



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

No. 41

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 7, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL GUEST 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.

### CONGRATULATING SAMUEL HUNSBERGER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Samuel Hunsberger of Licking Township, Pennsylvania. Samuel recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Samuel is the son of Melissa and Larry Hunsberger, and he is the grand-

son of Jane Hunsberger and the late Ronald Hunsberger of Licking Township, Pennsylvania, the late Audrey Woodkirk of New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and the late Burdette Woodkirk of Hazle Township, Pennsylvania.

As a student at Keystone Junior/Senior High School, Samuel is active in the classroom, on the athletic field, and on the stage. He is a member of the student government, a 3-year varsity football player, and a member of the marching band.

Outside of school, Samuel is a volunteer firefighter for Knox and Callensburg-Licking Township companies.

I congratulate Samuel for his commitment to service and wish him the very best of luck as he embarks on this exciting new phase of life at West Point.

### CONGRATULATING ERIC CLARK

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Eric Clark of Howard, Pennsylvania. Eric recently accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Eric is the son of Amy and Benjamin Clark. He is the grandson of Uleta and Eric Clark of Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania, and Ann and William Welsh of Rixford, Pennsylvania.

Eric is a senior at Bald Eagle Area High School, where he has excelled in and out of the classroom. As a captain of the varsity football and wrestling teams, Eric is a strong leader. He also serves as senior class president and is a member of the National Honor Society. Eric has a clear passion for service and is a great example of what leadership looks like.

Best wishes in Annapolis, Eric. I look forward to seeing all that you achieve.

### CONGRATULATING JUDE STERLING

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jude Sterling of

Millmont, Pennsylvania. Jude accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jude is a senior at the Meadowbrook Christian School. He is the son of Jason and Ann Rishel and the grandson of Shirley O'Brien and Harry Vansickle of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and Kathy and Carl Baskin of Sugar Hill, Georgia.

Jude is an active member of the Civil Air Patrol, where he has served in a variety of leadership positions. He is also a student pilot and a member of the cross-country and track and field teams. His commitment to service is an inspiration to us all.

I am confident that Jude's experience in and out of the classroom will serve him well as he looks forward to this exciting new phase of life.

Jude, thank you for your commitment to our Nation, and best of luck in Colorado Springs.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to nominate these young men. Their dedication to serving our country is inspirational, and I look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come. Again, I thank all of them for their commitment to our Nation.

### REWRITING HISTORY

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, a century ago, the philosopher George Santayana wrote that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Today, in America, we are faced with this very dilemma. We have seen attempts by the ultraconservatives to rewrite history and cater to those uncomfortable with an evolving world, uncomfortable with our country's original sin.

In these cases, it is no longer a matter of forgetfulness but a deliberate effort to ignore the past or alter it to

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

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



Printed on recycled paper.

H1003

suit their own political gain. If we allow this altering to take hold, are we not doomed in our pursuit of a more perfect Union?

It is part of the overall goal of the former President and the MAGA movement. This movement rejects the idea that history is complex and, in the process, casts aside efforts to reckon with it.

Former President Trump and his followers prefer to simplify things for an audience afraid of a changing world. In so doing, Trump and his loyal followers refuse to accept the existence of complexities and contradictions in our shared story.

It is why Donald Trump so staunchly defended Robert E. Lee, not because Trump has a grasp on history but because Lee represents a vision of the past some would like to reclaim. They would rather paint a vision of our story unsullied by racism, suppression of women's rights, or violence against indigenous people.

Even the definition of patriotism has been corrupted. Patriotism isn't about ignoring the realities of our wrongs. It is about recognizing them and vowing never again, trying to make things better. This approach fails to coexist with the MAGA agenda.

We have seen others claim the "great replacement theory" is not a white supremacist conspiracy theory but a goal of the Democratic Party.

Sadly, this battle is also playing out prominently in our educational institutions. Governors in red States have implemented civic standards that whitewash history rather than providing students with a full understanding of our Nation's founding.

One prominent Governor defended his State's African-American history curriculum standards, which claim some enslaved people develop skills that "could be applied for their personal benefit."

Our Nation's messy history and our present flaws don't serve the MAGA goals and certainly don't empower them.

They would rather rewrite the past than change the future because if they accept the truth, that would be relinquishing power. After all, it is power and the desire to retain it that drives this movement. Donald Trump lying to his followers about the results of the 2020 election was about holding onto power.

To suggest enslaved people potentially benefit from slavery is about power. Even suggesting that it is immigrants who are "poisoning the blood of our Nation" is about power.

All of this stokes fear, division, and ultimately violence. It also suggests to our allies and adversaries that we cannot be accountable for our wrongs.

We must show that we stand with the truth, not denialism, that we don't accept lies about claiming the election was stolen, and that we don't accept lies suggesting that Black people benefited from slavery, recognizing that these lies have consequences.

