repaid.

So tying the Feds' hands to prevent it from helping States and municipalities, as this provision would do, would be dangerous. Congress has given the Fed the flexibility to transact in State and local bonds because we knew that it could be an important and helpful tool in times of an emergency—protecting millions of public workers, including police officers, healthcare workers, and other first responders.

So, as we have seen during the pandemic and natural disasters, uncertainty can hurt both big and small States, and the Fed's simple ability to assist States and local governments in this way can provide stability and allow policymakers to address emerging crises. Preventing emergency programs outright would be dangerous and unnecessary.

And, finally, adopting this amendment would require the continuing resolution go back to the House and be voted on again.

So I urge my colleagues to vote no on the Paul amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1614

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 37, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—37

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sanders
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Mullin	
Graham	Paul	

NAYS—53

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hagerty	Peters	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Manchin	Scott (SC)
Britt	Moran	Vance
Cassidy	Risch	
Daines	Romney	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 37, the nays are 53.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1614) was rejected.

MOTION TO COMMIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas [Mr. MARSHALL] moves to commit the bill H.R. 7463 to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 1 day, not counting any day in which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) provide—

(A) continuing appropriations for the entire Federal Government through the end of fiscal year 2024; and

(B) $14,300,000,000 in aid to Israel, which is full offset by reductions in appropriations for the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask 4 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the motion.

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, as we assess an embarrassing fiscal fiasco, I believe a full-year continuing resolution funding the remainder of this year at last year's levels is the least of the evils we face tonight.

Our amendment will effectively freeze spending and save American taxpayers at least $70 billion.

Look, here we are already 5 months late, and I see no path to gathering in the reins of an out-of-control budget process. American taxpayers full well understand we have a broken budget process, and every Senator here knows we have not done any serious work on the Senate floor with appropriations bills since October, already 4 months into the fiscal year.

And while the Appropriations Committee should be commended for accomplishing its job in a timely fashion last July, American taxpayers also realize these individual appropriations bills could have easily been brought to the floor one at a time, exposed to sunlight and cameras, amended, and then passed in a timely fashion months ago.

But today we realize the symptoms of a bigger problem. Today, we feel the pain of a disease of failed congressional budget process, which gives too much power to too few people. But just like American families, the American Government needs to learn to live within its means, and that is why I hope soon we can turn to legislation that will secure a more stable, competent budget process.

We need to get this year's appropriations process behind us, pass a yearlong CR, and then address legislation which brings teeth to an old budget law that forces the President and Congress to do our job in a competent, timely fashion.

And, finally, our amendment also funds Israel at the White House's request, thus showing the world once again America stands besides Israel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the House just voted overwhelmingly to send us this clean and very short CR to keep our government open while we work on passing final funding bills, which is exactly what we should all be focused on now.

But this particular motion wouldn't just prevent the Senate from averting a shutdown tomorrow; it would swap the clean, short-term CR for a full-year CR that means devastating across-the-board cuts and tie it to military aid for Israel to a yearlong CR.

We are not going to throw in the towel on our funding bills, and we are not going to do half of our job by sending aid to some of our allies while leaving others like Ukraine in the dust.

We have already on this floor passed a comprehensive national security package in an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Now the House just needs to pass that—and I am confident they will—as soon as the Speaker brings it up for a vote.

So, tonight, let's pass this CR, get our funding bills done, and keep working to get the comprehensive supplemental signed into law. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Has time expired for both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington has 50 seconds.

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield it back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time is expired.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are going to enforce the 10-minute rule. We announced it earlier. So please stay in your seats. Let's get the next amendments done with expedition.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. MARSHALL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 14, nays 76, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Leg.]

YEAS—14

Blackburn	Johnson	Paul
Budd	Kennedy	Rubio
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	Lummis	Tuberville
Hawley	Marshall	

NAYS—76

Baldwin	Carper	Ernst
Bennet	Casey	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Collins	Fischer
Booker	Coons	Gillibrand
Boozman	Cornyn	Graham
Braun	Cortez Masto	Grassley
Brown	Cotton	Hassan
Butler	Cramer	Heinrich
Cantwell	Crapo	Hickenlooper
Capito	Duckworth	Hirono
Cardin	Durbin	Hoeven
Hyde-Smith	Ossoff	Sullivan
Kaine	Padilla	Tester
Kelly	Peters	Thune
King	Reed	Tillis
Klobuchar	Ricketts	Van Hollen
Lankford	Rosen	Warner
Luján	Rounds	Warnock
Markey	Sanders	Warren
McConnell	Schatz	Welch
Menendez	Schmitt	Whitehouse
Merkley	Schumer	Wicker
Mullin	Shaheen	Wyden
Murkowski	Sinema	Young
Murphy	Smith	
Murray	Stabenow	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Manchin	Scott (SC)
Britt	Moran	Vance
Cassidy	Risch	
Daines	Romney	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this motion, the yeas are 14, the nays are 76, and the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO COMMIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have a motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] moves to commit the bill H.R. 7463 to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 1 day, not counting any day in which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee; and

(2) provide continuing appropriations for the entire Federal Government through the end of fiscal year 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this motion calls for a full-year CR. Let me tell you what a full-year CR taking us to September 30—if we were to go to a full-year CR, one taking us to September 30, we would save $130 billion.

Now, there have been comments made on the floor even this evening that are not correct, suggesting that this would take disproportionately from defense. It is just not true. Under a full-year CR, regular defense would be $1.4 billion higher relative to fiscal year 2023, while regular nondefense would be $40 billion less than fiscal year 2023.

In a day and age in which we are living with a $2 trillion deficit and crippling inflation coming as a result of that, we should take this as an opportunity to achieve a win for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, right now, our job is to avoid a government shutdown. The House has just sent us a very short, bipartisan CR to make sure that our Agencies and programs continue operating as we work together to pass the first six of our final funding bills next week. The House did its job. We need to do ours, and we need to keep pushing to complete our 2024 budget.

This motion would not prevent us from averting a shutdown. It would direct the Appropriations Committee to abandon weeks and weeks of very hard work and negotiations that reflect the input and interests of the Members of this body.

I urge a ''no'' vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, that one took 14 minutes. Let's beat it on this one. Please stay in your seats.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. LEE. 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 West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted ''yea.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 12, nays 77, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Leg.]

YEAS—12

Blackburn	Johnson	Marshall
Budd	Kennedy	Rubio
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Hawley	Lummis	Tuberville

NAYS—77

Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Rosen
Booker	Hassan	Rounds
Boozman	Heinrich	Sanders
Braun	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schmitt
Butler	Hoeven	Schumer
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Shaheen
Capito	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	Kelly	Smith
Carper	King	Stabenow
Casey	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Tester
Coons	Luján	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cotton	Menendez	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Warnock
Crapo	Mullin	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Peters	

NOT VOTING—11

Barrasso	Manchin	Romney
Britt	Moran	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Paul	Vance
Daines	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 12, the nays are 77.

The motion is rejected.

The Senator from Texas.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I have a motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ] moves to commit the bill H.R. 7463 to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate with instructions to report the same back to the Senate in 1 day, not counting any day in which the Senate is not in session, with changes that—

(1) are within the jurisdiction of such committee;

(2) provide continuing appropriations for the entire Federal Government through the end of fiscal year 2024; and

(3) include the text of the H.R. 2 (the Secure the Border Act of 2023), as passed by the House of Representatives on May 11, 2023.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today with a motion to commit to instruct that H.R. 2 be added to this continuing resolution.

H.R. 2 contains a comprehensive plan to secure the border, to stop catch-and-release, to build the wall, to stop visa overstays, and to reform abuse of immigration, parole, and asylum laws.

In the past couple of weeks, we have seen tragedy across this country, including of a 22-year-old woman murdered in the State of Georgia, including a 2-year-old child murdered in the State of Virginia, including a 14-year-old child raped in Boston, MA, including a child under 14 raped in Louisiana—all by illegal aliens released by the Biden administration.

It is time for this to end. This bill has passed the House, and if the Senate wants to secure our open borders, we can do so right now—today.

I urge an affirmative vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the clock is ticking. We face a partial shutdown of the government tomorrow night. We cannot let the threat of that government shutdown be used as leverage to set aside the bipartisan agreement on the CR before us in order to jam through deeply partisan immigration policy. We are not going to throw in the towel on our very carefully negotiated funding bills we have worked on in favor of a full-year CR that would impose devastating across-the-board cuts to defense and nondefense programs.

Vote no.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Mr. CRUZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, that one was 11 minutes. Let us get to 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 32, nays 58, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Leg.]

YEAS—32

Blackburn	Graham	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Budd	Hagerty	Rubio
Capito	Hawley	Schmitt
Cornyn	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Cramer	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Ernst	Lummis	Vance
Fischer	Marshall	

NAYS—58

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Braun	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Butler	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Luján	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Carper	McConnell	Van Hollen
Casey	Menendez	Warner
Collins	Merkley	Warnock
Coons	Murkowski	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Welch
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Ossoff	Wicker
Fetterman	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Manchin	Romney
Britt	Moran	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Paul	
Daines	Risch	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 32, the nays are 58.

The motion was rejected.

The majority leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am happy to inform the American people there will be no government shutdown on Friday. When we pass this bill, we will have, thank God, avoided a shutdown, with all its harmful effects on the American people.

I thank my colleagues for working together. It is good we are not shutting down. Now let us finish the job of funding the government so we don't have to do this again.

As I have said repeatedly to the Speaker, the only way to get things done in divided government is bipartisanship. I am glad the Speaker heard our plea and worked with us to avoid a shutdown.

Next week, we hope to bring the first six funding bills to the floor and send them to the President's desk before March 8. The vote tonight is a strong indication that we can work in a bipartisan way to get those bills passed.

We hope to finish funding all of the government by March 22. That is the commitment the Speaker made to us yesterday, and we are counting on him to follow through.

What we have done today has overcome the opposition of the MAGA hard right and gives us a formula for completing the appropriations process in a way that does not shut down the government and capitulate to extremists.

I thank Leader MCCONNELL, Speaker JOHNSON, Leader JEFFRIES, Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, and all the appropriators who helped reach this agreement.

VOTE ON H.R. 7463

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill is considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Baldwin	Ernst	Lummis
Bennet	Fetterman	Markey
Blumenthal	Fischer	McConnell
Booker	Gillibrand	Menendez
Boozman	Graham	Merkley
Brown	Grassley	Mullin
Butler	Hagerty	Murkowski
Cantwell	Hassan	Murphy
Capito	Heinrich	Murray
Cardin	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Carper	Hirono	Padilla
Casey	Hoeven	Peters
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Coons	Kaine	Ricketts
Cornyn	Kelly	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Rounds
Cotton	King	Rubio
Cramer	Klobuchar	Sanders
Duckworth	Lankford	Schatz
Durbin	Luján	Schumer

Shaheen	Thune	Welch
Sinema	Tillis	Whitehouse
Smith	Van Hollen	Wicker
Stabenow	Warner	Wyden
Sullivan	Warnock	Young
Tester	Warren	

NAYS—13

Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Johnson	Tuberville
Budd	Lee	Vance
Crapo	Marshall	
Cruz	Schmitt	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Manchin	Romney
Britt	Moran	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Paul	
Daines	Risch	

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 13.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 7463) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 518.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 518, Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Mark R. Warner, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Raphael G. Warnock, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Mark Kelly, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 529.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 529, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Brian Schatz, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mark Kelly, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 456.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 456, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Chris Van Hollen, Mark R. Warner, Amy Klobuchar, Elizabeth Warren, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Mark Kelly.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 29, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 517, Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Schmidt nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I want to recognize an important milestone: the 90th Anniversary of the Export-Import Bank—EXIM—of the United States.

The Export-Import Bank was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Executive order on February 2, 1934, ''to aid in financing and to facilitate exports and imports and the exchange of commodities between the United States and other Nations.'' Its mission and work are equally as important now as they were back then.

EXIM contributes to our Nation's economic growth by supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs for America's exporters and the workers that make up the supply chains for our exports across the country.

Congress first authorized the EXIM Bank as an independent Agency in 1945, and we have continued to support the Bank's work under its charter ever since. In 2019, Congress recognized the critical role EXIM plays by passing a historic, 7-year reauthorization with bipartisan support. I contributed to that reauthorization legislation as the ranking member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and now, as the chair of that committee, we have continued to support the Bank's work that creates jobs in Ohio and around the Nation.

Under the leadership of Chair Reta Jo Lewis, the first Black woman to lead EXIM, First Vice President Judith Pryor, Board Member Spencer Bachus, and Board Member Owen Herrnstadt, the Export-Import Bank has expanded financing for American exporters. During the last fiscal year, EXIM approved $8.7 billion in transactions, $3.5 billion more than the previous fiscal year. These transactions supported more than 40,000 jobs across our Nation, including many in Ohio.

Small business authorizations in fiscal year 2023 totaled $2.0 billion with 1,339 transactions authorized for the direct benefit of small business exporters.

EXIM also supports American workers in strategic industries. In the 2019 EXIM reauthorization bill, I helped establish the China & Transformational Exports Program, C-TEP. Congress directed EXIM to use the C-TEP program to prioritize financing for American exports in 10 critical areas, such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy and energy storage, wireless communications, and semiconductors. EXIM financing will help American manufacturers and exporters compete against Chinese exports that receive enormous financing from the Chinese Government, and the C-TEP program will help American companies unlock a new generation of jobs and economic growth.

EXIM supports secure and resilient supply chains. EXIM launched its first domestic financing initiative called ''Make More in America.'' By providing new financing for American companies that manufacture goods for export and new financing for their suppliers, we can bring more jobs back to our shores and strengthen our supply chains.

I have visited businesses in Ohio that depend on the Export-Import Bank to sell their products around the world, companies like NeoGraf Solutions in Lakewood, which manufactures graphite-based products used in cars, buses, and batteries, and Crown Battery in Fremont, which designs, manufactures, and distributes batteries, chargers, and accessories for various industries. Both companies rely on EXIM to help them compete in international markets. And in Southwest Ohio, the birthplace of aviation, GE Aerospace's engines are sold in jets around the world with the help of EXIM financing.

For decades, Ohio lived with the consequences of bad trade and tax policy that encouraged corporations to send production overseas in search of ever-lower wages. The Export-Import Bank is critical to bringing those supply chains back home by supporting Ohio manufacturers that want to expand production and exports. EXIM's job is to grow American businesses in the face of competition—often unfair competition—from countries like China.

The Export Import Bank will certainly face challenges in the future. EXIM must continue to manage risks associated with providing financing to projects worldwide, and both the Bank and Congress will need to further examine EXIM's role in monitoring and assessing the impacts of financing to balance the Bank's mission of supporting U.S. jobs through exports with environmental, security, and other policy considerations. EXIM can face these challenges and expand its support of American manufacturing.

I also want to note for all Senators that, since 1992, EXIM has generated more than $8 billion of revenue for the U.S. Treasury.

I applaud the work being done by EXIM's dedicated workforce as they continue to help U.S. companies and U.S. workers not only compete, but win across the global economy.

I congratulate the Agency on its 90th anniversary and look forward to EXIM's future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JERRY MARKS

● Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Gerald ''Jerry'' W. Marks of Missoula County for his service to his community during his tenure as the county's longest serving employee.

Growing up on a farm near Townsend, MT, Jerry went on to lead an accomplished life from his time in the U.S. Army serving overseas in Vietnam, to receiving quality education based in agriculture and public service from Montana State University and the University of Montana. His studies served him well as he began his long career as Missoula County's Agriculture Extension Agent in 1969. To provide some context, Jerry has been serving his community longer than we have had a man on the moon.

Jerry built programs and partnerships centered around agriculture, horticulture, and community development. During his tenure, Jerry increased the enrollment and community participation in 4–H by 30 percent, helped establish the Extension Forestry Program in 1983, and developed the County Weed Control Program in 1985. Jerry's most recent project, which took decades to finish, was the completion of the Gerald W. Marks Exploration Center and Rocky Mountain Gardens located on the Missoula County Fairgrounds, which fittingly bears his name.

Jerry and his wife of 51 years, Sharon, have two children and four grandchildren. Hailing from South Dakota, Sharon also grew up on a farm and had a career as an extension agent. The Markses enjoy sewing arts, growing plants, creative cooking, and supporting Missoula's arts community. After 55 years of service to his community, Jerry is set to retire March 1, 2024, and I have no doubt he will keep busy with his many hobbies and friends throughout Missoula County.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Jerry Marks for his life of service to the Missoula community. His favorite quote epitomizes his life's work. ''Do not fear the head winds, for they will make your program stronger.'' Thanks for your tireless work, Jerry, you make Montana proud and are one of the reasons it remains The Last Best Place.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES ''LEFTY'' DRIESELL

● Mr. KAINE. Madam President, it is my honor to recognize the life of longtime basketball coach Charles ''Lefty'' Driesell, who sadly passed away on February 17, 2024, at the age of 92, in Virginia Beach.

Driesell was born on Christmas Day, 1931, in Norfolk, VA. He started down the coaching path early in life, earning a varsity letter for the Granby High School basketball team in fourth grade for his service as a manager for the team. Driesell later became a star player for the team. While a senior in high school, he led his team to the Virginia State championship and was named tournament MVP.

After high school, Driesell accepted a scholarship to Duke University, where he played center and eventually graduated with a degree in education. Soon after college, he returned to Granby as the junior varsity coach and then later accepted a job as the varsity coach at nearby Newport News High School, where he won another State championship.

In 1960, Driesell joined the college coaching ranks, accepting the head coach position at Davidson University. Over the course of nine seasons, he accumulated 176 wins and made three NCAA tournaments.

Following Davidson, Driesell coached 17 years at the University of Maryland. While there, he won 348 games, made the NCAA tournament eight times, won the Atlantic Coast Conference—

ACC—twice, and won the 1972 National Invitation Tournament—NIT—championship. Driesell's teams at Maryland were consistently among the highest ranked in the Nation, and the team was one of the powerhouse programs of his era.

After Maryland, Driesell became the head coach of James Madison University, where he won another 159 games. His teams had the best record in the Colonial Athletic Association—CAA—for five straight seasons. Driesell finished his coaching career at Georgia State, winning 100 games. This made him the first coach to win 100 or more games at four different Division I schools.

In 2018, Driesell was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, and Davidson, Maryland, Southern Conference, and Virginia Sports Halls of Fame.

Driesell's impact on the game of basketball goes well beyond his 786 career wins. He also brought more fans to the game with innovations like Midnight Madness. On the first day college teams were allowed to practice for the season, Driesell invited fans to join the team for a 12:03 a.m. run. This became an annual tradition, where thousands of fans would show up to celebrate the start of a new season with the team. Soon, other schools picked up on the practice, and these events have become a widespread and cherished part of college basketball.

Driesell's impact was felt by the many assistant coaches and staff he worked with over his 40 years of coaching, the hundreds of student athletes he coached, and the countless fans who found joy in the game of basketball watching Lefty Driesell-coached teams.●

RECOGNIZING RIVER BEND BISTRO & WINE BAR

● Mr. KAINE. Madam President, it is my honor to recognize the River Bend Bistro for 10 years of outstanding service. I would like to congratulate Caroline and Bill Ross and all the staff of River Bend Bistro on their success and wish them many more years of success.

Chef and co-owner Caroline Ross, a graduate of Fort Hunt High School, has been in the food industry since she was 18 and is a veteran of several other regional mainstay restaurants. In 1990, she was awarded a scholarship from Les Dames d'Escoffier to gain culinary skills in Paris. Co-owner Bill Ross has been a businessman in Alexandria for decades before he and Caroline teamed up to create River Bend Bistro, and he also continues to operate a Potomac River sightseeing business.

River Bend Bistro strives to use local and seasonal ingredients, including fresh ingredients from local farmers. Caroline has had relationships with its meat and seafood suppliers going back years before this particular restaurant. Many employees have been with them since the beginning. And thanks to hard work and ingenuity, as well as assistance from the Paycheck Protection Program from the CARES Act, they were able to navigate through pandemic lockdowns.

Whenever people sit down at River Bend Bistro, they will not just be experiencing outstanding food and drink; they will be supporting a small business with deep roots in the community and a deep commitment to excellence.

I wish Caroline and Bill Ross and their staff continued success and growth for many more years.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KIM KRULL

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to thank Dr. Kim Krull for her many years of service to the State of Kansas and Butler Community College—BCC—as well as honor her for all she accomplished throughout her career.

A passionate educator dedicated to serving Kansans, Dr. Krull began her professional career teaching math, biology, and chemistry at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture—UNL-NCTA. Following 18 years of service to UNL-NCTA, Dr. Krull decided to head south across the Nebraska-Kansas State line to Cloud County Community College, where she served as vice president of academic affairs for 8 years.

In 2013, Dr. Krull finally made the jump to my alma mater, Butler Community College, where she took over one of Kansas's largest community colleges as president. Dr. Krull hit the ground running, expanding BCC's online course catalog and prudently cutting programs no longer cost-effective. These two decisions, made early in Dr. Krull's tenure, remade BCC as a premier junior college destination in the State of Kansas, setting the stage for her and the school's subsequent successes.

In the years following, BCC accomplished much under Dr. Krull's guidance. In terms of campus restoration, Dr. Krull was able to fundraise $3.3 million to renovate the student union and was pivotal in expanding college operations in nearby Andover. Thanks to Dr. Krull's efforts, BCC remodeled its building within the Andover school district to be more accommodating to students, as well as opened the Redler Institute of Culinary Arts, a $6.2 million facility dedicated to providing for the next generation of BCC culinary and hospitality graduates.

But Dr. Krull's signature accomplishments during her time at BCC center around her support of the student body. While president, Dr. Krull added programs in Diesel Technology, Construction Technology, and expanded online offerings in partnerships with various Kansas colleges and universities. Doing this and increasing BCC student retention rates, especially amidst the COVID–19 pandemic, is a testament to Dr. Krull's work ethic and service to her student body.

For her efforts, Dr. Krull was the recipient of many awards, both for herself and on behalf of BCC. In 2021, the Wichita Business Journal named Dr. Krull an Executive of the Year, and in the year following, BCC was named an Aspen Top 150 institution. After these and many more successes, the Higher Learning Commission designated BCC in 2023 as a highly mature institution, one of the highest functioning colleges related to teaching and student assessment.

It was on this high note that Dr. Krull announced her retirement, and she will officially step down from Butler Community College on June 30, 2024, after decades of service in higher education. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Kim Krull, as well as thank her for all her work on behalf of the State of Kansas and my alma mater, Butler Community College. ''Go Grizzlies!''●

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON McKINNEY

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable life and extraordinary service of Staff Sergeant Clinton McKinney, a true hero and distinguished World War II veteran. SSG McKinney's unwavering courage, sacrifice, and dedication to our Nation embody the spirit of the greatest generation.

SSG McKinney celebrated his 100th birthday on January 21, 2024. The occasion was marked by heartfelt tributes from his family and the Idaho community. It is a testament to SSG McKinney's enduring legacy and his profound impact on all who have the privilege of knowing him.

SSG McKinney fearlessly began his service in March 1943. He served with Company M of the 103rd Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge, a historic battle and turning point for World War II in the winter of 1944. SSG McKinney and company faced extreme conditions of bitter cold and isolation but never failed to demonstrate steadfast resolve and resilience. Sadly, 39 of his fellow infantrymen were lost in the battle, and SSG McKinney was taken prisoner. SSG McKinney escaped not once, but twice, only to be recaptured each time. His sheer determination and resourcefulness led to a successful third attempt with two other soldiers.

For his exceptional bravery and selflessness, SSG McKinney was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and multiple Purple Hearts, recognizing his immense contribution to the Allied cause and his dedication to duty.

Following the war, he returned home to his beloved wife Louise and devoted himself to public service by establishing a firefighting department in Washington State. His commitment to the safety and well-being of his fellow citizens extends far beyond his military service.

I am privileged to reflect on the extraordinary life of SSG McKinney,

honor his remarkable service, and learn from his example. SSG McKinney's courage and resilience serve as an inspiration, reminding us of the sacrifices made by the greatest generation and the debt of gratitude we owe them. SSG McKinney is a true American hero whose selfless actions and remarkable service have left an indelible mark on our Nation's history. May his legacy inspire future generations to serve with honor, courage, and unwavering commitment.●

RECOGNIZING THE GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS

● Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, today I am honored to help the Georgia Association of Broadcasters celebrate 90 years of service to Georgians. Throughout nearly a century of existence, the Georgia Association of Broadcasters has been a stalwart advocate for the television and radio broadcasting industry, consistently pushing the boundaries of time and technology to deliver their communities quality, reliable news to keep us informed, safe, and connected.

Across Georgia, local broadcasters and journalists serve as the vanguard guardians of truth. Since its establishment in 1934, the GAB has been dedicated to representing the interests of radio and television broadcasters across the State. It is an organization that has played a pivotal role in making Georgia a premier destination for broadcast journalists worldwide, shaping the narrative of our communities with public education programs, scholarships, and professional development opportunities.

This remarkable journey includes initiatives like the WSB Care-a-Thon, a testament to the compassionate spirit of Georgia broadcasters, sharing stories of hope and inspiration from the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Through generous donations, this initiative funds family support services and vital research, embodying the association's commitment to making a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.

And in the quieter corners of our State, we can still rely on sound local reporting, like at radio station WBHF in Cartersville, which prides itself on providing robust coverage of council meetings in towns across Bartow County, local sports and events, or school board meetings—nowhere else could local residents find such in-depth and impactful stories on what is going on in their own backyard.

Voices of Valor, a heartfelt project by WJCL in Savannah, stands as a corner dedicated to uplifting local troops and military families, as well as features honoring the educators shaping the next generation of Georgians. And over in Augusta, WRDW partners with Grant Me Hope, striving to end potential homelessness among Georgia's fostered youth by finding loving, adoptive homes before they age out of the system.

In times of disaster, the spirit of Georgia broadcasters shines a light on our better angels. When severe storms and tornadoes wreak havoc across our State, they emerge as the ''first informers,'' providing crucial information and assistance. In a remarkable display of community solidarity, local TV and radio stations, like WTVM, WRBL, and others, join forces for tornado relief campaigns, setting up online donation portals and donation drop-off locations that raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for those in need.

These initiatives underscore a fundamental truth: A story is more than a script or a soundbite; it is an opportunity to see ourselves in others, to recognize our shared humanity, and to know that we are not alone in this world or within our communities.

Today, I commend the Georgia Association of Broadcasters for their tireless commitment to public service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on an extraordinary 90 years of dedicated service and storytelling to the people of Georgia.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:39 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3511. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require training on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4669. An act to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4984. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the District of Columbia so that the District may use the Campus for purposes including residential and commercial development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5265. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on the performance of the Office of Rural Affairs, to require a report on the memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture entered into on April 4, 2018, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6544. An act to advance the benefits of nuclear energy by enabling efficient, timely, and predictable licensing, regulation, and deployment of nuclear energy technologies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6591. An act to amend section 8(a) of the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to regularly reassess the asset and net worth thresholds for qualifying as an economically disadvantaged individual, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7105. An act to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

At 2:36 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. 7454. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7463. An act making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3511. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require training on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 4669. An act to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5265. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on the performance of the Office of Rural Affairs, to require a report on the memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture entered into on April 4, 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 6544. An act to advance the benefits of nuclear energy by enabling efficient, timely, and predictable licensing, regulation, and deployment of nuclear energy technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6591. An act to amend section 8(a) of the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to regularly reassess the asset and net worth thresholds for qualifying as an

economically disadvantaged individual, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7105. An act to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3853. A bill to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3646. A communication from the Chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3647. A communication from the Acting Director of Legislative Affairs, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Tribal Cybersecurity Needs Report''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3648. A communication from the Senior Advisor of Federal Procurement Policy, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Memorandum, Increasing Small Business Participation on Multiple-Award Contracts [*Note: OMB has concluded that this memorandum is not a 'rule' within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(3). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, OMB is submitting it to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 801(a).]'' received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3649. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–377, ''Term Clarification Amendment Act of 2024''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3650. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–378, ''Shirley Chisholm Elementary School Redesignation Act of 2024''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3651. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–379, ''School Improvement Amendment Act of 2023''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3652. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–389, ''Proactive Inspection Program Act of 2024''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3653. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–390, ''Home Visiting Services Reimbursement Amendment Act of 2024''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3654. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–391, ''Childhood Continuous Coverage Amendment Act of 2024''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3655. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25–392, ''Minor Access to Medical Records and Appointments Regulations Amendment Act of 2024''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3656. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) for fiscal year 2023; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–3657. A communication from the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments; Annual Adjustments'' (RIN1076–AF74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–3658. A communication from the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appeals From Administrative Actions'' (RIN1076–AF74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–3659. A communication from the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Land Acquisitions'' (RIN1076–AF74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–3660. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting, pursuant to Section 301(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, the Office's annual reports regarding covered payments from the account described in section 415(a) of the Act that were the result of claims alleging a violation of part A of title II of the Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–3661. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1939. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Kelly Harrison Rankin, of Wyoming, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming.

Leon Schydlower, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Ernest Gonzalez, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

Ann Marie McIff Allen, of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

Robin Michelle Meriweather, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 4. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3832. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3833. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of, or who have committed, an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3834. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans may obtain a physical copy of a form for reimbursement of certain travel expenses by mail or at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3835. A bill to establish an interagency Working Group to study financial safety and inclusion for survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3836. A bill to improve drought-related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 3837. A bill to improve financial literacy training for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. HYDE–SMITH:

S. 3838. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 3839. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 203 East 6th Street in Lexington, Nebraska, as the ''Bill Barrett Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3840. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit exchanges from effecting transactions in securities issued by natural asset companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3841. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report on the impact of a proposed rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on access of veterans to long-term care facilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3842. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammed Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3843. A bill to amend chapters 95 and 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the system of public financing for Presidential election campaigns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3844. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reduce the number of members of the Federal Election Commission from 6 to 5, to revise the method of selection and terms of service of members of the Commission, to distribute the powers of the Commission between the Chair and the remaining members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3845. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to create a national zero-emission vehicle standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3846. A bill to establish a task force on waterway freight diversification and economic development in the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela River corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3847. A bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3848. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to freeze the existing adverse effect wage rate applicable to H–2A nonimmigrants through December 31, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3849. A bill to promote United States leadership in technical standards by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Department of State to take certain actions to encourage and enable United States participation in developing standards and specifications for artificial intelligence and other critical and emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3850. A bill to provide for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3851. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 McCamly Street South in Battle Creek, Michigan, as the ''Sojourner Truth Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3852. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to promulgate regulations prohibiting the use of lead ammunition on all land and water under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3853. A bill to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining; read the first time.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3854. A bill to combat transnational repression abroad, to strengthen tools to combat authoritarianism, corruption, and kleptocracy, to invest in democracy research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3855. A bill to interconnect the Electric Reliability Council of Texas to its neighbors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 3856. A bill to require certain forest supervisors of units of the National Forest System to submit to the Chief of the Forest Service a harvesting improvement report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3857. A bill to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3858. A bill to establish within the Office of Land and Emergency Management of the Environmental Protection Agency the Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 3859. A bill to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 569. A resolution recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks on religious freedom around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 570. A resolution designating March 1, 2024, as ''National Speech and Debate Education Day''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through

physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 532, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1237

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, a bill to restore the exemption of family farms and small businesses from the definition of assets under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1248

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1248, a bill to expand eligibility for and provide judicial review for the Elderly Home Detention Pilot Program, and make other technical corrections.

S. 1842

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1842, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances.

S. 1943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1943, a bill to establish the Council on Improving Federal Civic Architecture, and for other purposes.

S. 2207

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2207, a bill to provide enhanced funding for family planning services.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2223, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide families year-round access to nutrition incentives under the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to establish the Increasing Land, Capital, and Market Access Program within the Farm Service Agency Office of Outreach and Education.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2748, a bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

S. 2788

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2788, a bill to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing.

S. 2801

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2801, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 3125

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3125, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3348

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3348, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 3444

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3444, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9–8–8, and for other purposes.

S. 3548

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3548, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 3572

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3572, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, to award grants for arts and creative workforce programs.

S. 3584

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3584, a bill to require enforcement against misbranded egg alternatives.

S. 3612

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3612, a bill to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

S. 3775

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3775, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3814

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3814, a bill to prohibit actions that would authorize conduct of official United States Government business in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of

the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a ''Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status''.

S.J. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 4. A bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on voting rights, later today, I will join several of my Democratic colleagues at a press conference to mark the reintroduction of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

John Lewis once said:

Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community.

That is what John Lewis said.

With this legislation, we are not only honoring John Lewis and his lifetime fight for voting rights, we are also committed to doing our part to expand access to the ballot box and end voter discrimination, which has plagued this Republic since its founding.

I will have more to say later, but recent history makes it absolutely clear that we need these protections on the books. MAGA Republicans across the country are continuing their dangerous crusade—self-serving—to restrict access to the ballot box, particularly when it comes to people of color ahead of the November election.

So Democrats will continue to heed the words of our late colleague, John Lewis, and we will work tirelessly to safeguard the right to vote and our democracy, advancing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.

We can—and must—build a more responsive democracy, a more perfect Union.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4

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 ''John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024''.

TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

SEC. 101. VOTE DILUTION, DENIAL, AND ABRIDGMENT CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''applied by any State or political subdivision'' the following: ''for the purpose of, or''; and

(2) by striking ''as provided in subsection (b)'' and inserting ''as provided in subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e)''.

(b) VOTE DILUTION.—Section 2 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10301), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) A violation of subsection (a) for vote dilution is established if, based on the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the political processes leading to nomination or election in the State or political subdivision are not equally open to participation by members of a class of citizens protected by subsection (a) in that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected to office in the State or political subdivision is one circumstance which may be considered: *Provided*, That nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population. The legal standard articulated in Thornburg v. Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986), governs claims under this subsection. For purposes of this subsection a class of citizens protected by subsection (a) may include a cohesive coalition of members of different racial or language minority groups.''.

(c) VOTE DENIAL OR ABRIDGEMENT.—Section 2 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10301), as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) A violation of subsection (a) for vote denial or abridgment is established if the challenged standard, practice, or procedure imposes a discriminatory burden on members of a class of citizens protected by subsection (a), meaning that—

''(A) members of the protected class face greater difficulty in complying with the standard, practice, or procedure, considering the totality of the circumstances; and

''(B) such greater difficulty is, at least in part, caused by or linked to social and historical conditions that have produced or currently produce discrimination against members of the protected class.

''(2) The challenged standard, practice, or procedure need only be a but-for cause of the discriminatory burden or perpetuate a preexisting discriminatory burden.

''(3)(A) The totality of the circumstances for consideration relative to a violation of subsection (a) for vote denial or abridgment shall include the following factors, which, individually and collectively, show how a voting standard, practice, or procedure can function to amplify the effects of past or present racial discrimination:

''(i) The history of official voting-related discrimination in the State or political subdivision.

''(ii) The extent to which voting in the elections of the State or political subdivision is racially polarized.

''(iii) The extent to which the State or political subdivision has used unduly burdensome photographic voter identification requirements, documentary proof of citizenship requirements, documentary proof of residence requirements, or other voting standards, practices, or procedures beyond those required by Federal law that may impair the ability of members of the protected class to participate fully in the political process.

''(iv) The extent to which members of the protected class bear the effects of discrimination in areas such as education, employment, and health, which hinder the ability of those members to participate effectively in the political process.

''(v) The use of overt or subtle racial appeals either in political campaigns or surrounding the adoption or maintenance of the challenged standard, practice, or procedure.

''(vi) The extent to which members of the protected class have been elected to public office in the jurisdiction, except that the fact that the protected class is too small to elect candidates of its choice shall not defeat a claim of vote denial or abridgment under this section.

''(vii) Whether there is a lack of responsiveness on the part of elected officials to the particularized needs of members of the protected class.

''(viii) Whether the policy underlying the State or political subdivision's use of the challenged qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure has a tenuous connection to that qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure.

''(B) A particular combination or number of factors under subparagraph (A) shall not be required to establish a violation of subsection (a) for vote denial or abridgment.

''(C) The totality of the circumstances for consideration relative to a violation of subsection (a) for vote denial or abridgment shall not include the following factors:

''(i) The total number or share of members of a protected class on whom a challenged standard, practice, or procedure does not impose a material burden.

''(ii) The degree to which the challenged standard, practice, or procedure has a long pedigree or was in widespread use at some earlier date.

''(iii) The use of an identical or similar standard, practice, or procedure in other States or political subdivisions.

''(iv) The availability of other forms of voting unimpacted by the challenged standard, practice, or procedure to all members of the electorate, including members of the protected class, unless the State or political subdivision is simultaneously expanding those other standards, practices, or procedures to eliminate any disproportionate burden imposed by the challenged standard, practice, or procedure.

''(v) A prophylactic impact on potential criminal activity by individual voters, if such crimes have not occurred in the State or political subdivision in substantial numbers.

''(vi) Mere invocation of interests in voter confidence or prevention of fraud.''.

(d) INTENDED VOTE DILUTION OR VOTE DENIAL OR ABRIDGMENT.—Section 2 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10301), as amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d)(1) A violation of subsection (a) is also established if a challenged qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure is intended, at least in part, to dilute the voting strength of a protected class or to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color, or in contravention of the guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2).

''(2) Discrimination on account of race or color, or in contravention of the guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2), need only be one purpose of a qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure in order to establish a violation of subsection (a), as described in this subsection. A qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure intended to dilute the voting strength of a protected class or to make it more difficult for members of a protected class to cast a ballot that will be counted constitutes a violation of subsection (a), as described in this subsection, even if an additional purpose of the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure is to benefit a particular political party or group.

''(3) Recent context, including actions by official decisionmakers in prior years or in other contexts preceding the decision responsible for the challenged qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure, and including actions by predecessor government actors or individual members of a decisionmaking body, may be relevant to making a determination about a violation of subsection (a), as described under this subsection.