Today, we are witnessing what the wrongful rewrite of history can lead to. Vladimir Putin continues to falsely claim Ukraine is part of Russia in an attempt to justify his war. We may feel as though something like this—the deliberate brainwashing of the public—could never happen here. Well, it can, and it is.

We cannot allow this revisionist history to continue spreading so maliciously and effectively, not only for how the world perceives us but for our pursuit of a more perfect Union. We must recognize the darkest sides of the past and teach our children that recognition is not a criticism. It is a lesson.

If we are to maintain a grip on reality in our history, we must start at the local level, especially in our schools. We must ensure our children are taught the truth about the past.

We must keep working to uphold the truth at all costs, regardless of how agreeable it is. This is not an affront to our history or our values. It is a promise to build a better tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

#### WEAPONIZING CO<sub>2</sub>

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak to you, once again, about our atmosphere, climate, and, most specifically, carbon dioxide, which has been weaponized in the argument around here, with government agencies against the people, as a tool, I think, to take more control of the economy and people's personal property.

Carbon dioxide, I will remind you, is 0.04 percent of the entire pie of our atmosphere; oxygen, 21 percent; nitrogen, 78 percent; trace gases other than that, 0.03. Argon is much bigger in our atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>. Yet, you would think, with the CO<sub>2</sub> numbers creeping up slowly, it is the end of the world.

Everything around here has to be run through a CO<sub>2</sub> filter, a climate change filter, and it is much to the detriment of our economy and the U.S. position in the world.

Most recently, the Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted rules on their own to decide that people are going to have to start disclosing their climate impact of how they operate their businesses. You are going to have to start accounting for your CO<sub>2</sub> production and report that to a Federal entity.

This is pretty much going to mean everybody if they are connected to a certain size of business and what have you. Small suppliers to larger corporations that are caught in the snare of this will have to account for that.

For food production, let's say you have ingredients that are placed into a larger recipe for food products that you could buy from maybe a larger conglomerate. There are also individual small growers—say, a carrot farmer, a bean farmer. He is now going to have to disclose his CO<sub>2</sub> production on his farm because he might be selling to a larger entity that is caught in the snare of the SEC.

Where does this all end? How much time does an individual like that have to chase around and figure out what his CO<sub>2</sub> impact is going to be, especially since it is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere?

There is much debate about what amount of the CO<sub>2</sub> is caused by human activity. Some want to say, oh, it is 50 percent. Others believe it is very small, a tiny percentage, like maybe 3 percent.

There are those that want to say, well, the science is settled, merely because they want to move on and take control over so many aspects of our economy.

What are some of the issues that we have seen grow out of that? We have what is known as ESG, environmental, social, and governance.

The country of Sri Lanka, just a few short years ago, decided to adopt and try to meet these ESG goals, much to the great harm of their economy. It almost collapsed good portions of their economy because they went whole hog as a whole country on that to try to adopt ESG goals.

On the environmental side of the E, they forced farmers to completely convert to organic materials for their fertilizer and whatever pesticide products they were able to use organically. What immediately happened? Rice yields in the country dropped 20 percent. The price of rice went up 50 percent for consumers.

We saw that that blew a great big hole in the ag economy in that small country. Their country had to come in and start doing bailouts, basically, to help keep those farmers afloat until they finally got their senses and abandoned a lot of those ESG goals.

They are also an important tea exporter, which caused their exports to fall. They lost hundreds of millions of dollars on that as well.

Their economy collapsed by trying to meet some arbitrary ESG goal brought on by outsiders that really have this idealistic, elite whim of what people should be doing instead of what actually works.

I run this all by you here because the Biden administration has been causing this kind of harm on our own economy in this country. The focus of every agency seems to be climate, climate, climate all the time because of a tiny increase in CO<sub>2</sub>.

CO<sub>2</sub> is a rounding error in the overall atmospheric chart here, and the increase of that is minute. How much can we blame on human activity versus what might be happening with other naturally occurring issues?

What do we have? Our economy is being outclassed by China and others in the Pacific Rim that can produce at will, and they are the much larger so-called polluters than we are of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Do you want to have a situation where we can actually have better control and reasonable regulations on how things are produced in this country, or do we want to export it all to China and places like that and have basically almost no control on how they are doing that?

What we are going to hear tonight when the President is going to be in this room, he is probably going to talk a whole bunch about climate and some new initiatives on that. Instead, why doesn't he focus on something that could have immediate help for the devastating things going on on our border in this country, eight steps he could take with the swing of a pen to clean up our border problems instead of blaming Republicans for his mess?

□ 1015

#### MUSICIANS DESERVE A LIVING WAGE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am from Motown, where our music has changed the world in so many incredible ways forever.

But artists in my district and across our country are struggling to make ends meet in an industry where the money just keeps going to executives and shareholders.

It would take more than 800,000 streams per month to make the equivalent of \$15 an hour, and the vast majority of our artists are on platforms like Apple Music and Spotify, and they never, ever get to 800,000 streams in a year.