''(4) A claim that a violation of subsection (a) has occurred, as described under this subsection, shall require proof of a discriminatory impact but shall not require proof of violation of subsection (b) or (c).''.

SEC. 102. RETROGRESSION.

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), as amended by section 101 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) A violation of subsection (a) is established when a State or political subdivision enacts or seeks to administer any qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting in any election that has the purpose of or will have the effect of diminishing the ability of any citizens of the United States on account of race or color, or in contravention of the guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2), to participate in the electoral process or elect their preferred candidates of choice. This subsection applies to any action taken on or after January 1, 2021, by a State or political subdivision to enact or seek to administer any such qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice or procedure.

''(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e), final decisions of the United States District Court of the District of Columbia on applications or petitions by States or political subdivisions for preclearance under section 5 of any changes in voting prerequisites, standards, practices, or procedures, supersede the provisions of subsection (e).''.

SEC. 103. VIOLATIONS TRIGGERING AUTHORITY OF COURT TO RETAIN JURISDICTION.

(a) TYPES OF VIOLATIONS.—Section 3(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10302(c)) is amended by striking ''violations of the fourteenth or fifteenth amendment'' and inserting ''violations of the 14th or 15th Amendment, violations of this Act, or violations of any Federal law that prohibits discrimination in voting on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group,''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10302(a)) is amended by striking ''violations of the fourteenth or fifteenth amendment'' and inserting ''violations of the 14th or 15th Amendment, violations of this Act, or violations of any Federal law that prohibits discrimination in voting on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group,''.

SEC. 104. CRITERIA FOR COVERAGE OF STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

(a) DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO SECTION 4(a).—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10303(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) EXISTENCE OF VOTING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING PREVIOUS 25 YEARS.—

''(A) STATEWIDE APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to a State and all political subdivisions within the State during a calendar year if—

''(i) fifteen or more voting rights violations occurred in the State during the previous 25 calendar years; or

''(ii) ten or more voting rights violations occurred in the State during the previous 25 calendar years, at least one of which was committed by the State itself (as opposed to a political subdivision within the State).

''(B) APPLICATION TO SPECIFIC POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to a political subdivision as a separate unit during a calendar year if three or more voting rights violations occurred in the subdivision during the previous 25 calendar years.

''(2) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if, pursuant to paragraph (1), subsection (a) applies with respect to a State or political subdivision during a calendar year, subsection (a) shall apply with respect to such State or political subdivision for the period—

''(i) that begins on January 1 of the year in which subsection (a) applies; and

''(ii) that ends on the date which is 10 years after the date described in clause (i).

''(B) NO FURTHER APPLICATION AFTER DECLARATORY JUDGMENT.—

''(i) STATES.—If a State obtains a declaratory judgment under subsection (a), and the judgment remains in effect, subsection (a) shall no longer apply to such State and all political subdivisions in the State pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) unless, after the issuance of the declaratory judgment, paragraph (1)(A) applies to the State solely on the basis of voting rights violations occurring after the issuance of the declaratory judgment.

''(ii) POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—If a political subdivision obtains a declaratory judgment under subsection (a), and the judgment remains in effect, subsection (a) shall no longer apply to such political subdivision pursuant to paragraph (1), including pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) (relating to the statewide application of subsection (a)), unless, after the issuance of the declaratory judgment, paragraph (1)(B) applies to the political subdivision solely on the basis of voting rights violations occurring after the issuance of the declaratory judgment.

''(3) DETERMINATION OF VOTING RIGHTS VIOLATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a voting rights violation occurred in a State or political subdivision if any of the following applies:

''(A) JUDICIAL RELIEF; VIOLATION OF THE 14TH OR 15TH AMENDMENT.—Any final judgment (that was not reversed on appeal) occurred, in which the plaintiff prevailed and in which any court of the United States determined that a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group occurred, or that a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting created an undue burden on the right to vote in connection with a claim that the law unduly burdened voters of a particular race, color, or language minority group, in violation of the 14th or 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, anywhere within the State or subdivision.

''(B) JUDICIAL RELIEF; VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT.—Any final judgment (that was not reversed on appeal) occurred in which the plaintiff prevailed and in which any court of the United States determined that a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting was imposed or applied or would have been imposed or applied anywhere within the State or subdivision in a manner that resulted or would have resulted in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, in violation of subsection (e) or (f) or section 2, 201, or 203.

''(C) FINAL JUDGMENT; DENIAL OF DECLARATORY JUDGMENT.—In a final judgment (that was not been reversed on appeal), any court of the United States has denied the request of the State or subdivision for a declaratory judgment under section 3(c) or section 5, and thereby prevented a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting from being enforced anywhere within the State or subdivision.

''(D) OBJECTION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General has interposed an objection under section 3(c) or section 5, and thereby prevented a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting from being enforced anywhere within the State or subdivision. A violation under this subparagraph has not occurred where an objection has been withdrawn by the Attorney General, unless the withdrawal was in response to a change in the law or practice that served as the basis of the objection. A violation under this subparagraph has not occurred where the objection is based solely on a State or political subdivision's failure to comply with a procedural process that would not otherwise count as an independent violation of this Act.

''(E) CONSENT DECREE, SETTLEMENT, OR OTHER AGREEMENT.—

''(i) AGREEMENT.—A consent decree, settlement, or other agreement was adopted or entered by a court of the United States that contains an admission of liability by the defendants, which resulted in the alteration or abandonment of a voting practice anywhere in the territory of such State or subdivision that was challenged on the ground that the practice denied or abridged the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group in violation of subsection (e) or (f) or section 2, 201, or 203, or the 14th or 15th Amendment.

''(ii) INDEPENDENT VIOLATIONS.—A voluntary extension or continuation of a consent decree, settlement, or agreement described in clause (i) shall not count as an independent violation under this subparagraph. Any other extension or modification of such a consent decree, settlement, or agreement, if the consent decree, settlement, or agreement has been in place for ten years or longer, shall count as an independent violation under this subparagraph. If a court of the United States finds that a consent decree, settlement, or agreement described in clause (i) itself denied or abridged the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on

account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, violated subsection (e) or (f) or section 2, 201, or 203, or created an undue burden on the right to vote in connection with a claim that the consent decree, settlement, or other agreement unduly burdened voters of a particular race, color, or language minority group, that finding shall count as an independent violation under this subparagraph.

''(F) MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS.—Each instance in which a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting, including each redistricting plan, is found to be a violation by a court of the United States pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B), or prevented from being enforced pursuant to subparagraph (C) or (D), or altered or abandoned pursuant to subparagraph (E) shall count as an independent violation under this paragraph. Within a redistricting plan, each violation under this paragraph found to discriminate against any group of voters based on race, color, or language minority group shall count as an independent violation under this paragraph.

''(4) TIMING OF DETERMINATIONS.—

''(A) DETERMINATIONS OF VOTING RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.—As early as practicable during each calendar year, the Attorney General shall make the determinations required by this subsection, including updating the list of voting rights violations occurring in each State and political subdivision for the previous calendar year.

''(B) EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—A determination or certification of the Attorney General under this section or under section 8 or 13 shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 4(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10303(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence of the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''any State with respect to which'' and all that follows through ''unless'' and inserting ''any State to which this subsection applies during a calendar year pursuant to determinations made under subsection (b), or in any political subdivision of such State (as such subdivision existed on the date such determinations were made with respect to such State), though such determinations were not made with respect to such subdivision as a separate unit, or in any political subdivision with respect to which this subsection applies during a calendar year pursuant to determinations made with respect to such subdivision as a separate unit under subsection (b), unless'';

(B) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking the second sentence;

(C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''(in the case of a State or subdivision seeking a declaratory judgment under the second sentence of this subsection)'';

(D) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''(in the case of a State or subdivision seeking a declaratory judgment under the second sentence of this subsection)'';

(E) in paragraph (3), by striking ''(in the case of a State or subdivision seeking a declaratory judgment under the second sentence of this subsection)'';

(F) in paragraph (5), by striking ''(in the case of a State or subdivision which sought a declaratory judgment under the second sentence of this subsection)'';

(G) by striking paragraphs (7) and (8); and

(H) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (7).

(b) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS.—Section 4(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10303(a)(1)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''race or color,'' and inserting ''race or color, or in contravention of the guarantees of subsection (f)(2),''.

(c) FACILITATING BAILOUT.—Section 4(a) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10303(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1)(C) and redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(2) by inserting at the beginning of paragraph (7), as redesignated by subsection (a)(2)(H), the following: ''Any plaintiff seeking a declaratory judgment under this subsection on the grounds that the plaintiff meets the requirements of paragraph (1) may request that the Attorney General consent to entry of judgment.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) If a political subdivision is subject to the application of this subsection, due to the applicability of subsection (b)(1)(A), the political subdivision may seek a declaratory judgment under this section if the subdivision demonstrates that the subdivision meets the criteria established by the subparagraphs of paragraph (1), for the 10 years preceding the date on which subsection (a) applied to the political subdivision under subsection (b)(1)(A).

''(9) If a political subdivision was not subject to the application of this subsection by reason of a declaratory judgment entered prior to the date of enactment of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024, and is not, subsequent to that date of enactment, subject to the application of this subsection under subsection (b)(1)(B), then that political subdivision shall not be subject to the requirements of this subsection.''.

SEC. 105. DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE FOR COVERED PRACTICES.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 4 the following:

''SEC. 4A. DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE FOR COVERED PRACTICES.

''(a) PRACTICE-BASED PRECLEARANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State and each political subdivision shall—

''(A) identify any newly enacted or adopted law, regulation, or policy that includes a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or a standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting, that is a covered practice described in subsection (b); and

''(B) ensure that no such covered practice is implemented unless or until the State or political subdivision, as the case may be, complies with subsection (c).

''(2) DETERMINATIONS OF CHARACTERISTICS OF VOTING-AGE POPULATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As early as practicable during each calendar year, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of the Census and the heads of other relevant offices of the government, shall make the determinations required by this section regarding voting-age populations and the characteristics of such populations, and shall publish a list of the States and political subdivisions to which a voting-age population characteristic described in subsection (b) applies.

''(B) PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—A determination (including a certification) of the Attorney General under this paragraph shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

''(b) COVERED PRACTICES.—To assure that the right of citizens of the United States to vote is not denied or abridged on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group as a result of the implementation of certain qualifications or prerequisites to voting, or standards, practices, or procedures with respect to voting, newly adopted in a State or political subdivision, the following shall be covered practices subject to the requirements described in subsection (a):

''(1) CHANGES TO METHOD OF ELECTION.—Any change to the method of election—

''(A) to add seats elected at-large in a State or political subdivision where—

''(i) two or more racial groups or language minority groups each represent 20 percent or more of the voting-age population in the State or political subdivision, respectively; or

''(ii) a single language minority group represents 20 percent or more of the voting-age population on Indian lands located in whole or in part in the State or political subdivision; or

''(B) to convert one or more seats elected from a single-member district to one or more at-large seats or seats from a multi-member district in a State or political subdivision where—

''(i) two or more racial groups or language minority groups each represent 20 percent or more of the voting-age population in the State or political subdivision, respectively; or

''(ii) a single language minority group represents 20 percent or more of the voting-age population on Indian lands located in whole or in part in the State or political subdivision.

''(2) CHANGES TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISION BOUNDARIES.—Any change or series of changes within a year to the boundaries of a political subdivision that reduces by 3 or more percentage points the percentage of the political subdivision's voting-age population that is comprised of members of a single racial group or language minority group in the political subdivision where—

''(A) two or more racial groups or language minority groups each represent 20 percent or more of the political subdivision's voting-age population; or

''(B) a single language minority group represents 20 percent or more of the voting-age population on Indian lands located in whole or in part in the political subdivision.

''(3) CHANGES THROUGH REDISTRICTING.—Any change to the boundaries of districts for Federal, State, or local elections in a State or political subdivision where any racial group or language minority group that is not the largest racial group or language minority group in the jurisdiction and that represents 15 percent or more of the State or political subdivision's voting-age population experiences a population increase of at least 20 percent of its voting-age population, over the preceding decade (as calculated by the Bureau of the Census under the most recent decennial census), in the jurisdiction.

''(4) CHANGES IN DOCUMENTATION OR QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE.—Any change to requirements for documentation or proof of identity to vote or register to vote in elections for Federal, State, or local offices that will exceed or be more stringent than such requirements under State law on the day before the date of enactment of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024.

''(5) CHANGES TO MULTILINGUAL VOTING MATERIALS.—Any change that reduces multilingual voting materials or alters the manner in which such materials are provided or distributed, where no similar reduction or alteration occurs in materials provided in English for such election.

''(6) CHANGES THAT REDUCE, CONSOLIDATE, OR RELOCATE VOTING LOCATIONS, OR REDUCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES.—Any change that reduces, consolidates, or relocates voting locations in elections for Federal, State, or local

office, including early, absentee, and election-day voting locations, or reduces days or hours of in-person voting on any Sunday during a period occurring prior to the date of an election for Federal, State, or local office during which voters may cast ballots in such election, or prohibits the provision of food or non–alcoholic drink to persons waiting to vote in an election for Federal, State, or local office, except where the provision would violate prohibitions on expenditures to influence voting, if the location change, reduction in days or hours, or prohibition applies—

''(A) in one or more census tracts in which two or more language minority groups or racial groups each represent 20 percent or more of the voting-age population; or

''(B) on Indian lands in which at least 20 percent of the voting-age population belongs to a single language minority group.

''(7) NEW LIST MAINTENANCE PROCESS.—Any change to the maintenance process for voter registration lists that adds a new basis for removal from the list of active voters registered to vote in elections for Federal, State, or local office, or that incorporates new sources of information in determining a voter's eligibility to vote in elections for Federal, State, or local office, if such a change would have a statistically significant disparate impact, concerning the removal from voter rolls, on members of racial groups or language minority groups that constitute greater than 5 percent of the voting-age population—

''(A) in the case of a political subdivision imposing such change if—

''(i) two or more racial groups or language minority groups each represent 20 percent or more of the voting-age population of the political subdivision; or

''(ii) a single language minority group represents 20 percent or more of the voting-age population on Indian lands located in whole or in part in the political subdivision; or

''(B) in the case of a State imposing such change, if two or more racial groups or language minority groups each represent 20 percent or more of the voting-age population of—

''(i) the State; or

''(ii) a political subdivision in the State, except that the requirements under subsections (a) and (c) shall apply only with respect to each such political subdivision individually.

''(c) PRECLEARANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) ACTION .—Whenever a State or political subdivision with respect to which the requirements set forth in subsection (a) are in effect shall enact, adopt, or seek to implement any covered practice described under subsection (b), such State or subdivision may institute an action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for a declaratory judgment that such covered practice neither has the purpose nor will have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, and unless and until the court enters such judgment such covered practice shall not be implemented.

''(B) SUBMISSION TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), such covered practice may be implemented without such proceeding if the covered practice has been submitted by the chief legal officer or other appropriate official of such State or subdivision to the Attorney General and the Attorney General has not interposed an objection within 60 days after such submission, or upon good cause shown, to facilitate an expedited approval within 60 days after such submission, the Attorney General has affirmatively indicated that such objection will not be made. For purposes of determining whether expedited consideration of approval is required under this subparagraph or section 5(a), an exigency such as a natural disaster, that requires a change in a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting during the period of 30 days before a Federal election, shall be considered to be good cause requiring that expedited consideration.

''(ii) EFFECT OF INDICATION.—Neither an affirmative indication by the Attorney General that no objection will be made, nor the Attorney General's failure to object, nor a declaratory judgment entered under this subsection shall bar a subsequent action to enjoin implementation of such covered practice. In the event the Attorney General affirmatively indicates that no objection will be made within the 60-day period following receipt of a submission, the Attorney General may reserve the right to reexamine the submission if additional information comes to the Attorney General's attention during the remainder of the 60-day period which would otherwise require objection in accordance with this subsection.

''(C) COURT.—Any action under this subsection shall be heard and determined by a court of three judges in accordance with the provisions of section 2284 of title 28, United States Code, and any appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court.

''(2) DENYING OR ABRIDGING THE RIGHT TO VOTE.—Any covered practice described in subsection (b) that has the purpose of or will have the effect of diminishing the ability of any citizens of the United States on account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, to elect their preferred candidates of choice denies or abridges the right to vote within the meaning of paragraph (1).

''(3) PURPOSE DEFINED.—The term 'purpose' in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall include any discriminatory purpose.

''(4) PURPOSE OF PARAGRAPH (2).—The purpose of paragraph (2) is to protect the ability of such citizens to elect their preferred candidates of choice.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT.—The Attorney General or any aggrieved citizen may file an action in a district court of the United States to compel any State or political subdivision to satisfy the obligations set forth in this section. Such an action shall be heard and determined by a court of three judges under section 2284 of title 28, United States Code. In any such action, the court shall provide as a remedy that implementation of any voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting, that is the subject of the action under this subsection be enjoined unless the court determines that—

''(1) the voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting, is not a covered practice described in subsection (b); or

''(2) the State or political subdivision has complied with subsection (c) with respect to the covered practice at issue.

''(e) COUNTING OF RACIAL GROUPS AND LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS.—For purposes of this section, the calculation of the population of a racial group or a language minority group shall be carried out using the methodology in the guidance of the Department of Justice entitled 'Guidance Concerning Redistricting Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act; Notice' (76 Fed. Reg. 7470 (February 9, 2011)).

''(f) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of determinations under this section, any data provided by the Bureau of the Census, whether based on estimation from a sample or actual enumeration, shall not be subject to challenge or review in any court.

''(g) MULTILINGUAL VOTING MATERIALS.—In this section, the term 'multilingual voting materials' means registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots, provided in the language or languages of one or more language minority groups.''.

SEC. 106. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY TO ENFORCE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

(a) TRANSPARENCY.—The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 5 the following:

''SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY REGARDING CHANGES TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS.

''(a) NOTICE OF ENACTED CHANGES.—

''(1) NOTICE OF CHANGES.—If a State or political subdivision makes any change in any qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting in any election for Federal office that will result in the qualification or prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure being different from that which was in effect as of 180 days before the date of the election for Federal office, the State or political subdivision shall provide reasonable public notice in such State or political subdivision and on the website of the State or political subdivision, of a concise description of the change, including the difference between the changed qualification or prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure and the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure which was previously in effect. The public notice described in this paragraph, in such State or political subdivision and on the website of a State or political subdivision, shall be in a format that is reasonably convenient and accessible to persons with disabilities who are eligible to vote, including persons who have low vision or are blind.

''(2) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE.—A State or political subdivision shall provide the public notice required under paragraph (1) not later than 48 hours after making the change involved.

''(b) TRANSPARENCY REGARDING POLLING PLACE RESOURCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to identify any changes that may impact the right to vote of any person, prior to the 30th day before the date of an election for Federal office, each State or political subdivision with responsibility for allocating registered voters, voting machines, and official poll workers to particular precincts and polling places shall provide reasonable public notice in such State or political subdivision and on the website of a State or political subdivision, of the information described in paragraph (2) for precincts and polling places within such State or political subdivision. The public notice described in this paragraph, in such State or political subdivision and on the website of a State or political subdivision, shall be in a format that is reasonably convenient and accessible to persons with disabilities who are eligible to vote, including persons who have low vision or are blind.