This is a big deal. Streaming now represents 84 percent of the recorded music industry's revenue in the United States, but most of the artists who bring joy to our lives and culture aren't seeing any of it.

The Living Wage for Musicians Act, which I introduced with Representative BOWMAN, would change that by creating a new fund that aims to pay artists at least one penny per stream.

The bill would completely reform the music industry, supporting a much more diverse set of artists, enabling more recording and touring, and sending a ripple effect throughout local economies by supporting professionals throughout the music industry.

I truly encourage my colleagues to learn more about this legislation, co-sponsor the bill, and help change artists' lives forever.

#### REMEMBERING CHEF MAXCEL HARDY

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, our community is deeply saddened by the loss of Chef Max Hardy, a Detroit native who was a trailblazer in his advocacy to end hunger.

Chef Max was the owner of Rosedale Park neighborhood restaurants River Bistro, COOP Caribbean Fusion inside the Detroit Shipping Company, and Jed's Detroit on Seven Mile Road.

He founded the One Chef Can 86 Hunger Foundation, a nonprofit organization that fights against hunger and raises awareness about food insecurity.

The New York Times named Hardy one of 16 Black Chefs Changing Food in America in 2021.

Chef Max also cowrote "The Marley Coffee Cookbook" with Rohan Marley, Bob Marley's son, and was featured on the Food Network.

He was a champion of aspiring young people in Detroit, teaching them the fundamentals of conscious cooking.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District, we send our love and condolences to Chef Max's two daughters and his family. He truly will be missed.

#### DETROIT RESCUE MISSION MINISTRIES

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable work of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, as they recently celebrated their 115th anniversary of service to our residents.

For over a century, Detroit Rescue Mission has been a beacon of hope, providing, food, shelter, and services to those in our community that are most vulnerable.

Detroit Rescue Mission was founded by David Stucky on February 14, 1909.

The Mission began as a soup kitchen with a mission to find permanent solutions for our most vulnerable residents in the city of Detroit.

The Detroit Rescue Mission has worked tirelessly to rebuild hundreds of thousands of lives destroyed by addiction, homelessness, and poverty.

I am so grateful for the work of the Detroit Rescue Mission for their incredible leadership in our community, and I am looking forward to witnessing all they will continue to accomplish in the years to come.

#### CHALLENGES AMERICA IS FACING

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the challenges that America is facing and identify ways we can restore order in this country.

Tonight, President Biden will join us in this very Chamber to address the Nation. I am hopeful that he will speak to the real issues before us and detail how he plans to work with House Republicans to get America back on track.

The southern border, inflation and our national debt, and the weaponization of the Federal Government need his immediate attention.

Since last year, House Republicans have passed legislation after legislation to secure our southern border, reduce and reprioritize Federal spending, and end the weaponization of the Federal Government. We passed H.R. 2 to finish the border wall, increase the

number of Border Patrol agents, protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking, and terminate catch and release.

Since President Biden took office, there have been more than 8.5 million illegal crossings—that is almost three times the population of Kansas—including known criminals and terrorists on that list.

Just last month, the Nation was horrified by the brutal murder of Laken Riley by an illegal immigrant. Despite the illegal immigrant's criminal history in the United States, failed liberal policies allowed him to stay here, and an innocent young woman from Georgia paid the price.

Now that President Biden has visited the real southern border and witnessed the crisis he created, he should work with House Republicans to secure our southern border.

We passed legislation to limit future government spending, reclaim \$200 billion of unaccounted for COVID dollars, and promote progrowth energy and economic policy.

While the White House says inflation is cooling, those of us in middle America still feel the weight of Washington's spending problem. Our national debt has surpassed \$34 trillion, diesel is well over \$3.60 a gallon in Kansas, Americans' paychecks are grossly overtaxed, and Washington Democrats pretend that the President has a no-limit credit card.

This is no way to govern. It is irresponsible, it is fiscal insanity, and President Biden should work with House Republicans to rein in inflation and our national debt.

We passed legislation that ends the weaponization of the Federal Government, we are working to hold the U.S. Department of Justice accountable to applying justice equally, and we are pushing the U.S. EPA to fully implement the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that the EPA's waters of the U.S. rule is unconstitutional.

We are working to reduce the number of executive orders that the Biden administration uses as force of law. We are standing up for the unborn and fighting the radical agenda that promotes Federal funding for abortions. In the Big First, we know that the right to life is a right from God, not from the government. That right deserves to be protected.

President Biden should work with House Republicans to end the weaponization of the Federal Government once and for all.

I hope that President Biden will also discuss how he will work with us to enact a strong farm bill that will protect and strengthen crop insurance; incentivizes agricultural trade opportunities; promotes global food security; supports agriculture research; and reflects the needs of the American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers who work to feed, fuel, and clothe the world.

I hope that he will address the importance of our country's energy independence, our fight against China, and a strong Second Amendment.