''(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this paragraph with respect to a precinct or polling place is each of the following:

''(A) The name or number.

''(B) In the case of a polling place, the location, including the street address, and whether such polling place is accessible to persons with disabilities.

''(C) The voting-age population of the area served by the precinct or polling place, broken down by demographic group if such breakdown is reasonably available to such State or political subdivision.

''(D) The number of registered voters assigned to the precinct or polling place, broken down by demographic group if such breakdown is reasonably available to such State or political subdivision.

''(E) The number of voting machines assigned, including the number of voting machines accessible to persons with disabilities who are eligible to vote, including persons who have low vision or are blind.

''(F) The number of official paid poll workers assigned.

''(G) The number of official volunteer poll workers assigned.

''(H) In the case of a polling place, the dates and hours of operation.

''(3) UPDATES IN INFORMATION REPORTED.—If a State or political subdivision makes any change in any of the information described in paragraph (2), the State or political subdivision shall provide reasonable public notice in such State or political subdivision and on the website of a State or political subdivision, of the change in the information not later than 48 hours after the change occurs or, if the change occurs fewer than 48 hours before the date of the election for Federal office, as soon as practicable after the change occurs. The public notice described in this paragraph and published on the website of a State or political subdivision shall be in a format that is reasonably convenient and accessible to persons with disabilities who are eligible to vote, including persons who have low vision or are blind.

''(c) TRANSPARENCY OF CHANGES RELATING TO DEMOGRAPHICS AND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.—

''(1) REQUIRING PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES.—Not later than 10 days after making any change in the constituency that will participate in an election for Federal, State, or local office or the boundaries of a voting unit or electoral district in an election for Federal, State, or local office (including through redistricting, reapportionment, changing from at-large elections to district-based elections, or changing from district-based elections to at-large elections), a State or political subdivision shall provide reasonable public notice in such State or political subdivision and on the website of a State or political subdivision, of the demographic and electoral data described in paragraph (3) for each of the geographic areas described in paragraph (2).

''(2) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS DESCRIBED.—The geographic areas described in this paragraph are as follows:

''(A) The State as a whole, if the change applies statewide, or the political subdivision as a whole, if the change applies across the entire political subdivision.

''(B) If the change includes a plan to replace or eliminate voting units or electoral districts, each voting unit or electoral district that will be replaced or eliminated.

''(C) If the change includes a plan to establish new voting units or electoral districts, each such new voting unit or electoral district.

''(3) DEMOGRAPHIC AND ELECTORAL DATA.—The demographic and electoral data described in this paragraph with respect to a geographic area described in paragraph (2) are each of the following:

''(A) The voting-age population, broken down by demographic group.

''(B) The number of registered voters, broken down by demographic group if such breakdown is reasonably available to the State or political subdivision involved.

''(C)(i) If the change applies to a State, the actual number of votes, or (if it is not reasonably practicable for the State to ascertain the actual number of votes) the estimated number of votes received by each candidate in each statewide election held during the 5-year period which ends on the date the change involved is made; and

''(ii) if the change applies to only one political subdivision, the actual number of votes, or (if it is not reasonably practicable for the political subdivision to ascertain the actual number of votes) the estimated number of votes in each subdivision-wide election held during the 5-year period which ends on the date the change involved is made.

''(4) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE BY SMALLER JURISDICTIONS.—Compliance with this subsection shall be voluntary for a political subdivision of a State unless the subdivision is one of the following:

''(A) A county or parish.

''(B) A municipality with a population greater than 10,000, as determined by the Bureau of the Census under the most recent decennial census.

''(C) A school district with a population greater than 10,000, as determined by the Bureau of the Census under the most recent decennial census. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'school district' means the geographic area under the jurisdiction of a local educational agency (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

''(d) RULES REGARDING FORMAT OF INFORMATION.—The Attorney General may issue rules specifying a reasonably convenient and accessible format that States and political subdivisions shall use to provide public notice of information under this section.

''(e) NO DENIAL OF RIGHT TO VOTE.—The right to vote of any person shall not be denied or abridged because the person failed to comply with any change made by a State or political subdivision to a voting qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure if the State or political subdivision involved did not meet the applicable requirements of this section with respect to the change.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'demographic group' means each group which section 2 protects from the denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race or color, or in contravention of the guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2);

''(2) the term 'election for Federal office' means any general, special, primary, or runoff election held solely or in part for the purpose of electing any candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress; and

''(3) the term 'persons with disabilities', means individuals with a disability, as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply with respect to changes which are made on or after the expiration of the 60-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 107. AUTHORITY TO ASSIGN OBSERVERS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY IN POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE.—Section 8(a)(2)(B) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305(a)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) in the Attorney General's judgment, the assignment of observers is otherwise necessary to enforce the guarantees of the 14th or 15th Amendment or any provision of this Act or any other Federal law protecting the right of citizens of the United States to vote; or''.

(b) ASSIGNMENT OF OBSERVERS TO ENFORCE BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10305(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (1);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) the Attorney General certifies with respect to a political subdivision that—

''(A) the Attorney General has received written meritorious complaints from residents, elected officials, or civic participation organizations that efforts to violate section 203 are likely to occur; or

''(B) in the Attorney General's judgment, the assignment of observers is necessary to enforce the guarantees of section 203;''; and

(3) by moving the margin for the continuation text following paragraph (3), as added by paragraph (2) of this subsection, 2 ems to the left.

(c) TRANSFERRAL OF AUTHORITY OVER OBSERVERS TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

(1) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—Section 3(a) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10302(a)) is amended by striking ''United States Civil Service Commission in accordance with section 6'' and inserting ''Attorney General in accordance with section 8''.

(2) OBSERVERS; APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—Section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), in the flush matter at the end, by striking ''Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall assign as many observers for such subdivision as the Director'' and inserting ''Attorney General shall assign as many observers for such subdivision as the Attorney General'';

(B) in subsection (c), by striking ''Director of the Office of Personnel Management'' and inserting ''Attorney General''; and

(C) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following: ''The Director of the Office of Personnel Management may, with the consent of the Attorney General, assist in the selection, recruitment, hiring, training, or deployment of these or other individuals authorized by the Attorney General for the purpose of observing whether persons who are entitled to vote are being permitted to vote and whether those votes are being properly tabulated.''.

(3) TERMINATION OF CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS OF OBSERVERS.—Section 13(a)(1) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10309(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''notifies the Director of the Office of Personnel Management,'' and inserting ''determines,''.

SEC. 108. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO SEEK RELIEF.

(a) POLL TAX.—Section 10(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10306(b)) is amended by striking ''the Attorney General is authorized and directed to institute forthwith in the name of the United States such actions,'' and inserting ''an aggrieved person or (in the name of the United States) the Attorney General may institute such actions''.

(b) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Section 12(d) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10308(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d)(1) Whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that any person has engaged in, or is about to engage in, any act or practice that would (1) deny any citizen the right to register, to cast a ballot, or to have that ballot counted properly and included in the appropriate totals of votes cast in violation of the 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, or 26th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, (2) violate subsection (a) or (b) of section 11, or (3) violate any other provision of this Act or any other Federal voting rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, an aggrieved person or (in the name of the United States) the Attorney General may institute an action for preventive relief, including an application for a temporary or permanent injunction, restraining order, or other appropriate

order. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create a cause of action for civil enforcement of criminal provisions of this or any other Act.''.

(c) JUDICIAL RELIEF.—Section 204 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10504) is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''Whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that a State or political subdivision has engaged or is about to engage in any act or practice prohibited by a provision of this title, an aggrieved person or (in the name of the United States) the Attorney General may institute an action in a district court of the United States, for a restraining order, a preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other order as may be appropriate.''.

(d) ENFORCEMENT OF TWENTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT.—Section 301(a)(1) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10701(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a)(1) An aggrieved person or (in the name of the United States) the Attorney General may institute an action in a district court of the United States, for a restraining order, a preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other order as may be appropriate to implement the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.''.

SEC. 109. PREVENTIVE RELIEF.

Section 12(d) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10308(d)), as amended by section 108, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) In considering any motion for preliminary relief in any action for preventive relief described in this subsection, the court shall grant the relief if the court determines that the complainant has raised a serious question as to whether the challenged voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure violates any of the provisions listed in section 111(a)(1) of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024 and, on balance, the hardship imposed on the defendant by the grant of the relief will be less than the hardship which would be imposed on the plaintiff if the relief were not granted.

''(B) In making its determination under this paragraph with respect to a change in any voting qualification, prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting, the court shall consider all relevant factors and give due weight to the following factors, if they are present:

''(i) Whether the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure in effect prior to the change was adopted as a remedy for a Federal court judgment, consent decree, or admission regarding—

''(I) discrimination on the basis of race or color in violation of the 14th or 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

''(II) a violation of the 19th, 24th, or 26th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

''(III) a violation of this Act; or

''(IV) voting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group in violation of any other Federal or State law.

''(ii) Whether the qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure in effect prior to the change served as a ground for the dismissal or settlement of a claim alleging—

''(I) discrimination on the basis of race or color in violation of the 14th or 15th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

''(II) a violation of the 19th, 24th, or 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

''(III) a violation of this Act; or

''(IV) voting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group in violation of any other Federal or State law.

''(iii) Whether the change was adopted fewer than 180 days before the date of the election with respect to which the change is to take or takes effect.

''(iv) Whether the defendant has failed to provide timely or complete notice of the adoption of the change as required by applicable Federal or State law.

''(3) A jurisdiction's inability to enforce its voting or election laws, regulations, policies, or redistricting plans, standing alone, shall not be deemed to constitute irreparable harm to the public interest or to the interests of a defendant in an action arising under the Constitution or any Federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group in the voting process, for the purposes of determining whether a stay of a court's order or an interlocutory appeal under section 1253 of title 28, United States Code, is warranted.''.

SEC. 110. BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 203(b)(1) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''2032'' and inserting ''2037''.

SEC. 111. RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS OF VOTING RIGHTS LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS OF VOTING RIGHTS LAWS.—In this section, the term ''prohibited act or practice'' means—

(A) any act or practice—

(i) that creates an undue burden on the fundamental right to vote in violation of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; or

(ii) that is prohibited by the 15th, 19th, 24th, or 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, section 2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101), the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.), the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.), the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (52 U.S.C. 20101 et seq.), or section 2003 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10102); and

(B) any act or practice in violation of any Federal law that prohibits discrimination with respect to voting, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish the authority or scope of authority of any person to bring an action under any Federal law.

(3) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—Section 722(b) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1988(b)) is amended by inserting ''a provision described in section 111(a)(1) of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024,'' after ''title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,''.

(b) GROUNDS FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF.—In any action for equitable relief pursuant to a law listed under subsection (a), proximity of the action to an election shall not be a valid reason to deny such relief, or stay the operation of or vacate the issuance of such relief, unless the party opposing the issuance or continued operation of relief meets the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the issuance of the relief would be so close in time to the election as to cause irreparable harm to the public interest or that compliance with such relief would impose serious burdens on the party opposing relief.

(1) IN GENERAL.—In considering whether to grant, deny, stay, or vacate any order of equitable relief, the court shall give substantial weight to the public's interest in expanding access to the right to vote. A State's generalized interest in enforcing its enacted laws shall not be a relevant consideration in determining whether equitable relief is warranted.

(2) PRESUMPTIVE SAFE HARBOR.—Where equitable relief is sought either within 30 days of the adoption or reasonable public notice of the challenged policy or practice, or more than 45 days before the date of an election to which the relief being sought will apply, proximity to the election will be presumed not to constitute a harm to the public interest or a burden on the party opposing relief.

(c) GROUNDS FOR STAY OR VACATUR IN FEDERAL CLAIMS INVOLVING VOTING RIGHTS.—

(1) PROSPECTIVE EFFECT.—In reviewing an application for a stay or vacatur of equitable relief granted pursuant to a law listed in subsection (a), a court shall give substantial weight to the reliance interests of citizens who acted pursuant to such order under review. In fashioning a stay or vacatur, a reviewing court shall not order relief that has the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote of any citizen who has acted in reliance on the order.

(2) WRITTEN EXPLANATION.—No stay or vacatur under this subsection shall issue unless the reviewing court makes specific findings that the public interest, including the public's interest in expanding access to the ballot, will be harmed by the continuing operation of the equitable relief or that compliance with such relief will impose serious burdens on the party seeking such a stay or vacatur such that those burdens substantially outweigh the benefits to the public interest. In reviewing an application for a stay or vacatur of equitable relief, findings of fact made in issuing the order under review shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous.

SEC. 112. PROTECTION OF TABULATED VOTES.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10307) is amended—

(1) in section 11—

(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) No person acting under color of law shall—

''(1) fail or refuse to permit any person to vote who is entitled to vote under Federal law or is otherwise qualified to vote;

''(2) willfully fail or refuse to tabulate, count, and report such person's vote; or

''(3) willfully fail or refuse to certify the aggregate tabulations of such persons' votes or certify the election of the candidates receiving sufficient such votes to be elected to office.''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting ''subsection (a) or'' after ''duties under''; and

(2) in section 12—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking ''a year following an election in a political subdivision in which an observer has been assigned'' and inserting ''22 months following an election for Federal office''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: ''Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable grounds to believe that any person has engaged in or is about to engage in an act in violation of this subsection, the Attorney General may institute (in the name of the United States) a civil action in Federal district court seeking appropriate relief.'';

(B) in subsection (c), by inserting ''or solicits a violation of'' after ''conspires to violate''; and

(C) in subsection (e), by striking the first and second sentences and inserting the following: ''If, after the closing of the polls in

an election for Federal office, persons allege that notwithstanding (1) their registration by an appropriate election official and (2) their eligibility to vote in the political subdivision, their ballots have not been counted in such election, and if upon prompt receipt of notifications of these allegations, the Attorney General finds such allegations to be well founded, the Attorney General may forthwith file with the district court an application for an order providing for the counting and certification of the ballots of such persons and requiring the inclusion of their votes in the total vote for all applicable offices before the results of such election shall be deemed final and any force or effect given thereto.''.

SEC. 113. ENFORCEMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Section 12 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10308), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) VOTING RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to fulfill the Attorney General's responsibility to enforce this Act and other Federal laws that protect the right to vote, the Attorney General (or upon designation by the Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights) is authorized, before commencing a civil action, to issue a demand for inspection and information in writing to any State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, with respect to any relevant documentary material that the Attorney General has reason to believe is within their possession, custody, or control. A demand by the Attorney General under this subsection may require—

''(A) the production of such documentary material for inspection and copying;

''(B) answers in writing to written questions with respect to such documentary material; or

''(C) both the production described under subparagraph (A) and the answers described under subparagraph (B).

''(2) CONTENTS OF AN ATTORNEY GENERAL DEMAND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any demand issued under paragraph (1), shall include a sworn certificate to identify the voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting, or other voting related matter or issue, whose lawfulness the Attorney General is investigating and to identify the Federal law that protects the right to vote under which the investigation is being conducted. The demand shall be reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of documentary material and information relevant to such investigation. Documentary material includes any material upon which relevant information is recorded, and includes written or printed materials, photographs, tapes, or materials upon which information is electronically or magnetically recorded. Such demands shall be aimed at the Attorney General having the ability to inspect and obtain copies of relevant materials (as well as obtain information) related to voting and are not aimed at the Attorney General taking possession of original records, particularly those that are required to be retained by State and local election officials under Federal or State law.

''(B) NO REQUIREMENT FOR PRODUCTION.—Any demand issued under paragraph (1) may not require the production of any documentary material or the submission of any answers in writing to written questions if such material or answers would be protected from disclosure under the standards applicable to discovery requests under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in an action in which the Attorney General or the United States is a party.

''(C) DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL.—If the demand issued under paragraph (1) requires the production of documentary material, it shall—

''(i) identify the class of documentary material to be produced with such definiteness and certainty as to permit such material to be fairly identified; and

''(ii) prescribe a return date for production of the documentary material at least 20 days after issuance of the demand to give the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, a reasonable period of time for assembling the documentary material and making it available for inspection and copying.

''(D) ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS.—If the demand issued under paragraph (1) requires answers in writing to written questions, it shall—

''(i) set forth with specificity the written question to be answered; and

''(ii) prescribe a date at least 20 days after the issuance of the demand for submitting answers in writing to the written questions.

''(E) SERVICE.—A demand issued under paragraph (1) may be served by a United States marshal or a deputy marshal, or by certified mail, at any place within the territorial jurisdiction of any court of the United States.

''(3) RESPONSES TO AN ATTORNEY GENERAL DEMAND.—A State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, shall, with respect to any documentary material or any answer in writing produced under this subsection, provide a sworn certificate, in such form as the demand issued under paragraph (1) designates, by a person having knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to such production or written answer, authorized to act on behalf of the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, upon which the demand was served. The certificate—

''(A) shall state that—

''(i) all of the documentary material required by the demand and in the possession, custody, or control of the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, has been produced;

''(ii) with respect to every answer in writing to a written question, all information required by the question and in the possession, custody, control, or knowledge of the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, has been submitted; or

''(iii) the requirements described in both clause (i) and clause (ii) have been met; or

''(B) provide the basis for any objection to producing the documentary material or answering the written question.

To the extent that any information is not furnished, the information shall be identified and reasons set forth with particularity regarding the reasons why the information was not furnished.

''(4) JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—

''(A) PETITION FOR ENFORCEMENT.—Whenever any State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, fails to comply with demand issued by the Attorney General under paragraph (1), the Attorney General may file, in a district court of the United States in which the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, is located, a petition for a judicial order enforcing the Attorney General demand issued under paragraph (1).

''(B) PETITION TO MODIFY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Any State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, that is served with a demand issued by the Attorney General under paragraph (1) may file in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia a petition for an order of the court to modify or set aside the demand of the Attorney General.

''(ii) PETITION TO MODIFY.—Any petition to modify or set aside a demand of the Attorney General issued under paragraph (1) must be filed within 20 days after the date of service of the Attorney General's demand or at any time before the return date specified in the Attorney General's demand, whichever date is earlier.

''(iii) CONTENTS OF PETITION.—The petition shall specify each ground upon which the petitioner relies in seeking relief under clause (i), and may be based upon any failure of the Attorney General's demand to comply with the provisions of this section or upon any constitutional or other legal right or privilege of the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent. During the pendency of the petition in the court, the court may stay, as it deems proper, the running of the time allowed for compliance with the Attorney General's demand, in whole or in part, except that the State or political subdivision, or other governmental representative or agent, filing the petition shall comply with any portions of the Attorney General's demand not sought to be modified or set aside.''.

SEC. 114. DEFINITIONS.