The list goes on and on.

When the President joins us here tonight, he has the opportunity to share with Kansans and Americans his plan to tackle these challenges head-on.

Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that our greatest days are yet to come. Those days require us to get America back on track.

#### HUNTER BIDEN AND IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have finally decided to have Hunter Biden testify in public on their sham impeachment inquiry into President Biden.

Now, the American people will soon see what we all saw behind closed doors: that there is zero evidence—zero evidence—of any wrongdoing by President Biden who had no involvement in any of Hunter's business dealings. Absolutely none.

We will continue to call out these lies.

Let's take a look at the star witnesses that the House majority has brought forward in this political stunt impeachment.

We have Alexander Smirnov, who we know is an indicted Russian asset. He has been indicted for lying, by the way, and working with Russian spies. We have another who turned out to be a spy for China, who actually sold weapons to Iran. The third witness right now is serving a 14-year sentence in prison for fraud.

You can't make this stuff up.

We also, of course, have recently learned about another disgraced con man who colluded with the Trump campaign. They are all-star witnesses of the Republican majority. Of course, we shouldn't forget Rudy Giuliani and his grand conspiracy theories, which is all the House majority is left with.

Now, the GOP insists on impeaching President Biden at whatever the cost, all to help Donald Trump get reelected.

Now, Donald Trump was impeached twice for his crimes and faces 91 felony charges, and he is desperate for revenge. If there is anyone we should be investigating, it is the Trump crime family and Jared Kushner's \$2 billion deal from the Saudi Government, which he received just weeks after leaving the White House. The one person that was in charge of the Middle East—the Middle East envoy—then receives \$2 billion into an investment fund. We know that the Saudis spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in Trump properties. That is a real scandal and should be investigated.

It is time to end this impeachment scam and get back to work for the American people.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE SAMANIEGO

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jose Samaniego, who passed away in 2017, far too early at the age of 33.

Jose was a firefighter for the Golden Ranch Fire District and will be remembered for his passion for community service.

Jose Samaniego also served on the board of the North Tucson Firefighters Association, Local 3832, working to better the community through fundraisers for local foster families.

Jose began his career as a wildland firefighter and member of the Avra Valley Fire District before going to Raytheon Missile Systems.

In 2012, Jose went to work for Golden Ranch, where he became a member of the special operations team.

Beyond his firefighter achievements, Jose was a devoted husband to Serena and a loving father to four children: Andres, Alysha, Adam, and Annabella, who I had the pleasure of meeting recently and was impressed with their drive and their dedication. They have bright futures ahead of them, knowing that they proudly carry the legacy of their dad.

In honor of Jose, the North Tucson Firefighters Association started the annual Jose Samaniego Memorial Archery Shoot and BBQ Challenge. I was honored to attend this event this past Saturday on March 2 and had the opportunity to meet his entire family and experience firsthand why the event is a fitting tribute to the passion that Jose had for his community and also his fire family, as well as his love for the outdoors.

Jose Samaniego remains a true hero in the hearts of the greater Tucson community and the residents of my district. We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service and are eternally thankful for his contributions.

#### MI NIDITO RESTAURANT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mi Nidito and its owners, Jimmy and Ernie Lopez.

Mi Nidito, the Lopez family's restaurant, has been a staple in Tucson for 72 years.

Jimmy and Ernie's grandparents, Ernesto and Alicia Lopez, first opened the restaurant doors in 1952. Since then, the Lopez family has tirelessly upheld Mi Nidito's legacy for three generations.

Arizonans and visitors from across the country and around the world have stood in line for hours to get a taste of their renowned chile rellenos and enchilada-style burritos, as well.

Over the last seven decades, Mi Nidito has also had some notable guests, including then-President Bill Clinton, who visited the restaurant in 1999.

As Jimmy and Ernie begin a well-deserved retirement, Laura and I want to

thank them and the entire Lopez family for their contributions to our community.

#### SALPOINTE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salpointe girls' basketball team for winning the 4A State championship.

In an exciting game, they secured victory over Gilbert's Mesquite High by a score of 59–49.

This marks the Lancer's second State championship in the last three seasons. Their hard work and perseverance over the past season has been truly commendable.

I am proud to represent such dedicated student athletes, determined coaches, and supportive parents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Joseph Luevano and this talented team for a well-earned title.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL HYATT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retiring Border Patrol agent, Michael Hyatt.

Mr. Hyatt currently serves as the agent in charge at the Brian A. Terry Station near Naco, Arizona.

He will retire later this month, ending a 28-year career with Border Patrol.

After joining in 1996, Michael spent the majority of his time with Border Patrol in Arizona, with 11 years at the Naco Station.

His work as agent in charge has been praised by Cochise County residents, specifically for his tireless community outreach and strong relationships with ranchers.

As Michael prepares for a well-deserved retirement, I personally thank him for all his hard work.