Title I of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 21. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) INDIAN.—The term 'Indian' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(2) INDIAN LANDS.—The term 'Indian lands' means—

''(A) any Indian country of an Indian tribe, as such term is defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code;

''(B) any land in Alaska that is owned, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, by an Indian tribe that is a Native village (as such term is defined in section 3 of such Act), or by a Village Corporation that is associated with the Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 3 of such Act);

''(C) any land on which the seat of government of the Indian tribe is located; and

''(D) any land that is part or all of a tribal designated statistical area associated with the Indian tribe, or is part or all of an Alaska Native village statistical area associated with the tribe, as defined by the Bureau of the Census for the purposes of the most recent decennial census.

''(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' or 'tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(4) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term 'Tribal Government' means the recognized governing body of an Indian Tribe.

''(5) VOTING-AGE POPULATION.—The term 'voting-age population' means the numerical size of the population within a State, within a political subdivision, or within a political subdivision that contains Indian lands, as the case may be, that consists of persons age 18 or older, as calculated by the Bureau of the Census under the most recent decennial census.''.

SEC. 115. ATTORNEYS' FEES.

Section 14(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10310(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) The term 'prevailing party' means a party to an action that receives at least

some of the benefit sought by such action, states a colorable claim, and can establish that the action was a significant cause of a change to the status quo.''.

SEC. 116. OTHER TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ACTIONS COVERED UNDER SECTION 3.—Section 3(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10302(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''any proceeding instituted by the Attorney General or an aggrieved person under any statute to enforce'' and inserting ''any action under any statute in which a party (including the Attorney General) seeks to enforce''; and

(2) by striking ''at the time the proceeding was commenced'' and inserting ''at the time the action was commenced''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS.—Section 4(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10303(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the second sentence; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(c) PERIOD DURING WHICH CHANGES IN VOTING PRACTICES ARE SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE UNDER SECTION 5.—Section 5 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10304) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''based upon determinations made under the first sentence of section 4(b) are in effect'' and inserting ''are in effect during a calendar year'';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''November 1, 1964'' and all that follows through ''November 1, 1972'' and inserting ''the applicable date of coverage''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) The term 'applicable date of coverage' means, with respect to a State or political subdivision—

''(1) June 25, 2013, if the most recent determination for such State or subdivision under section 4(b) was made on or before December 31, 2021; or

''(2) the date on which the most recent determination for such State or subdivision under section 4(b) was made, if such determination was made after December 31, 2021.''.

(d) REVIEW OF PRECLEARANCE SUBMISSION UNDER SECTION 5 DUE TO EXIGENCY.—Section 5 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10304) is amended, in subsection (a), by inserting ''An exigency, including a natural disaster, inclement weather, or other unforeseeable event, requiring such different qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure within 30 days of a Federal, State, or local election shall constitute good cause requiring the Attorney General to expedite consideration of the submission.'' after ''will not be made.''.

SEC. 117. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024 or any amendment made by this title, or the application of such a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional or is otherwise enjoined or unenforceable, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendments to any other person or circumstance, and any remaining provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), shall not be affected by the holding. In addition, if any provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), or any amendment to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, or the application of such a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional or is otherwise enjoined or unenforceable, the application of the provision and amendment to any other person or circumstance, and any remaining provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, shall not be affected by the holding.

SEC. 118. GRANTS TO ASSIST WITH NOTICE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall make grants each fiscal year to small jurisdictions who submit applications under subsection (b) for purposes of assisting such small jurisdictions with compliance with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to submit or publish notice of any change to a qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure affecting voting.

(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a small jurisdiction shall submit an application to the Attorney General in such form and containing such information as the Attorney General may require regarding the compliance of such small jurisdiction with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(c) SMALL JURISDICTION DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ''small jurisdiction'' means any political subdivision of a State with a population of 10,000 or less.

TITLE II—ELECTION WORKER AND POLLING PLACE PROTECTION

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Election Worker and Polling Place Protection Act''.

SEC. 202. PROHIBITION ON INTERFERENCE AND INTIMIDATION.

Section 11 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10307) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f)(1)(A) Whoever, whether or not acting under color of law, by force or threat of force, or by violence or threat of violence to any person or property, willfully interferes with or attempts to interfere with, the ability of any person or any class of persons to vote or qualify to vote, or to qualify or act as a poll watcher or as any legally authorized election official, in any primary, special, or general election, or any person who is, or is employed by, an agent, contractor, or vendor of a legally authorized election official assisting in the administration of any primary, special, or general election to assist in that administration, shall be fined not more than $2,500, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

''(B) Whoever, whether or not acting under color of law, by force or threat of force, or by violence or threat of violence to any person or property, willfully intimidates or attempts to intimidate, any person or any class of persons seeking to vote or qualify to vote, or to qualify or act as a poll watcher or as any legally authorized election official, in any primary, special, or general election, or any person who is, or is employed by, an agent, contractor, or vendor of a legally authorized election official assisting in the administration of any primary, special, or general election, shall be fined not more than $2,500, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

''(C) If bodily injury results from an act committed in violation of this paragraph or if such act includes the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, an explosive, or fire, then, in lieu of the remedy described in subparagraph (A) or (B), the violator shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

''(2)(A) Whoever, whether or not acting under color of law, willfully physically damages or threatens to physically damage any physical property being used as a polling place or tabulation center or other election infrastructure, with the intent to interfere with the administration of a primary, general, or special election or the tabulation or certification of votes for such an election, shall be fined not more than $2,500, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

''(B) If bodily injury results from an act committed in violation of this paragraph or if such act includes the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, an explosive, or fire, then, in lieu of the remedy described in subparagraph (A), the violator shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

''(3) For purposes of this subsection, de minimus damage or a threat of de minimus damage to physical property shall not be considered a violation of this subsection.

''(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'election infrastructure' means any office of a legally authorized election official, or a staffer, worker, or volunteer, assisting such an election official or any physical, mechanical, or electrical device, structure, or tangible item, used in the process of creating, distributing, voting, returning, counting, tabulating, auditing, storing, or other handling of voter registration or ballot information.

''(g) No prosecution of any offense described in subsection (f) may be undertaken by the United States, except under the certification in writing of the Attorney General, or a designee, that—

''(1) the State does not have jurisdiction;

''(2) the State has requested that the Federal Government assume jurisdiction; or

''(3) a prosecution by the United States is in the public interest and necessary to secure substantial justice.''.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3842. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammed Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA, Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Muhammad Ali Congressional Gold Medal Act, which I introduced today.

Muhammad Ali is often referred to as ''The Greatest,'' an appropriate title that he earned through his inspiring athletic achievements, dedication to ensuring that all Americans have equal rights, and advocacy for underserved communities around the world. Ali serves as an example of service and self-sacrifice for all generations.

Muhammad Ali was born in Louisville, KY, on January 17, 1942. From an early age, he excelled in boxing, going on to win a Gold Medal at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome and becoming an undisputed heavyweight boxing champion. Throughout his career, he helped our Nation grow past the legacy of Jim Crow and segregation in sports. He worked tirelessly to support medical research and charitable organizations, including founding the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and raising over $50 million for Parkinson's research.

Ali's devotion to humanitarian causes and racial equality earned him many accolades, including being chosen as United Nations Messenger of Peace and receiving an Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also chosen to light the Olympic flame at the 1996 Olympic Games in

Atlanta, and in 2005, President George W. Bush awarded Ali the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Muhammad Ali also left a lasting impact on my home State of California. For roughly 7 years, Ali lived in Los Angeles, and five of his professional fights were held in Southern California. Due to his courage and conviction, the 1987 California Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Constitution selected Ali to personify the vitality of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting award for an American who devoted his life and career to uplifting underserved communities in the United States and abroad. I want to thank Representative CARSON for introducing this bill in the House, and I hope that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join us in awarding a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3857. A bill to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act.

The Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act would place four parcels of approximately 172 acres of land already owned in fee by the Jamul Indian Village into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

The four parcels of land in the bill would not be used for any class II or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Over time, Jamul's ancestral lands have diminished from over 640 acres to just 6 acres, which now comprise the Tribe's entire trust land base. This 6-acre reservation is one of the smallest reservations in the country.

In 2005, Jamul Tribal members voluntarily moved off of the reservation in order to allow the Tribe to pursue economic development, build a casino, and become self-sufficient and less reliant on the Federal Government.

The Tribe has worked hard to maximize the use of its 6-acre reservation. Jamul opened a casino in 2006 and is working towards the opening of an adjacent hotel next year. Once the hotel is complete, the casino and hotel will occupy the entire Tribal reservation.

This legislation would place additional acres into trust for the benefit of the Tribe, allowing Jamul to build a true homeland and bring their members back to the reservation. On the largest parcel covered by the bill, Jamul plans to develop housing for their Tribal members so they can create a true homeland, as well as use the land for administrative offices, a health clinic, a childcare center, educational services, a community center, law enforcement offices, and other community resources for Tribal members.

Another parcel contains the only physical access road to the Tribe's reservation, and the fourth parcel contains the Tribe's historical church and cemetery.

I am proud to work with the Jamul Indian Village to introduce this bill that would enhance Tribal community development, preserve a sacred site, and improve economic development opportunities that will positively impact the Tribes' members and culture for generations to come. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act in the Senate as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 569—RECOGNIZING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A CORNERSTONE OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY, AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INCREASED THREATS TO AND ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 569

Whereas freedom of religion is a fundamental right;

Whereas the First Amendment of the Constitution stipulates that ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof'';

Whereas, in pushing for religious freedom in the Commonwealth of Virginia, James Madison argued that the right to freedom of religion ''is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society'';

Whereas freedom of religion is a foundational element of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in the United States and abroad, as well as a guiding principle for United States foreign policy;

Whereas Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states ''Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance'';

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (referred to in this preamble as ''USCIRF'') stipulates that ''freedom of religion or belief is an expansive right that includes the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, association, and assembly'';

Whereas the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) recognizes religious freedom as a ''universal human right'';

Whereas the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) requires the President to annually designate as a ''country of particular concern'' each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated ''particularly severe'' religious freedom violations, including—

(1) systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations such as torture;

(2) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

(3) prolonged detention without charges; and

(4) forced disappearances;

Whereas, on December 29, 2023, the Biden administration designated Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as countries of particular concern;

Whereas the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114–281;130 Stat. 1426) requires the President to annually designate countries with severe religious freedom violations that do not reach the threshold of ''systematic, ongoing, and egregious'' violations to a ''Special Watch List'';

Whereas, on December 29, 2023, the Biden administration designated Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Vietnam as Special Watch List countries;

Whereas, to enhance accountability for global human rights violations, including violations of religious freedom, President Joseph R. Biden signed the permanent authorization of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note) into law on April 8, 2022;

Whereas the Senate passed a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws in 2020 (Senate Resolution 458, 116th Congress, agreed to December 19, 2020);

Whereas, in 2023, threats to religious freedom worsened around the world, including incidents targeting the exercise of religion in public or private, participation in religious advocacy, conversion from one religion to another, engagement in religious practices broadly, and those choosing to have no faith at all;

Whereas, according to USCIRF, there were thousands of incidents wherein religious freedom was violated in 2023, including—

(1) the targeting of 2,228 individuals by 27 countries and entities;

(2) the imprisonment of 1,491 individuals;

(3) the ongoing imprisonment of 1,311 individuals; and

(4) the death of 9 individuals while in custody;

Whereas USCIRF has identified 95 countries with legislation criminalizing blasphemy used to enforce arbitrary limitations on religious freedom of expression;

Whereas the Department of State has determined that religious minorities continue to be victims of genocides that relate to matters of religious freedom, including in—

(1) Burma, where security forces have committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Rohingya Muslims since 2017, including the systematic killing, torture, and confinement of Rohingyas to small, overcrowded camps without freedom of movement or access to adequate food, health care, and education; and

(2) China, where since 2017 the Chinese government has committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Uyghurs, including by—

(A) imprisoning more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs in ''re-education camps'';

(B) subjecting Uyghur women to forced sterilizations and abortions;

(C) deliberately separating Uyghur families;

(D) instituting government surveillance through intrusive homestay programs; and

(E) eliminating the Uyghur language from educational materials;

Whereas religious minorities face harassment, intimidation, violence, and imprisonment from state and non-state actors around the world, including in—

(1) Afghanistan, where the Taliban has rigorously enforced its harsh interpretation of Shari'a law that violates the freedom of religion or belief of religious minorities, including Christians, Ahmadiyya Muslims, Baha'is, and nonbelievers who face imprisonment or death if discovered;

(2) Burma, where in addition to violence targeted at religious minorities, strict laws in favor of the Buddhist majority regulate religious conversion, marriages, and births of non-Buddhists such as Muslims and Christians;

(3) China, where the government utilizes targeted surveillance to monitor, harass, and detain Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, and other religious minorities for exercising their beliefs;

(4) Cuba, where the government subjects religious leaders and groups that are unregistered through its Office of Religious Affairs to detention, interrogation, imprisonment, and confiscation of property;

(5) India, where laws promoting religiously discriminatory policies, including laws that target religious conversion, interfaith relationships, the wearing of hijabs, and cow slaughter, have been implemented at the national, state, and local levels and negatively impact the livelihoods of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Adivasis;

(6) Iran, where the government disproportionately subjects members of religious minorities such as Baha'is, Christians, Gonabadi Dervishes, and Sunni Muslims to amputations, floggings, detention, harassment, surveillance, executions, and exile;

(7) Nicaragua, where the government arbitrarily detains and exiles religious clerics and leaders who advocate for the rights of religious minorities and criticize the government's persecution of the Roman Catholic Church;

(8) Nigeria, where the government's enforcement of blasphemy laws embedded in Nigeria's criminal and Shari'a codes results in the arbitrary detainment and imprisonment of those who express their religious identity;

(9) North Korea, where any religion contrary to the ruling ideology known as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is deemed an existential threat to the state;

(10) Pakistan, where religious minorities face killings, lynchings, mob violence, forced conversions, and sexual violence for their religious identities;

(11) Russia, where laws on terrorism and extremism are used to target religious minorities such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, and members of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church for their beliefs;

(12) Tajikistan, where the government represses the display of public religiosity by individuals of all faiths and institutes strict restrictions against Muslims, including a ban on beards and hijabs;

(13) Turkmenistan, where the government controls all aspects of religious life and expression, monitors religious practice, and punishes nonconformity through administrative harassment, imprisonment, and torture; and

(14) Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine, where the Russian military has reportedly perpetrated 43 cases of targeted persecution of the clergy and more than 109 acts pressuring churches and religious figures representing Orthodox Christians, Ukrainian Greek-Catholics, Roman Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and Jehovah's Witnesses since the launch of its full-scale invasion in February 2022;

Whereas violent extremists and non-state actors continue to capitalize upon violence and instability in countries to perpetrate serious human rights violations against religious minorities, including in—

(1) Latin America, where criminal gangs and paramilitary groups threaten and displace indigenous communities, destroy places of worship, and forcibly require conversion or renunciation of ancestral practices;

(2) Nigeria, where violent, non-state militant groups such as Boko Haram target Christians, as well as persons engaged in ''un-Islamic'' activities, including Muslim critics and elders;

(3) the Sahel region of Africa, where violent extremist organizations threaten violence against Christians who do not convert to Islam;

(4) Syria, where violent extremist organizations restrict the religious freedom of nonconfirming Sunni Muslims and threaten the property, safety, and existence of religious minority groups such as Alawites, Christians, and Druze; and

(5) Yemen, where the Houthi rebels harass, defame, and incite hatred against vulnerable faith communities including the Christians, Baha'is, Jews, and non-religious persons who continue to be forced to flee to the south of the country or leave Yemen entirely; and

Whereas religious sites continue to be damaged or destroyed, especially in areas of conflict, including in—

(1) Burma, where the military junta has destroyed approximately 200 houses of worship and religious sites such as Buddhist monasteries, churches, and mosques, and has occupied religious compounds for use as military bases;

(2) China, where the government has destroyed mosques, shrines, gravesites, and other religious and cultural sites throughout Xinjiang and the country;

(3) Ethiopia, where ongoing violence between the government and non-state actors has led to drone strikes and attacks on church compounds such as the Full Gospel Church in the Oromiya region in which 8 people were killed;

(4) India, where places of worship such as Christian churches and Muslim madrasas continue to be destroyed, especially those in predominantly Christian and Muslim neighborhoods;

(5) Nigeria, where violent, non-state groups, such as Boko Haram, attack population centers and religious targets, including churches and mosques;

(6) Sudan, where members of the Rapid Support Forces attacked a Coptic Christian monastery and raided the Sudanese Episcopal Church in Khartoum, using both as bases for military operations; and

(7) Ukraine, where approximately 500 houses of worship have been damaged or destroyed since Russia's full-scale invasion of the country began in February 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes religious freedom as a fundamental human right;

(2) recognizes the critical importance of religious freedom in—

(A) supporting democracy, good governance, and the rule of law;

(B) encouraging pluralism and robust political participation; and

(C) fostering global stability and peace;

(3) expresses grave concern over threats to religious freedom around the world, such as through harassment, violence, and imprisonment;

(4) condemns all efforts to suppress religious freedom, including through the criminalization of—

(A) religious exercise in public or private;

(B) the choice to have no faith;

(C) conversion from one religion to another;

(D) advocacy for religious freedom;

(E) sharing and spreading religious messages and educational materials; and

(F) construction and maintenance of religious holy sites;

(5) supports the invaluable work of religious freedom advocates in fighting for greater religious freedom around the world; and

(6) urges the Department of State to—

(A) continue robust bilateral and multilateral engagement with allies and partners on religious freedom;

(B) maintain and expand support for human rights activists, journalists, and civil society leaders working to protect religious freedom in countries of particular concern and Special Watch List countries;

(C) leverage all diplomatic and sanctions tools available to the United States Government to hold religious freedom violators accountable for their actions, including those authorized by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.);

(D) continue to impose sanctions on those responsible for violations of religious freedom pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(E) consider human rights abuses and religious freedom violations in prioritizing partners for free trade agreements; and

(F) promote religious freedom as an utmost priority for the United States in implementation of United States foreign policy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—DESIGNATING MARCH 1, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY''

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 570

Whereas it is essential for youth to learn and practice the art of communicating with and without technology;

Whereas speech and debate education offers students myriad forms of public speaking through which students may develop talent and exercise unique voice and character;

Whereas speech and debate education gives students the 21st century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration;

Whereas critical analysis and effective communication allow important ideas, texts, and philosophies the opportunity to flourish;

Whereas personal, professional, and civic interactions are enhanced by the ability of the participants in those interactions to listen, concur, question, and dissent with reason and compassion;

Whereas students who participate in speech and debate have chosen a challenging activity that requires regular practice, dedication, and hard work;

Whereas teachers and coaches of speech and debate devote in-school, afterschool, and weekend hours to equip students with life-changing skills and opportunities;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the lifelong impact of providing people of the United States with the confidence and preparation to both discern and share views;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day acknowledges that most achievements, celebrations, commemorations, and pivotal moments in modern history begin, end, or are crystallized with public address;

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day recognizes that learning to research, construct, and present an argument is integral to personal advocacy, social movements, and the making of public policy;

Whereas the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of speech and debate through National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

Whereas National Speech and Debate Education Day emphasizes the importance of speech and debate education and the integration of speech and debate education across grade levels and disciplines: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1, 2024, as ''National Speech and Debate Education Day'';

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of National Speech and Debate Education Day; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and all people of the United States to celebrate and promote National Speech and Debate Education Day.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1614. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7463, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

SA 1615. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7454, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1614. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7463, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO THE PURCHASE OR SALE OF STATE OR MUNICIPAL SECURITIES.