□ 1030

#### WELCOMING CASSIE SMITH TO THE CAPITOL

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at the young age of 109, Cassie Smith voted on the first day of this year's primary and was among the first in North Carolina to do so.

Ms. Cassie, also known as Ma Cassie by neighbors and friends in her Battleboro community, is a living and walking symbol of our democracy. I am honored to welcome her to Washington, D.C., as my special guest to the State of the Union.

When I visited the Smith home to invite her, in response, Ma Cassie smiled brightly and said: I am blessed. I thank God every day.

Her faith drives her, and she wholeheartedly believes in the importance of fulfilling her civic duty. What a reminder as we commemorate Bloody Sunday.

Ms. Cassie traveled by airplane, which was the first time she has flown, and she said this was an item on her bucket list. At 109, why not?

I am glad to let eastern North Carolina and the American people know that Delta flight 5310 has landed, and Ms. Cassie is here in Washington, D.C., safe and sound with her son, Frank, and caretaker, Faye. Ms. Cassie can check that one off her bucket list.

From working on the farm, turned maid, and now special guest at 109 years old, what an American story and inspiration. Her presence at our Nation's Capitol embodies the very essence of why we have the opportunity to assemble and our democratic values.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed with great honor I share Ms. Cassie Smith's story.

#### ON THE TESTIMONY OF FORMER CHIEF OF BORDER PATROL RAUL ORTIZ

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I was troubled to recently hear that former chief of Border Patrol, Raul Ortiz, never spoke to either President Biden or the Vice President and so-called border czar KAMALA HARRIS in the 2 years he headed up security at our southern border.

In a recent interview, Chief Ortiz said he never had a single conversation with either of them. He went on to say: "That is a problem," given that he commanded 21,000 border patrolmen.

I would argue it is more than a problem. At the very least, it is an indication that border security was never and has not been a priority for our Commander in Chief.

It is a bit like abandoning a soldier on the battlefield, Mr. Speaker. Because of the policies of the Biden administration, Ortiz had to endure an unprecedented surge of illegal immigration month after month. In his 2½ years at the helm, there were more than 5 million illegal immigrant encounters and 1½ million got-aways during that period. His patrolmen seized more than 50,000 pounds of fentanyl at the southern border by the time of his retirement at the end of last June.

When asked about whether the White House was sending mixed messages to Mexico, Central America, and beyond, he said, without hesitation: Yes.

That mixed messaging was heard loud and clear when President Biden was on the campaign trail in 2019 and said that the United States could take another 2 million immigrants "in a heartbeat." That message got even louder after he took office. In no time, he halted Border Patrol activity, wall construction, and ended the successful remain in Mexico asylum policy.

It is also important to consider that Ortiz was at the helm when title 42 was lifted. All of the experts warned that an unprecedented surge in illegal immigration would follow if that authority was lifted. Nevertheless, the Biden administration fought tirelessly for its end.

Imagine overseeing the border and not getting a single call from those

undoing years of border policy. Imagine the stress, the staffing challenges, the human trafficking and drug crime, all happening with the stroke of a pen and without your input.

Under the Biden administration, we have seen an unprecedented abuse of parole authority, resulting in more than 1 million immigrants being allowed to enter the United States. The President clearly kept that 2019 campaign promise, and it appears he kept his border officials in the dark in the process.

Ultimately, a phone call won't solve this crisis, and we don't need new immigration laws to solve the invasion at the southern border. Don't be fooled by the Democrats and the President calling for new legislation and resources. What we need is a President willing to enforce existing law and one who will prioritize the men and women who protect our borders over those crossing them illegally.

The main need for new legislation is to force the President to enforce existing laws and to complete the border wall. The House passed that legislation, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, almost 10 months ago, only to have it sit idly on the Senate side and be ignored.

#### WELCOMING FAT JOE TO THE STATE OF THE UNION

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my guest for the State of the Union. He is a leader in the fight to make healthcare more affordable and equitable.

Fat Joe is a Grammy-nominated artist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He is also a partner with Power to the Patients, to advocate for healthcare price transparency.

Confusing health information, language barriers, and lack of insurance are challenges that make our healthcare system difficult to navigate, especially for communities of color.

Because of high out-of-pocket costs, insured patients can still face enormous medical bills, and uninsured patients are more likely to face unnecessary hospital fees.

Healthcare is the only service where someone does not know the cost until after you purchase it, until after receiving the healthcare services. We must remove barriers that restrict families from getting care, including knowing your costs up front.

This builds upon the work of President Biden and House Democrats to put people over politics, to lower the cost of healthcare coverage and lower drug prices.

Fat Joe's work to highlight the need for price transparency is necessary to reduce healthcare costs for American families. I am proud to welcome him back to the Capitol as my guest.

#### FULL FUNDING FOR WIC

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud and support the full funding of WIC in the fiscal year 2024 budget.

For 50 years, WIC has delivered quality nutrition benefits and breastfeeding support for almost 10 million American families, including almost 1 million pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children in California.

As chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I hear stories every day of how essential WIC is to Latino families in America, with more than 6 million Latino women and children enrolled.

Last year, the Hispanic Caucus joined the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Women's Caucus to send a letter to congressional leadership to urge them to fully fund WIC.

For months, House Republicans insisted on harmful funding cuts, which put women and children's health at risk. House Democrats worked tirelessly for a \$1 billion funding increase to meet the basic needs of the program.

This week, House Democrats were successful in our efforts. Moms and their babies and pregnant women who rely on WIC can breathe a sigh of relief. Their access to their benefits will continue.

House Democrats will continue to keep up the fight in Congress toward an America where no one goes hungry.

#### RECOGNIZING CARMEN TAPIO

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader from our district who has created jobs and changed lives, all while growing the largest African-American-owned business in the State of Nebraska and the largest private mixed-use development investment in North Omaha.

Carmen Tapio is currently the CEO of North End Teleservices, which has soared to the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing companies for the last 4 years, injecting over \$306 million into Nebraska's economy.

She established Forever North Real Estate to help reimagine North Omaha and set it on a promising path where a community can work, live, and play. Her leadership is helping to reduce poverty, unemployment, and is changing the trajectory of families for generations to come.

Through developing the only Department of Labor registered apprenticeship in her industry, micro credentialing, and bringing people up through the organization, she is growing her own workforce and leadership.

Wanting to empower Black women across the State, Carmen ignited the formation of Nebraska Black Women United with a few phone calls, her own humble take on its formation. Today, over 800 women belong to the purpose-driven organization and continue to fan the flames of growth and support for Black women.

In addition, she founded the NET Work Spot, a premier coworking space nestled in the heart of the North Omaha community. The NET Work Spot exists for collaboration and to nurture the ingenuity of brilliant entrepreneurial minds.

Tapio lends her expertise by serving on various for-profit and nonprofit boards. She serves as the chair of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Omaha Zoological Society Board of Directors, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Omaha Branch Board of Directors, and the Werner Enterprises Board of Directors as chair of the ESG Committee. She is a Peter Kiewit Foundation trustee and serves on the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Board of Trustees, the University of Nebraska Trustee Foundation, and the Nebraska Medicine Board's Finance Committee, just to name a few.

This Women's History Month, she was recognized by the Governor of Nebraska and the Nebraskaland Foundation as the 2024 Distinguished Nebraskalander. She is the 2023 Inspire Awards Woman of the Year, 2022 Inspire Woman of the Year for Large Business, and the 2022 USA Today Nebraska Woman of the Year. She is a 2022 Omaha Business Hall of Fame Inductee, received the 2022 Black Women Legacy Award, and a 2022 Better Business Bureau Torch Award. She was recognized in the Forbes 2021 Next 1000 and the 2021 Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Leadership Awards.

She is incredible.

Carmen's parents instilled in her and each of her five sisters that they could do anything they set their minds to. She says that foundation cultivated her strong belief in the human spirit and that anything is possible. This is what she endeavors to teach people as she and her organization work to help people create a vision for their lives to advance their economic independence and career path.

Carmen and her husband, Bob, live with their dog, Bella, and enjoy traveling and gardening together.

#### THE STATE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about America's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and America's number one antipoverty program for children. That, of course, is Social Security.

I want to commend President Biden. I commend him for putting forward the concept of making sure that Social Security is solvent into the next century and making sure that we expand benefits. He did so by saying we do something that is very common sense and practical: We lift the cap on people making over \$400,000.

□ 1045

Most citizens probably don't realize that there is even a cap on Social Security.

Be that as it may, why is it that all individuals shouldn't have to pay into this system?

We have a poster here. God bless these wealthy individuals who are able to achieve great success and make vast sums of money, but why should a person making \$30,000, \$50,000, \$75,000, or \$100,000 pay throughout the year for their Social Security when these wealthy individuals will pay about 1 minute into the beginning of the year? Just last month was the last time that millionaires would pay anything into the system.

President Biden has said: Let's scrap the cap on people earning over \$400,000.

I have had many townhalls where I ask people in the audience to raise their hand if they are making over \$400,000. So far, I haven't seen a single hand go up.

Yet, they are exempt from participating in what is the Nation's number one insurance program for the elderly and also for children.

By the way, especially in this time of deficit talk, et cetera, it is completely paid for. This is a real kitchen-table issue because 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, and they are sitting there asking: Well, why is it that Social Security hasn't been enhanced?

It is because the only body that can do that is the United States Congress, and it hasn't done anything since 1971 to enhance the program, Mr. Speaker, and to make sure that people are paying their fair share.

The fair thing to do here is to scrap the cap, which would extend solvency of Social Security instead of having a limit. It would also be able to provide benefits to people, including a COLA, that actually work on behalf of our senior citizens. It would include an across-the-board increase for everyone on Social Security since it hasn't been increased since 1971, and it would make sure that people who are currently paying taxes on their Social Security don't have to do so.