(a) EMERGENCY LENDING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may not establish any emergency lending program or facility, including pursuant to section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 343(3)), that purchases or sells any security issued by a State or municipality, including a bond, note, draft, or bill of exchange.

(b) OPEN MARKET OPERATIONS.—No Federal reserve bank may purchase or sell any security described in subsection (a), including pursuant to section 14 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 353 et seq.).

SA 1615. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7454, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 401. EXPANDING USE OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall prioritize the authorization of an eligible UAS test range sponsor partnering with an eligible airport authority to achieve the goals specified in subsection (b).

(b) GOALS.—The goals of a partnership authorized pursuant to subsection (a) shall be to test the operations of innovative technologies in both commercial and non-commercial applications to—

(1) identify challenges associated with aviation operations over large bodies of water;

(2) provide transportation of cargo and passengers to offshore energy infrastructure;

(3) assess the impacts of operations in saltwater environments;

(4) identify the challenges of integrating such technologies in complex airspace, including with commercial rotorcraft; and

(5) identify the differences between coordinating with Federal air traffic control towers and towers operated under the FAA Contract Tower Program.

(c) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall provide an annual briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the status of the partnership authorized under this section, including detailing any barriers to the commercialization of innovative technologies in the Gulf of Mexico.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY.—The term ''eligible airport authority'' means an AIP-eligible airport authority that is—

(A) located in a state bordering the Gulf of Mexico which does not already contain a UAS Test Range;

(B) has an air traffic control tower operated under the FAA Contract Tower Program;

(C) is located within 60 miles of a port; and

(D) does not have any scheduled passenger airline service as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ELIGIBLE UAS TEST RANGE SPONSOR.—The term ''eligible UAS test range sponsor'' means an existing sponsor of a UAS test range located in a landlocked State.

(3) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.—The term ''innovative technologies'' means unmanned aircraft systems and powered-lift aircraft.

(4) UAS.—The term ''UAS'' means an unmanned aircraft system.

(5) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''unmanned aircraft system'' has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Hawaii be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from February 29, 2024, through March 5, 2024.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable SHERROD BROWN of Ohio; the Honorable LAPHONZA R. BUTLER of California.

JUSTICE FOR MURDER VICTIMS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3859, introduced earlier today by Senators GRASSLEY and OSSOFF.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3859) to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate

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

The bill (S. 3859) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3859

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 ''Justice for Murder Victims Act''.

SEC. 2. HOMICIDE OFFENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A prosecution may be instituted for any homicide offense under this title without regard to the time that elapsed between—

''(1) the act or omission that caused the death of the victim; and

''(2) the death of the victim.

''(b) RELATION TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to supersede the limitations period under section 3282(a), to the extent applicable.

''(c) MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD APPLICABLE IF DEATH PENALTY IMPOSED.—A sentence of death may not be imposed for a homicide offense under this title unless the Government proves beyond a reasonable doubt that not more than 1 year and 1 day elapsed between—

''(1) the act or omission that caused the death of the victim; and

''(2) the death of the victim.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1123(a) of title 18, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an act or omission described in that section that occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER BASED ON TIME PERIOD BETWEEN ACT OR OMISSION AND DEATH OF VICTIM.—Section 1111(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''imprisonment for life'' the following: '', unless the death of the victim occurred more than 1 year and 1 day after the act or omission that caused the death of the victim, in which case the punishment shall be imprisonment for any term of years or for life''.

VICTIMS' VOICES OUTSIDE AND INSIDE THE COURTROOM EFFECTIVENESS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3706 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3706) to amend section 3663A of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that restitution includes necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by a person who has assumed the victim's rights.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3706) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3706

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 ''Victims' Voices Outside and Inside the Courtroom Effectiveness Act'' or the ''Victims' VOICES Act''.

SEC. 2. RESTITUTION FOR EXPENSES OF PERSONS WHO HAVE ASSUMED THE VICTIM'S RIGHTS.

Section 3663A(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) CLARIFICATION.—In ordering restitution under this section, a court shall order the defendant to make restitution to a person who has assumed the victim's rights under paragraph (2) to reimburse that person's necessary and reasonable—

''(A) lost income, child care, transportation, and other expenses incurred during and directly related to participation in the investigation or prosecution of the offense or attendance at proceedings related to the offense;

''(B) lost income, transportation, and other expenses incurred that are directly related to transporting the victim for necessary medical and related professional services and devices relating to physical, psychiatric, and psychological care, including nonmedical care and treatment rendered in accordance with a method of healing recognized by the law of the place of treatment; and

''(C) lost income, transportation, and other expenses incurred that are directly related to transporting the victim to receive necessary physical and occupational therapy and rehabilitation.''.

NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE EDUCATION DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 570, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 570) designating March 1, 2024, as ''National Speech and Debate Education Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 570) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3853

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3853) to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024, THROUGH TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned to convene for pro forma session only, with no business conducted, at 12 noon on Friday, March 1; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Keohane nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 8:22 p.m., adjourned until Friday, March 1, 2024, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

JUDY W. CHANG, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029, VICE ALLISON CLEMENTS, TERM EXPIRING.

DAVID ROSNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2027, VICE RICHARD GLICK, TERM EXPIRED.

LINDSAY S. SEE, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2028, VICE JAMES P. DANLY, TERM EXPIRED.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

DANA LYNN BANKS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE OREN E. WHYCHE–SHAW.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARY E. DASCHBACH, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC.

TROY FITRELL, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES.

JOSHUA M. HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA.

ELIZABETH K. HORST, OF MINNESOTA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

MARTIN JOSEPH WALSH, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2029, VICE DONALD LEE MOAK, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

MATTHEW A. DUGARD
JAMES R. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

ARNOLD J. STEINLAGE III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

ARLENE JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DARIM C. NESSLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRANDI N. HICKS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

NATHAN A. BENNINGTON
JENNIFER C. BLALOCK
JEREMY M. COLEMAN
MARK A. GUNN
REYNALDO B. URRA
ANDREW S. WAGNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

SANDEEP R. N. RAHANGDALE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

WENDI J. DICK

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

BENJAMIN J. GRASS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

THOMAS C. FARRINGTON II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

YULIYA OMAROV

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

WILLIAM SELDE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

BRACKERY L. BATTLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DANIEL J. BALDOR
WILLIAM J. ISOM
MATTHEW A. WAGNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

WILLIAM J. ROY, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

COLETTE B. LAZENKA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

NIKOLAOS SIDIROPOULOS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 29, 2024:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MARJORIE A. ROLLINSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND AN ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOUGLAS CRAIG SCHMIDT, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LLOYD RICHARDS

HON. JERROLD NADLER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this esteemed body to honor the late Lloyd Richards, who left an indelible mark on our society through his groundbreaking career as a director, producer, performer, and educator.

A giant of the American Theatre, Richards was a groundbreaking talent who smashed the color barrier on Broadway for African American directors and became the first Black director to direct a Broadway play.

Before becoming one of the most important figures in American theater during the 20th century, he survived poverty and hardship during the depths of the Great Depression. At the age of only 13, he worked in a barbershop to help put food on the table for his blind mother and his four siblings.

During World War II, Richards halted his studies at Wayne University to serve his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps' division of fighter pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen. He then moved to New York City in 1947, and despite roles for African American actors being incredibly hard to come by, he landed roles on Broadway and on the radio. It was during this time that Richards started his illustrious career as an educator and developed what would become a lifelong friendship with one of his early acting students, the great Sidney Poitier.

Richards would go on to direct Poitier in the landmark original production *A Raisin in the Sun*, which opened at Broadway's Ethel Barrymore Theater on March 11, 1959. The production became an artistic and commercial success on Broadway, and Richards became the first African American to be nominated for the Tony Award for Best Direction.

Richards went on to become one of the most respected and innovative directors in the industry. He helped to bring the works of playwrights such as August Wilson, Lorraine Hansberry, and Athol Fugard to the stage, shaping the landscape of American theater in the process.

Beyond his contributions to the world of theater, Lloyd Richards was a dedicated and passionate educator. As the dean of the Yale School of Drama, he nurtured and inspired generations of talented artists, instilling in them the values of integrity, hard work, and dedication.

I am grateful that thanks to the incredible advocacy of the Committee to Celebrate Lloyd Richards, the corner of 47th Street and Broadway in Manhattan will be co-named ''Lloyd Richards Way'' on June 29, 2024. This is a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to the art of theater and left behind a legacy that continues to inspire and influence artists worldwide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Lloyd Richards and in celebrating his contributions to American theater. May his name and his legacy continue to inspire future generations of artists and educators for years to come.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WARWICK MIDDLE SCHOOL FUTURE CITY TEAM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Warwick Middle School Future City Team on their recent success at the Future City Competition in Washington, D.C.

The Future City Competition invites students from across the country to showcase their innovative research and design. Students have the opportunity to develop engineering projects that address the critical, complex, and real world needs of communities across the globe.

This year's Warwick Middle School team placed third in the national competition with their model of Sydney, Australia. Additionally, the team won the special award for ''Most Sustainable Food Production System.'' A fitting recognition considering their familiarity with the rich agricultural heritage of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

It fills me with great hope when I see the innovation and creativity displayed by the next generation. These Warwick Middle School students demonstrate the hard work and determination needed to become the leaders of tomorrow.

They have made all of us in the 11th District extraordinarily proud. Congratulations to the Warwick Middle School Future City Team on their success, and I wish them all the best in the future.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7102 the ''Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act.''

H.R. 7102 creates an Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) within the Small Business Administration.

I am a long-time member of the Congressional Native American Caucus as well as the Congressional Small Business Caucus.

I understand the need for Native Americans to have an advocate within the Small Business Administration.

The Native American business community as well as families would be positively impacted by the passage of H.R. 7102.

This bill would draw attention to the resources that are available to tribal business owners through the (SBA) and oversee economic and entrepreneurial relationships with the Small Business Administration.

The goal is to produce economic development within tribal communities by educating Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations about programs administered by other Federal agencies.

The passing of H.R. 7102 would allow the Office of Native American Affairs to:

Work with Indian tribes, Alaska Native corporations, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and small businesses owned by individuals who are members of those entities on entrepreneurial development, contracting and capital access programs to establish or expand their small business concerns and promote economic development in Indian Country.

Formulating and promoting policies, and enhancing existing programs, so they better address the entrepreneurial, capital access, business development and contracting needs of tribes and Native businesses, including by collaborating with high-level officials of SBA and other federal agencies.

In addition, the (ONAA) will be able to provide financial and other assistance directly to deploy training, counseling and other educational outreach, workshops, supplier events.

Additional important assistance would include access to the SBA's entrepreneur and contracting programs to facilitate Native contractors' participation in SBA's various small business contracting programs, facilitating and improving access to SBA's various loan programs, loan guarantees, disaster assistance, and other capital access programs.

Finally, ensuring tribal consultations are conducted to solicit input and facilitate discussion of potential modifications to SBA programs and procedures.

It is imperative that H.R. 7102 is passed because Native Americans will have an advocate and the economic and entrepreneurial tools it needs to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEREK JOSHUA ABBOTT

HON. TRENT KELLY
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep respect and heartfelt remembrance for one of Mississippi's courageous National Guardsmen, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, who tragically lost his life when Apache Helicopter, Tail Number 52630, went down near Booneville, Mississippi Friday afternoon of February 23, 2024.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, a 42-year-old Maintenance Test Pilot served in Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 151st

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lakota Medical Evacuation unit. Derek was no ordinary soldier; he was a seasoned veteran of 21 years, marked by acts of bravery, an expert aviator, and above all, a devoted family man. With over 3,000 flying hours under his belt, Derek's mastery of Army aircraft was unmatched. His accolades, including the Air Medal for valor and the Combat Action Badge, spoke volumes of his courage and skill in the face of adversity. Outside of his military service, Derek pursued his love for flying by working as an Emergency Medical Services pilot. With expertise in navigating the skies, he played a crucial role in delivering swift medical assistance to those in need. Derek's commitment to service and skill in the air left a lasting impact on the lives he touched.

Beyond his military prowess, Derek was a man of faith, a loving husband to Brandi, and a doting father to Chandler, Breanna, and Greyson. His family extended beyond blood, embracing exchange students Sarah Mirshahidi and Pauline Schult as their own.

Hailing from Itawamba County, Derek cherished his roots in Fulton, Mississippi, and held a deep love for his state and country. His unwavering dedication to duty and his ultimate sacrifice make him a true American hero and a source of pride for Mississippians everywhere. In these trying times, let us hold dear the memory of our fallen comrade and stand in solidarity with his grieving family. May Derek's legacy of honor and service endure eternally in our hearts and minds.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING LIFE AND LOSS OF A GREAT COMMUNITY LEADER EDGAR LAWRENCE ''DOOKY'' CHASE III

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and New Orleans icon, Edgar Lawrence ''Dooky'' Chase III. He was born in New Orleans on May 10, 1949, to Edgar L. ''Dooky'' Chase Jr. and Leyah ''Leah'' Lange Chase. Mr. Chase was known for his role as an educator and a leader in our community. After years of mentoring, guiding, and serving others, Dooky passed away on February 21, 2024.

Mr. Chase grew up in the Treme neighborhood, alongside his three sisters, Emily, Stella, and Leah. As owners of the renowned establishment Dooky Chase's Restaurant, Dooky's family has stood as a symbol of tradition and responsibility in our community. It was his family that instilled in him deep-rooted values and faith, which pushed him to become a force for all good in our society.

Chase's dedication to social progress was evident from a young age, through his efforts to promote voter registration with the NAACP's Youth committee in the 1960s. In 1967, he graduated from Jesuit High School, where he formed part of the first integrated class. He continued his path as a pioneer for social justice at Loyola University New Orleans, where he served as the first African American Class President. He then pursued a master's in business administration at Columbia University, followed by a law degree at Loyola University New Orleans.

After serving as Captain in the Marine Corps and working at Price Waterhouse Coopers, Dooky served as a faculty member and administrator at Dillard University in New Orleans. His commitment to serving others was evident throughout his 20 years at this institution, which culminated in a role as the Dean of the Business School. After years of mentoring students through this role, he decided to retire. However, this retirement did not last long, as Dooky graciously accepted a request by Dillard University to return as Vice President of Facilities to manage the school's rebuilding following Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to his achievements in his education and career, he served on numerous boards, commissions and councils throughout his life, some of which include the Chase Family Foundation, the Anti-Defamation League, New Orleans Public Radio (WNOE), Touro Hospital, The New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI), Metropolitan Crime Commission, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc., The New Orleans Opera Association, City of New Orleans Municipal Employees Retirement System, New Orleans Botanical Gardens, the Bureau of Governmental Research, Loyola University Board of Trustees, City Park Improvement Association, Inc., New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, Board of Trustees of Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, New Orleans Museum of Art, Millennium Port Authority of Louisiana, State Board of Economic Development, and State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

An avid reader, Dooky was enthralled with historical research, and storytelling. He was also a deeply spiritual, devout Catholic; often reflecting on the role his faith played in his philosophical commitments, and perspective on all aspects of life, if you were one of the lucky ones, you were able to get a glimpse of the book he was working on—''Running on Raindrops'', a trilogy of historical fiction. His other works in progress included event planning for the Chase Family Foundations' annual Juneteenth celebration and fundraising events, and project management of the restaurant's Historic Upper Room renovations of the Dooky Chase Restaurant, where many Civil Rights Leaders met to discuss many of the country's segregation issues.

Mr. Chase had much to be proud of, yet his greatest source of pride was that which he felt for his family. On December 23, 1973, Dooky married the love of his life, Alva Jean, and in 1975, they welcomed twins Travis and Trevor into their lives. Seven years later, in 1982, they welcomed their third son, Edgar ''Dooky'' IV. The three boys went on to have their own children, who gave their grandfather the nickname ''Big Daddy.''

Edgar was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar ''Dooky'' L. Chase, Jr. and Leyah ''Leah'' Lange Chase, his sister Emily Chase Haydel, brothers-in-law Wayne Reese Sr. and Gary Darensbourg. He is survived by his loving wife, Alva Jean Darensbourg Chase. His sons Travis Chase and Trevor Chase, Edgar ''Dooky'' Chase IV. Grandchildren: Caitlin and Zoe Chase; Ava and Trevor Chase, Jr.; and Sidney Chase and Edgar ''Vito'' L. Chase V. Daughter-in-law, Gretchen Fauria Chase, as well as former daughters-in-law, Chastity Haydel Chase and Minaxi Desai Chase. His sisters Stella Chase Reese and Leah Chase Kamata. Brother-in-law James V. Haydel, Jr., Brother and Sister-in-law Glenda and James ''Jimmy'' Llorens, and Sister-in-law Phyllis Darensburg and a host of nieces and nephews from the Haydel, Reese, Kamata, Darensbourg and Llorens families.

Edgar ''Dooky'' Chase, III was an inspiring and compassionate man. He mentored thousands of young people in Louisiana's Second Congressional District and was at his mother's side running the World Famous Dooky Chase Restaurant. My prayers are with the Chase Family as they continue to carry on the Chase Family Legacy. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING 25-YEAR ARMY VETERAN SHELLIE WILLIS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 25-year Army veteran Shellie Willis, a Pierce County-based leader in the veterans' advocacy space who empowers veterans to put the skills and knowledge they gained serving our nation to work in the civilian workforce.

As Founder and CEO of the Redefining You Foundation, Shellie shepherds a team of skilled life coaches and workforce development professionals to help transitioning servicemernbers and their spouses reenter civilian life. With special attention to supporting female veterans, Shellie's organization provides professional and personal development training, connects retired servicewomen to job resources, and builds bespoke programs to help reorient and redefine the lifestyles of those seeking direction after their military careers. Shellie's spirit of service extends to her role as Senior Director of Collective Impact at WorkForce Central matching jobseekers with employment opportunities throughout Pierce County.

With the South Sound's significant active duty and veteran population, Shellie's work plays a critical role in putting transitioning servicemembers on pathways to post-service success. I commend Shellie's service to our country and our community and am proud to have her as my Constituent of the Month.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN SUBER, WINNER OF DISTRICT 1 YOUNG MARINE OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an outstanding young woman from my district, Susan Suber, who was recently named the District 1 Young Marine of the Year for a second year in a row. Young Marines District 1 is a region that encompasses 9 Northeastern U.S. states. Susan is a member of the Spartan Young Marines located in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, is a resident of Pipersville, Pennsylvania, and is currently a junior at Central Bucks East High School. Suber will proudly represent Division 1

in competition with five other division winners for the title of National Young Marine of the Year, the highest honor bestowed by the Young Marines organization nationally.

The Young Marines is a national non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through high school graduation. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Suber joined the Young Marines at age nine and she currently holds the rank of Young Marine Sergeant Major. Over her eight years in the program, Suber has attended all three leadership schools available from Young Marines, and went on to teach leadership at some of these schools as an alumna.

Outside of Young Marines, Suber is busy with many hours spent as a Toys for Tots Mentor and Youth Ambassador. In this position she helped to inspire and teach fellow Youth Ambassador's not only about the program but how they can get more involved in the campaign and grow as leaders. This past year she was named one of the Youth Ambassador Mentors of the year on behalf of the Toys for Tots organization. In addition to her Toys for Tots national leadership, she is also a leader in her high school's vocational education program, assisting the school with teaching plans and curriculum development.

After high school, Suber plans to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps in the field of aviation. I wish her the best of luck in her endeavors, and I know that she will serve her community and country well.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AS ''RARE DISEASE DAY''

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce this resolution, with my colleague, Rep. RICHARD HUDSON of North Carolina. Our resolution supports the designation of Rare Disease Day on the last day of February. I am pleased that this resolution has been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) and am thankful for their leadership on these critical issues over many years.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. More than half of those struggling with rare diseases—defined as affecting less than 200,000 people—are children. Sadly, many rare diseases and conditions are serious, life-threatening, and lack effective treatments. These are not just statistics: I am sure most of us know at least one family member or friend who has been affected by or struggled with the unique challenges of rare diseases.

Moreover, as we observe Black History Month, it's important to know that African Americans and other minorities are especially vulnerable to rare diseases, including Sickle Cell Anemia and Sarcoidosis. These diseases and conditions—including Thalassemia and Hereditary ATTR (hATTR) amyloidosis—disproportionately affect African Americans. Despite these unique obstacles, African Americans have an inspiring tradition of both combatting rare diseases and improving medical science.

One great example is Dr. Charles Drew, an African American scientist who helped found the modem ''blood bank,'' which helped dramatically expand blood transfusions. A faculty member at Howard University, Dr. Drew's pioneering work in blood transfusions took place against the backdrop of segregation and discrimination. During his time overseeing the Red Cross's blood plasma donation program, Dr. Drew was prohibited from donating his own blood because of the color of his skin. Despite these obstacles, Dr. Drew's work improved the practice of blood transfusions, which is now a lifeline for many individuals struggling today with rare diseases. The examples of Dr. Drew and countless other researchers, physicians, nurses, activists, and patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases. and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

More than 100 countries observe Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

DOCUMENTED HISTORY OF THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED AT ROSEWOOD, FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the state of Florida commissioned Professors Maxine D. Jones, Larry E. Rivers, David R. Colburn, William R. Rogers, and Tom Dye to write and submit to the Florida Board of Regents a documented report of what occurred at the site of Rosewood in Levy County Florida during the first week of January, 1923.

The findings of that report can be found at: http://edocs.dlis.state.fl.us/fldocs/regents/rosewood.pdf.

CELEBRATING EL PASO ELECTRIC

HON. TONY GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an important milestone in my district. Today, El Paso Electric is unveiling Newman Unit 6—a cutting edge, 228 megawatt natural gas combustion turbine generating power plant. This state-of-the-art facility will replace three older, less-efficient units with a robust energy supply equipped to meet the growing needs of the El Paso region.

Situated at the Newman Power Station in El Paso, TX, this project exemplifies El Paso Electric's dedication to enhancing energy reliability and minimizing wasteful practices. By utilizing modern natural gas technology, this project will optimize gas usage and reduce water consumption by an impressive 600 million gallons annually.

Additionally, alongside maintaining a robust natural gas power supply, this initiative makes significant investments in renewable energy. Such diversification is integral for fostering a resilient power grid fit for the demands of the 21st century.

Supporting a strong energy sector is a key priority of mine in this Chamber. I fundamentally believe that energy security is national security and that safeguarding jobs, such as those generated by this project, is paramount. Witnessing the fruition of this development fills me with pride.

I applaud El Paso Electric for their unwavering commitment to bolstering energy reliability and security in the El Paso region. Their tireless efforts ensure that our energy grid remains strong and can keep our lights on around the clock.

HONORING COLONEL ELVERT L. GARDNER

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I, along with the people of St. Louis, rise today to honor the exceptional career of Colonel Elvert L. Gardner. This March, Col. Gardner will retire with over 30 years of active duty military service.

Col. Gardner is a St. Louis native who graduated from Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School in 1988. He was commissioned in May 1993 through the Reserved Officer Training Corps at the distinguished Detachment 015, Tuskegee University, home of the Tuskegee Airmen. Upon receiving his commission as Second Lieutenant in 1993, Col. Gardner spent 26 years in the U.S. Air Force before transferring to the U.S. Space Force. In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel, further signifying his excellent leadership and resolve.

As the Director of Space Strategy, Policy, and Plans at U.S. Space Force headquarters and the Pentagon, Col. Gardner consistently dedicated himself to supporting national security objectives. Other examples of his commitment to supporting our Nation include his roles

as Space Force Service Chair, National Security Studies Department Chair, and Assistant Professor at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. In each of these positions, Col. Gardner has distinguished himself as an individual who leads with full intention to serve the community at large.

Col. Gardner has demonstrated exceptional leadership, courage, perseverance, and hope throughout his career. His retirement is a well-earned milestone over the course of his professional life. We thank Col. Gardner for his remarkable service to our country, and I know his beloved niece, our dear sister and friend, Cora Faith Walker, would be incredibly proud of her uncle and his outstanding career. On behalf of Missouri's First District, I send my heartfelt congratulations to Col. Gardner on his retirement after 30 years of service in the U.S. military.

CELEBRATING GENERAL EDWARD GREER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished life and extraordinary military career of General Edward Greer, a remarkable individual whose legacy has left an indelible mark on our nation, as he approaches his 100th birthday.

Born in the coal-mining town of Gary, West Virginia, General Greer's journey began at West Virginia State College in 1942, where he enrolled during an era of racial segregation. However, his education was interrupted by World War II, leading him to serve in the 777th Field Artillery Battalion, an all-Black unit. By the war's end, he had risen to the esteemed rank of Master Sergeant. Returning to civilian life, General Greer resumed his studies at West Virginia State College, where he met and married Jewell Means. Their union, forged on May 31, 1948, endured for more than 72 years.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Regular Army in 1940, General Greer sought stability in the military, serving with distinction for 33 years. His early assignments in Japan coincided with the outbreak of the Korean War, where he earned the Silver Star for valor. Promoted through the ranks, General Greer's military career traversed Germany. Oklahoma, Kansas, and the Pentagon, witnessing the Army's integration and earning promotions to Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. His family grew to include three children: Michael, Kenneth, and Gail.

In 1970, Colonel Greer served in Vietnam before becoming a trailblazer in military history. Selected for promotion to Brigadier General in 1972, he joined an esteemed group of Black officers, contributing to the integration of the Army's general officer ranks. Retiring in 1976 after 33 years of dedicated service, General Greer made El Paso his home. With his beloved wife Jewell, he became an active member of the community, engaging in real estate sales and contributing to various civic boards.

The Greers' post-Army life was a testament to their commitment to service and community. It is with profound gratitude and respect that we honor General Edward Greer's legacy, a legacy that exemplifies the highest ideals of duty, honor, and love for our great nation, and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP CARLTON PEARSON

HON. RO KHANNA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the selfless life of Bishop Carlton Pearson who passed away last November at the age of 70. Bishop Carlton Pearson was an evangelist, ministry leader, author, and award-winning singer. He was raised in San Diego, California with five siblings. He is survived by them, his wife, and his two children.

An expert in many crafts, his congregation often praised his diverse passions and the limitless communities impacted by his work. He preached what he called a gospel of inclusion. He saw all human life as an integral part of a broader community. He was welcomed in Synagogues, Islamic groups, Atheist and Agnostic organizations, and a variety of other spiritual communities. He felt a mandate to strive for peace through an emphasis on inclusion in spirituality and interfaith fellowship.

I commend him again today and emphasize his teaching that we don't have to go along to get along. That we can mind many of the same things without necessarily having the same mind about everything. We honor the life of Bishop Carlton Pearson, the legacy he left won't be soon forgotten. I include in the RECORD this Rolling Stone Magazine memoriam about how he has inspired generations to come.

HOW BISHOP CARLTON PEARSON INSPIRED A GENERATION OF SINGERS AND GOSPEL ARTISTS

(By Meagan Jordan)

Bishop Carlton Pearson, a renowned preacher, singer and composer, known for his Live At Azusa albums, died on November 19 after a battle with cancer in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

His theology, known as the ''gospel of inclusion,'' preached against homophobia and embraced the LGBTQ community, but cost him his congregation and approval within the evangelical community. However, his message of inclusion and his denial of hell has become a model, and his impact in gospel music continues to inspire new generations of artists.

''He has an album of hymns that people would sing in the Black church for communion like 'I Know it Was The Blood,' or his version of 'Precious Memories.' gospel artist and former Destiny's Child member Michelle Williams tells Rolling Stone, referring to Pearson's Live At Azusa 2: Precious Memories album from 1997. ''He amplified those songs and made them mainstream for church.''

Pearson was born and raised in San Diego, California, where his father and grandfather were preacher men in a storefront ''heaven or hell'' Pentecostal church. After graduating high school, he attended Oral Roberts University, an evangelical Christian University, where Oral Roberts, a white preacher who had the leading religious television broadcast in the Seventies, was the school's founder. Roberts mentored Pearson as he navigated the ministerial realm.

Pearson left the school before graduating in 1977, starting his own church, Higher Dimensions. With over 6,000 members, it would make him one of the first Black mega church pastors, bringing Black churches into a mainstream space in the Nineties and 2000s.

''In the Seventies, here in the West, the church was on a decline,'' says Larry Reid, a pastor, media personality and friend to Pearson. ''You had evangelistic campaigns all over the U.S., but it was fading away and Black people were not leading it. We were the musicians and the singers. But Carlton Pearson created a stage called Azusa and brought Black Christians in and the white stations would play clips from his platform.''

Pearson's Azusa Conferences, which were inspired by the 1906 revival that took place on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, were a hybrid of preaching and music. It gave preachers, like Joyce Meyers, Michael Pitts, Bishop T.D. Jakes, and gospel heavyweights, such as Donnie Mcclurkin, the Clark Sisters, and the late Lashun Pace, agency and a platform to showcase their talents and introduce them to a wider audience of people. The conference, which was held at Pearson's old university, Oral Roberts, would host thousands of guests. For those who could not attend, they were taped and sold via VHS, which gave way to many successful careers in television ministry and gospel music.

''I had always known his music for many years before I became an artist,'' says Ricky Dillard, a renowned gospel artist and composer, known for his choirs and directorial abilities. ''He had a choir with him and that was influential to me. He was out here doing it at an A–1 level, so everyone was a fan. If you're a gospel music lover, there's no way that you could not have heard the music of Bishop Carlton Pearson.''

Pearson's album The Best of Azusa. . . Yet Holdin' On is a staple in the Black community. On the 14-track album, featuring songs from his Azusa conference days, he has an oratory track called ''Mother Sherman Story,'' in which he recounts a question an elderly mother from his home church would ask him, even as dementia began to set in: ''You yet holding on?''—The album's title.

''That meant many things,'' explains Williams. ''It meant keep holding on to your faith and also meant keep holding on to your morals and your standards.''

In the late Nineties, Pearson—who not only studied his bible but also studied its roots, foundations, and original language of Hebrew—came to a realization that would shake the foundation of his faith and his social standing within the church.

''When my little girl was an infant, I was watching the evening news and the Hutus and the Tutsis were returning to Rwanda from Uganda,?'' Pearson recalled on an episode of This American Life from December 2005. ''I'm watching these little kids with swollen bellies, their skin is stretched. . . Their hair is kind of red from malnutrition and they have flies on the corner of their eyes and mouths.''

Pearson thought of his baby, who is now 27 year-old Majeste Pearson—a pop and gospel singer—and his big screen television and the plate of food he was in the middle of eating. Knowing the culture of the people on the screen and assuming they were not all Christian, he said, ''God, I don't know how you can call yourself a loving, sovereign God and allow these people to suffer this way and just suck them right into hell.'' Pearson heard a voice saying ''Can't you see they're already there? That's hell. You keep creating that for yourselves, I'm taking them into my presence.'' Pearson had a realization: ''We do that to ourselves and to each other,'' he recalled in the podcast episode.

The next Sunday, he shared his revelation to his congregation, urging them to stop

telling people that they weren't ''saved.'' Instead, he wanted them to send a message that they were ''safe with God.''

But this new theology of inclusion and universalism marked his downfall within the evangelical mainstream. Congregants left the church. Preachers like T.D. Jakes spoke out against him; Jakes told Charisma Magazine, a popular Christian publication, that Pearson was wrong and had incorrectly interpreted the Bible. Many churches and leaders turned their backs on him. He lost his church, both its members and the building. He was banned from hosting the Azusa conference at the Oral Roberts institution and Roberts, his former mentor, remained silent. At the time, Pearson was also running for the Mayor of Tulsa, the city with the worst race riot in 1922 known as the Black Wall Street massacre. He lost.

''I told Carlton that if he told them he believed there was no such thing as hell and damnation, he will reduce this weapon of fear based religion, which is the foundation of religious institutions money,'' said Bishop Yvette Flunder, a friend of Pearson and a same gender loving preacher and singer who sung with The Hawkins Family. ''His colleagues and the College of Bishops that he was a part of put him on blast and said he was a heretic and excommunicated him.''

Charisma Magazine didn't let the issue rest. According to Reid, they wrote about Pearson for two years, demonizing his theology and teachings.

''He was deeply hurt and felt betrayed,'' his children Majeste and Julian Pearson wrote in an email to Rolling Stone. But Pearson stood by his beliefs. ''He internalized a lot of it, resulting in him becoming physically sick. Around that time, he had his first bout with cancer. We were nine and 11 when we knew it was our last service.''

While no longer popular in the mainstream church, Pearson's ministry continued through his church New Dimensions, where he preached against homophobia and embraced the LGBTQ community as members. He challenged scriptures used to demonize and oppress their existence. He also authored books like The Gospel of Inclusion and God Is Not a Christian, Nor a Jew, Muslim, Hindu. . . . : God Dwells with Us, in Us, Around Us, as Us. He also was a minister to many in person.

''Bishop Pearson's ministry was a mirror for me,'' says Dillard. Back in 2005, Dillard had met Pearson leaving an event and felt inclined to give him a ride back to Atlanta.

''Something very powerful happened in our moment together. I was seeking God in a different way and I had come up with translations that I needed confirmation from. I felt low in spirit that I was not meeting the standards of the Word of God. Bishop said something to me that changed my life that day. He said 'As others have judged you, you have now taken on their judgment and you are judging yourself.' It spoke to my heart.''

RECOGNIZING LEAP OF KINDNESS

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce's Leap of Kindness Day, on February 29, 2024.

Leap of Kindness Day was started in 2016 by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and has taken place on February 29th each Leap Year since. The goal of the day has always been to spend the extra day we are given every four years doing acts of kindness. This initiative has spread throughout the U.S., Canada, and Ireland to help those in need.

Leap of Kindness Day offers community members a chance to do something kind for someone else. It motivates organizations, businesses, and communities to donate clothing, food, and money to local not-for-profit organizations.

This day keeps communities rooted in their values and spreads love to neighbors. Growing up in Ulster County, I have seen how giving, dedicated, and kind my neighbors in the Hudson Valley are to those around them. I hope that everyone can take part in such a great initiative, participating alongside their communities to help others, not just today but every day as we all work to spread more kindness.

I want to recognize Ward Todd and Jess Davis, President and Vice President of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, for their work to make Leap of Kindness Day such a meaningful day for our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan.

On February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people—including 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly people—and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than 100 children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were entirely killed. This was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

Although a cease-fire was negotiated in 1994, it is my hope that Armenia and Azerbaijan can come together and find peace. Long-term peace, security, and regional cooperation would greatly benefit the region and the world. As Azerbaijanis throughout the world commemorate the massacre and continue to grieve the loss of loved ones, I hope they can find peace amidst this tragedy.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERALD ''JAY'' CIMINO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the God-honoring life and generous impact of a Pikes Peak community stalwart—Gerald ''Jay'' Cimino, who died of natural causes on February 24, 2024, at the age of 87. Jay truly was a pillar of the Pike's Peak region, both as a well-known business innovator in the automobile industry as well as a beloved and visionary community builder. Jay's leadership of the Phil Long dealerships impacted the automobile industry across the state of Colorado and his love for others led to the creation of numerous veteran-focused groups such as Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center.

Born in Trinidad, Colorado, Jay joined the Marine Corps out of high school. Following his service to our Nation, he moved back to Trinidad and attended Trinidad State Jr College and finished his bachelor's degree in business administration at the University of Denver in 1960. Wasting no time after graduation, Jay married his wife, Emily, and they took an active role in their community. Jay became General Manager of Phil Long Ford in 1975 and rose up the ranks to President and CEO of the Phil Long Family of Dealerships. Throughout his time in the automobile industry, Jay lived out the exemplary values of community and customer service as no one had done before him. This emphasis on community service was the basis for how Jay used his time to make and do better for everyone around him.

Jay invested in the economic growth of his hometown of Trinidad as well as his adopted home of Colorado Springs throughout his time at Phil Long Ford. Whether it was bringing automobile dealerships to new communities, creating academic scholarships, or helping build community-focused buildings, Jay took great pride in providing new opportunities and services for others.

Perhaps Jay's most impactful initiative was his creation of Mt. Carmel Health, Wellness and Community Center, Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence of Colorado, and Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center which provides access to medical care and career change resources to our community and specifically our veterans. Jay truly modeled for all of us how to properly serve in the most caring and generous way for those who have served our nation.

Jay and his wife Emily of more than fifty-five years enjoyed the blessings of their four children and eight grandchildren. The legacy of the Cimino family continues to have an impact in the Pike Peak region following in the steps of Jay's vision and passion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring and celebrating the exemplary life of Jay Cimino whose fingerprints on the Pike Peak region will remain for the rest of time.

HONORING KENNY AND TRACEY BARR

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kenny and Tracey Barr for their fifteen years of service to Northeast Indiana's homeless veterans at Shepherd's House.

Shepherd's House is a not-for-profit facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana founded in 1998 to house homeless veterans who struggle with substance abuse and mental health issues. It has been described as a ''lighthouse'' and a ''beacon of hope in a sea of isolation'' by the veterans who have benefitted from their work.

The Barrs serve on staff currently as Directors of Veteran Outreach and Intake Specialists. For twelve of their fifteen years there,

they lived in a small apartment at the Shepherd's House with the veterans they served. This ''ministry,'' as they have referred to it, has not made them wealthy, yet they have pledged to continue supporting our homeless veterans for years to come.

In Tracey Barr's own words, ''The men and women have sacrificed so much for our country; we want to do whatever we can.'' In tending to those who fought for American freedom, they, too, are serving our country. It is this selflessness and devotion to duty that have made Kenny and Tracey pillars of their community and earned them the respect of all who know them.

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

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

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 accumulated approximately 6,000 flying hours, including 224 combat hours. Beyond his military achievements, Earl was a devoted husband to Thelma Bentley, a loving father to his daughter, Kris Rudin, 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.