How are we able to do that? By having people pay their fair share, people who don't pay, in many instances, a penny into FICA. That is flatout wrong for the wealthiest nation in the world that has provided the benefits, freedoms, and liberty that has allowed these very successful people to succeed in the greatest country in the world.

It is time for us, Mr. Speaker, to come together and address this for all Americans as we seek to close the wealth gap that exists in this country.

For more than 40 percent, Mr. Speaker, of our fellow citizens, Social Security is the only benefit that they have. It is the only benefit that they have, and for these individuals to be exempt from having to pay into that system is absolutely wrong and unjust.

That is why, again, I commend President Biden for standing up for all

Americans and saying that we are going to scrap the cap. We are going to lift that cap on people making over \$400,000. It won't even be anything for them to do this.

What it will do is provide us the opportunity to expand Social Security, to make sure that Social Security now goes into effect by eliminating WEP and GPO that has wrongly penalized teachers, firefighters, police officers, their spouses, and their families from receiving the very Social Security benefits they deserve.

#### FAILURE TO SECURE BORDER

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, Biden signed an executive order overturning every border security measure established during the Trump administration and paving the way for 11 million foreign nationals to enter our country illegally.

During the first 3 years of his administration, Joe Biden consistently denied the border security crisis. Biden lied. Biden and his staff falsely claimed that the border was secure.

It is only now, after countless lives have been taken, that the Biden administration has admitted that there is a problem because they put politics ahead of the safety of the American people.

The tragic murder of 22-year-old Georgia student Laken Riley is a direct consequence of Biden's failure to secure the border. The illegal immigrant from Venezuela who killed her should never have been allowed in our country.

I grieve for Laken's family on their tragic loss. I cannot imagine the pain. No parent in our country should ever lose a child due to reckless border policies and soft-on-crime policies. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have blood on their hands. They should say her name and apologize to her family.

The primary responsibility of the government is to protect the American people. Instead, Biden has opened our borders to an invasion of military-age men and put American lives in danger.

Today, we have the opportunity to vote for the Laken Riley Act to ensure that this never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

#### STATE OF THE UNION AND HOUSING

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, in less than 12 hours, President Biden will deliver his State of the Union Address

and lay out his top policy priorities for our Nation.

Last week, I sent the White House a request that the national affordable housing and homelessness crisis be included as part of the State of the Union Address, and I was very pleased to hear this morning that housing will, in fact, be included in the address.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a special guest. All the people of this country are my special guests today. I am speaking to them about this critical issue of housing and the need to take the people off the street.

Unfortunately, the homeless on the street and in tents and broken-down RVs will not hear this message tonight, but they expect their Members of Congress that they elect to office to speak up for them.

I speak for them, fight for them, and expect everybody, Democrats and Republicans, to fight for the people in America who are homeless and who are looking for better and decent housing.

While the Biden administration has helped our Nation achieve one of the strongest labor markets with record job creation and a record number of businesses forming, we simply cannot talk about the state of our Union without talking about the state of housing in this country.

Housing is a critical part of every person's well-being, the largest part of family budgets, and a major part of our economy. Yet, rising housing costs continue to make up nearly 70 percent of core inflation, outpacing modest wage gains.

To put it in plainer terms: Americans are making more money, but housing costs are so extreme that the extra money in their pockets still isn't enough. Indeed, more renters and homeowners are paying a greater share of their income on housing than ever before. Since 2020, home prices have skyrocketed by 47 percent. Rents have increased by 40 percent during that same timeframe.

It is no wonder that families in nearly every income bracket are feeling the pain of one of the worst housing and homelessness crises in our Nation's history.

Today, a record 653,100 people are experiencing homelessness nationwide as we saw a sobering 25 percent spike in the number of people who are experiencing homelessness for the first time in their lives, between 2022 and 2023.

I am talking about people we call our neighbors, family members, students, teachers, and frontline workers. Elderly Americans, who should be enjoying retirement, are one of the fastest rising groups of people experiencing homelessness.

This is simply unacceptable. While the state of our Nation's housing is bleak right now, this doesn't have to be our future. We know how to solve the housing crisis.

During the pandemic, Democrats secured unprecedented levels of housing relief through bills like the American

Rescue Plan Act, which promoted equitable economic recovery, spurred more development of affordable housing, and helped nearly 3 million people experiencing the risk of homelessness. Over 12 million people successfully avoided eviction or foreclosure thanks to these investments.

In short, Democrats proved what we can accomplish with substantial, targeted investments in housing, and we should use this as a blueprint to finally end this crisis.

During this Congress, however, people on the opposite side of the aisle, the Republicans, have tried to defund Federal housing programs and even passed a bill to make homeownership more, not less, expensive.

As the top Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, I commit to press the fight in Congress to secure robust investments in fair and affordable housing.