RECOGNIZING MOLLY MILLER'S ELECTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly Miller on her election to the presidency of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association.

Molly is an experienced technology educator at Penn Manor High School who is dedicated to the ideal of technological literacy among students. In an ever-changing world, teachers like Molly prepare students for careers and life beyond the walls of school that will be defined by the rapidly developing technological revolution.

Molly's recent election to the presidency of the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, where she will serve during the 2025–2026 term, comes after years of working with the Association's Pennsylvania board.

In her new role, Molly will oversee 1,500 members worldwide, ensuring that the next generation's innovative skillset will accommodate the needs of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Molly for her dedication to her students and preparing them to enter the technological workforce. I wish her all the best in her new position, in addition to her work at Penn Manor High School.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE BRADY BILL AND BRADY BACKGROUND CHECKS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 30 years of Brady Background Checks.

The landmark Brady Bill, championed by Jim and Sarah Brady, was enacted 30 years ago on February 28, 1994.

This historic legislation established our nation's background check system for guns sold at licensed firearms dealers.

The Brady Bill is named after Reagan White House Press Secretary Jim Brady.

After Jim Brady survived a bullet to the head during the 1981 assassination attempt of President Reagan, he and his wife, Sarah Brady, knew our country urgently needed common-sense solutions to prevent guns from falling into the hands of those who intend to cause harm.

Since its enactment, the Brady Bill has blocked almost 4.9 million prohibited gun transactions.

Thirty years later, the Brady Bill continues to save countless lives each day because background checks work.

As we celebrate enduring milestones that have transformed our country, I cannot help but remember the lives that have been selfishly lost to inaction and negligence.

So, in addition to celebrating the success of the Brady Bill, I would like to take a moment to urge the passage of an additional, necessary piece of gun violence prevention legislation—H.R. 52, The Kimberly Vaughan Firearm Safe Storage Act.

This bill was named after Kimberly Vaughan, a 14–year-old girl, who was among the ten lives we lost during the devastating Santa Fe High School shooting on May 18, 2018.

H.R. 52 will establish best practices for firearm storage to protect children from improperly stored or misused firearms and establish a grant program for local government and nonprofits to distribute safe storage devices.

In particular, the Attorney General is directed to establish voluntary best practices relating to safe firearm storage and publish them on a website and in print.

Secondly, it will require most weapons to have a clear written notice on the packaging that says, ''Safe Storage Saves Lives' and how to obtain the best practices established by the Attorney General.

Additionally, the bill will provide grants to states and local governments with a ten-year, $10 million grant program to distribute safe storage devices.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, member of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and co-founding member of the Children's Caucus, gun violence prevention and the protecting of children is deeply important to me.

And so, in highlighting the importance of passing bills, such as H.R. 52, we must also reflect and remember the lives of those lost to senseless gun violence.

Kimberly Vaughan loved cats, Harry Potter, and regularly took trips to the library.

She was drawing geometric shapes in her first period art class when she was tragically killed by a 17–year-old student who was on a shooting rampage.

That student ultimately massacred 8 students, 2 teachers, and wounded 13 others at Santa Fe High School in Texas.

It was the worst school shooting since 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida just two months prior.

The shotgun and the .38 caliber pistol the shooter took to school belonged to his father and were available to him at his home.

Firearm injury is the leading cause of death for children and young adults in the United States.

Although American children are ''twice as likely to be shot and killed as they are to die drowning,'' there are more safety regulations for pools than gun storage according to a report by Everytown for Gun Safety.

Every year, almost 20,000 children are shot and killed or wounded by a firearm, and 3 million are exposed to gun violence.

One in three U.S. households with children have firearms and firearms accounted for nearly 19 percent of childhood deaths in 2021, a 50 percent increase since 2019.

On average, 9 minors are killed by improperly stored or misused guns every day.

In my home state of Texas, more than 4,000 Texans are shot and killed each year.

Safe storage practices are critically important to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals and to keep children and families safe from senseless gun violence.

In the last decade, nearly 2 million firearms have been reported stolen.

Between 2010 and 2016, police recovered more than 23,000 stolen firearms that were used to commit kidnapping, armed robberies, sexual assaults, murders, and other violent crimes.

An estimated 4.6 million minors live in homes with at least one unlocked, loaded firearm; on average, 9 children are killed by improperly stored or misused guns every day.

The passage of the Brady Bill reminds us that bold action to prevent gun violence is possible.

Americans should be safe from gun violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

Americans should not be shot at Super Bowl parades.

Americans should not be shot in their schools.

Americans should not be shot at their places of worship.

It is simply unconscionable that guns are now the leading cause of death of children and teens in America.

Just two years ago, I joined Congress in passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first major gun violence prevention law since the Brady Bill.

Already, this legislation is saving lives, but we need bolder action. It is long past the time to do something about the epidemic of gun violence in our nation? The nation that prides itself on protecting our children and the future generations. If we want to protect Americans, we must start by learning how to effectively store guns in the homes that choose to have them.

Americans want more than thoughts and prayers.

They want action.

Gun safety is a nonpartisan issue that requires a bipartisan solution.

Over 90 percent of Americans—including Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike—want to expand the Brady Bill and pass universal background checks so that we can end the scourge of gun violence.

A majority of Americans want an assault weapons ban, extreme risk laws, and support for community violence intervention.

Data for Progress finds 49 percent of voters support changing Senate rules so Democrats can pass gun control legislation.

This includes 76 percent of Democrats, 43 percent of Independents, and 24 percent of Republicans.

Put simply, Americans deserve sensible action to end this epidemic.

The Brady's legacy lives on today in the gun violence prevention organization named after them.

We must remain persistent in the fight for a safer America that is free of gun violence.

I will continue to work with colleagues to end this epidemic.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRYAN ANDREW ZEMEK

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Zemek, a Mississippi National Guardsman, who tragically lost his life when Apache Helicopter, Tail Number 52630, went down near Booneville, Mississippi Friday afternoon of February 23, 2024.

Bryan Zemek, at 36 years old, served his country with distinction for nearly two decades, demonstrating his courage and skill as a Standardization Instructor Pilot for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation

Regiment in Tupelo, Mississippi. His extensive experience included over 2450 flying hours in the Apache helicopter, showcasing his expertise in aircraft gunnery, weapon systems, combat arms, operations, and tactics.

Beyond his military service, Bryan was a devoted family man, leaving behind his beloved wife Robyn and their four children, Ayden, Logan, Swayze, and Avery. He was not only a skilled aviator, but also an outdoorsman, marksman, and even a private plane owner. His love for boating, aviation, and serving as a civilian Emergency Medical Services pilot reflected his adventurous spirit and commitment to helping others

Bryan embodied the values of faith, family, and patriotism. His dedication to his home state of Mississippi and to the United States of America exemplifies the true essence of an American hero. As we reflect on his life and legacy, let us hold his memory dear in our hearts and express our profound gratitude for his selfless service and ultimate sacrifice.

In this time of sorrow, we offer our unwavering support and comfort. May his legacy endure as a beacon of courage and honor, reminding us of all the sacrifices made by those who serve our nation. God bless Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Andrew Zemek, a proud Mississippian, and a true American hero. May he rest in peace, and may his spirit continue to inspire us all.

CELEBRATING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS JASPER

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to honor Former State Representative Thomas Jasper, a gentleman near and dear to the citizens of New Orleans and Louisiana's Second Congressional District, as he celebrates his 95th Birthday.

Native New Orleanian Thomas Jasper was born on February 23, 1929, An ambitious and promising young man that attended Booker T. Washington Sr. High School in the 2nd Congressional District. After high school, he served in the United States Armed Forces and later graduated from Southern University at New Orleans. He is a notable accountant and professional, serving in several key administrative positions in city and state governments. He proudly and successfully served the Lower Nine Housing Development Corporation, Minority Business Development, and Louisiana State Office of Minority Affairs under the leadership of former Louisiana Governors Edwards and David Treen and former City of New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy.

In 1976, he was elected to serve as Louisiana State Representative to House District 102 in the Lower Ninth Ward. He was a cofounding member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. He completed his tenure in 1980. He consistently demonstrated servant leadership acumen by being elected to the New Orleans State Central Democratic Committee and Democratic National Convention as a delegate.

From 2016 through 2021, it was an honor to have his support and insight as my trusted Advisor during my term as Louisiana State Senator. Mr. Jasper also was my trusted Advisor during my tenures at Councilman of District C in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1994 to 2002.

Avid community leader Mr. Jasper can always be found helping others in the community, advising on business development, and providing referrals to resources.

A pillar of Mr. Jasper's family upbringing is the biblical teachings regarding service to all God's children. As a young man and throughout most of his adult years, Mr. Jasper was a member of the Historic Second Baptist Church, serving as a Sanctuary choir member under Rev. Thomas Nelson Washington. A man dedicated to the will of God, he was regularly found in Sunday school, singing in the Choir and being a guest soloist on church programs across the city, and he continues to do so today. Currently, he worships at the First Agape Baptist Church, where he serves as a senior deacon and treasurer under the ministry of the Rev. Eddie M. Payne. Mr. Jasper loves to minister in song. He favors the older spirituals like ''I'll Tell it Wherever I Go'' and ''King Jesus Will Roll All Burdens Away'' but is most inspired by ''What a Blessing in Jesus I've Found.''

His favorite scripture is Romans 8:38–39 is his message to his children and grandchildren—''Be prayerful, have faith and trust in God, and let nothing separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.''

Mr. Jasper is the son of Samuel and Louise Jasper, devoted husband of Florence Harrell for 74 blessed years, and has reared three children, Gwendolyn Jasper Barnes, Nedra Jasper Alcorn, and the late Rev. Glenn Thomas Jasper. He is the proud grandfather of six grandchildren and doting great-grandfather of eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Jasper is a mighty man of service, and today, he continues to serve as my purpose-driven mentor and father figure. He has encouraged me through all of my dreams throughout my career. He is genuinely a patriarch to many who continue to cross his path and will always be a part of my journey as I lead the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana. He is my dear friend and mentor, and I hope to be the mentor to others as he has been for me.

On this day, I wish my dear friend a Happy and Blessed Birthday, and may he see many more.

HONORING INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE RENEE PACK

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Indiana State Representative for House District 92, Renee Pack. Prior to joining the Indiana General Assembly, she served in the United States Army for five years, where she trained and served as a behavioral specialist and was also certified in drug and alcohol counseling. Her training in the Army led her to a lifetime of service in our local schools, as a small business operator and now at the Indiana Statehouse.

Since being elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2020, Renee Pack has led with courage and strength. She has become a champion for a more equal, and just environment for residents of her district and all Hoosiers. Her service in the Army has led her to where she is today, serving as the Ranking Member on the Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. She also serves on the Committees on Commerce, Small Business and Economic Development, and Children and Human Affairs. She has invested her years in public service to uplift those in need, strengthen veteran services in Indiana, and advocate for equality under the law.

Her service and training in the Army still have a lasting impact on her public service today. Her collective experiences inspired her to author Indiana House Bill 1188, prohibiting lifetime limitations for Medicaid recipients receiving treatment for substance abuse and addiction.

Each month, our office recognizes women veterans who are often overlooked and underrepresented, especially women of color. African Americans have a long history serving our country, as the National Museum of African American History and Culture recognizes ''From the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror, African Americans have served in the United States military. In defending their country, they hoped to earn freedom and citizenship and contribute to a changed America where racial equality was possible.''

On this last day of Black History Month, I am proud to honor State Representative Renee Pack for her service to our country by giving her the Shelia Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing State Representative and Hoosier Women Hero, Renee Pack.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 7463, Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1051–S1091

Measures Introduced: Twenty-nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4, 3832–3859, and S. Res. 569–570. **Pages S1076–77**

Measures Reported:

S. 1939, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S1076

Measures Passed:

Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act: By 77 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 67), Senate passed H.R. 7463, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, by the order of the Senate of Thursday, February 29, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendment and motions proposed thereto:

Rejected:

By 37 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 63), Paul/Braun Amendment No. 1614, to establish prohibitions relating to the purchase or sale of State or municipal securities. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1068–69**

By 14 yeas to 76 nays (Vote No. 64), Marshall motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions. **Pages S1069–70**

By 12 yeas to 77 nays (Vote No. 65), Lee motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions. **Pages S1070–71**

By 32 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 66), Cruz motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions. **Page S1071**

Justice for Murder Victims Act: Senate passed S. 3859, to ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.

Pages S1089–90

Victims' VOICES Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 3706, to amend section 3663A of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that restitution includes necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by a person who has assumed the victim's rights, and the bill was then passed. **Page S1090**

National Speech and Debate Education Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 570, designating March 1, 2024, as "National Speech and Debate Education Day". **Page S1090**

Measures Considered:

Proposed Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Turkiye: By 13 yeas to 79 nays (Vote No. 62), Senate rejected the motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of S.J. Res. 60, providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Turkiye of certain defense articles and services.

Pages S1067–68

Veto Messages:

Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers: By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 61), two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, S.J. Res. 38, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers", was rejected, the veto of the President was sustained. **Pages S1057–58**

Appointments:

Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appointed the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Senators Brown and Butler. **Page S1089**

Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, but no later than Friday, March 8, 2024, Senate begin consideration of S. 3853, to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining; that there be up to one hour for debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on passage of the bill, all without intervening action or debate, with 60-affirmative votes required for passage. **Page S1068**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Schatz be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from February 29, 2024 through March 5, 2024. **Page S1089**

Keohane Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Pages S1058–67**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 29, 2024, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. **Page S1090**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1058**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination at approximately 3 p.m., on Tuesday, March 5, 2024; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, February 29, 2024 ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S1090**

Marvit Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. **Page S1072**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Ronald T. Keohane, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. **Page S1072**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1072**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1072**

Harris Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board. **Page S1072**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. **Page S1072**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1072**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1072**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 56 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 60), Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury. **Pages S1051–57**

Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense. **Page S1072**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Judy W. Chang, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

David Rosner, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2027.

Lindsay S. See, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

Dana Lynn Banks, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years.

Mary E. Daschbach, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Togolese Republic.

Troy Fitrell, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles.

Joshua M. Harris, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Elizabeth K. Horst, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2029.

Routine lists in the Army, Marine Corps, Navy. **Pages S1090–91**

Messages from the House: **Page S1075**

Measures Referred: **Pages S1075–76**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S1076, S1090**

Executive Communications: **Page S1076**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1076**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1077–79**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1079–89**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1073–75**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1089**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1089**

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—67) **Pages S1057–58, S1067, S1069–72**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:22 p.m., until 12 noon on Friday, March 1, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1090.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

USSTRATCOM AND USSPACECOM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Anthony J. Cotton, USAF, Commander, United States Strategic Command, and General Stephen N. Whiting, USSF, Commander, United States Space Command, both of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine empowering people with disabilities to thrive in careers and the workplace, after receiving testimony from Erin Willman, White Cane Coffee Company, Warren, Pennsylvania; Jeffrey Mittman, Bosma Enterprises, Indianapolis, Indiana; Lauren Avellone, Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, Richmond; and Frank Hellmer, Little Rock, Arkansas.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 35 public bills, H.R. 7476–7510; and 13 resolutions, H. Res. 1034–1046, were introduced. **Pages H770–72**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H774–75**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 3277, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–402). **Page H770**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Strong to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H741**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:36 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H751**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Extension of Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2024: H.R. 7463, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 320 yeas to 99 nays, Roll No. 58; and **Pages H759–64, H764–65**

Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2024: H.R. 7454, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 401 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 59. **Pages H755–59, H765–66**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Wednesday, February 28th.

Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act: H.R. 7102, to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas to 16 nays, Roll No. 57; **Page H764**

Requiring the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans: H.R. 5426, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans; and **Page H766**

WOSB Integrity Act of 2024: H.R. 7128, to establish requirements relating to size standard compliance of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes. **Page H766**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, March 1st, and further when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at noon on Tuesday, March 5th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H769**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Titus wherein she resigned from the Committee on Homeland Security. **Page H766**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 1034, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H766**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H764, H765, and H765–66.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Committee Meetings

A REVIEW OF DEFENSE SECRETARY AUSTIN'S UNANNOUNCED ABSENCE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "A Review of Defense Secretary Austin's Unannounced Absence". Testimony was heard from Loyd J. Austin III, Secretary, Department of Defense.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT PATIENTS WITH RARE DISEASES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Support Patients with Rare Diseases". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.J. Res. 109, providing for Congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 121"; H.R. 6864, the "HUD Accountability Act of 2023"; H.R. 7280, "HUD Transparency Act of 2024"; H.R. 7156, the "Combatting Money Laundering in Cyber Crime Act of 2024"; and H.R. 7462, the "Wildfire Insurance Coverage Study Act of 2024". H.J. Res. 109 was ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 6864, H.R. 7280, H.R. 7156, and H.R. 7462 were ordered reported, as amended.

PORT CYBERSECURITY: THE INSIDIOUS THREAT TO U.S. MARITIME PORTS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled "Port Cybersecurity: The Insidious Threat to U.S. Maritime Ports". Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Derek Trinque, Director for Strategic Plans, Policy, and Logistics, U.S. Transportation Command, Department of Defense; Rear Admiral Wayne Arguin, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral John Vann, Commander, Coast Guard Cyber Command, U.S. Coast Guard; and Christa Brzozowski, Acting Assistant Secretary, Trade and Economic Security, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments; H.R. 4848, the "Censorship Accountability

Act''; H.R. 2595, the ''Forfeiture Funds Expenditure Transparency Act''; and H.R. 7335, the ''Transparency in National Security Threats Act''. Subcommittee Assignments were ratified. H.R. 4848, H.R. 2595, and H.R. 7335 were ordered reported, as amended.

MADE IN CHINA: IS GSA COMPLYING WITH PURCHASING RESTRICTIONS?

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled ''Made in China: Is GSA Complying with Purchasing Restrictions?''. Testimony was heard from Robert C. Erickson, Jr., Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, General Services Administration; and David Shive, Chief Information Officer, General Services Administration.

EXAMINING THE RISK: THE DANGERS OF EV FIRES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigation and Oversight held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Risk: The Dangers of EV Fires for First Responders''. Testimony was heard from Dan Munsey, Chief, Fire Department, San Bernardino County, California; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2025 Views and Estimates of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; H. Con. Res. 83, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; and General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. Fiscal Year 2025 Views and Estimates of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure were adopted. H. Con. Res. 83 was ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

12 noon, Friday, March 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m, Friday, March 1

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Banks, Jim, Ind., E197
Bush, Cori, Mo., E195
Carson, André, Ind., E195, E199
Carter, Troy A., La., E194, E199
Ciscomani, Juan, Ariz., E198
Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E197
Escobar, Veronica, Tex., E196
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E194
Gonzales, Tony, Tex., E195
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E193, E198
Kelly, Trent, Miss., E193, E199
Khanna, Ro, Calif., E196
Lamborn, Doug, Colo., E197
Nadler, Jerrold, N.Y., E193
Ryan, Patrick, N.Y., E197
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E193, E198
Soto, Darren, Fla., E195
Strickland, Marilyn, Wash., E194

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