I have introduced my groundbreaking housing bills, again, including the Housing Crisis Response Act, the Ending Homelessness Act, and the Down Payment Toward Equity Act. These bills would help create nearly 1.4 million affordable, accessible, and resilient homes and reduce housing costs, end homelessness, and revive the dream of homeownership for all.

I am looking forward to hearing President Biden's State of the Union Address, and I hope that housing is highlighted as a major policy and not just a passing mention.

Mr. Speaker, you are going to hear a lot about housing. I am not going to give up on housing. I am going to speak to every Member of Congress about voting for housing to end this crisis.

#### NO ARMY MONEY TO UKRAINE

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I was so furious, but not surprised, when I saw the Bloomberg News report that the Biden administration is now considering draining \$200 million out of Army reserves to send more money to Ukraine.

The move would target reserve funds that this House has authorized and appropriated for this particular purpose, a purpose that is worthy, certainly more worthy than continuing involvement in the conflict in Ukraine that could lead to a tragic escalatory accident.

I can't even believe this is a controversial view to take on this floor, but I believe that the U.S. Army reserves should actually be for the U.S. Army.

By the way, it is not as if we don't have needs for our Army. How about the families of our soldiers?

Right now, childcare is a real problem. We have Army soldiers who are driving 1½ hours or more each way just to drop off their kids at childcare. We could invest that money in our military families.

Mr. Speaker, I could take you to the Army town of Crestview, Florida, in my district, where the school counselors are still helping Army families deal with the lingering effects of deployment after deployment after deployment. They could use more resources. They tell me: Congressman, if we had more resources for these Army families, they could improve quality of life and improve mental health.

Not for nothing, but the Army was taking a leading role in hypersonics for our country. We have fallen behind China. If we have an extra \$200 million laying around the Army, how about we invest in making sure that, with hypersonic weapons, we can hit a moving target—I don't know—like China can? Instead, we see this attempt to drain resources away for Ukraine.

When Joe Biden talked about campaigning for the soul of the Nation, I just assumed it was our Nation and not Ukraine.

Moreover, Ukraine is no Garden of Eden for democracy. Senator LEE pointed out in a report that the CIA had to directly confront Zelenskyy about his own personal corruption.

In Ukraine, they have canceled the Presidential elections. Call me old-fashioned, Mr. Speaker, but I actually prefer democracies that hold elections rather than canceling elections.

While there were many concerns about the death of Navalny, appropriately, people forget the fact that Zelenskyy jailed a journalist, Gonzalo Lira, and that journalist died in a Ukrainian prison.

□ 1100

Tonight, you will hear President Biden come into this House, and the one thing that President Biden has in common with the American people is that both were far better off four years ago, Joe Biden physically, and the rest of us economically.

Now, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I will call for an investigation of any efforts to drain U.S. reserves to fund the war in Ukraine, and I would invite my fellow members of the Armed Services Committee to join me.

What this reminded me of is when all the Democrats were crying alligator tears about President Trump using DOD money to fund the wall. My colleagues may accuse me of hypocrisy now because I supported President Trump in that endeavor, but I don't like the Biden administration going beyond what we set forth with our Article I powers.

However, at least if I am being a hypocrite, I was doing so for the defense of America's borders and America's interests to stop an invasion that is killing hundreds of thousands of people through the introduction of fentanyl and an invasion that is diminishing the economic prospects of working people in this country.

When my Democratic colleagues are hypocrites, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues



on the other side of the aisle serve as hypocrites and fund the pensions of government workers in Ukraine. It is not for nothing, but it wasn't that long ago that we found a person connected to the defense industrial complex in Ukraine exiting the country with a million dollars in U.S. cash in a shoebox.

The corruption is real. America's interests are illusory, and we should never drain \$200 million out of our Army that should go to military families, that should go to soldiers, and that should go to America's capabilities. It is America's capabilities that will define whether or not we hold the high ground, not which guy in a tracksuit is running Crimea.

#### BIDEN WEAKNESS ON THE WORLD STAGE

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, there are real concerns throughout our Nation about the violence in our streets. There has been a failed social experiment on the part of the left that has resulted in high levels of crime.

Leftwing officials, Mr. Speaker, have defunded and discredited police forces across the country, as well as appointed liberal prosecutors who are not prosecuting.

The facts don't lie. Here in Washington, D.C., the city has cut \$100 million from the Metro PD's \$600 million budget since 2017, and the prosecution rate of arrests in the Nation's Capital has been around 30 percent in recent years. Whereas a short time ago, it was upwards, near 70 percent. Therefore, it should be no surprise that violent crime is soaring in Washington, D.C.

Carjackings, for instance, were up more than 100 percent from last year, which was at an all-time high. Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, they are all the same. Crime has gotten so out of hand in New York City, the Governor just deployed 1,000 National Guardsmen to help secure the subway system.

However, it is not just in the cities. Radical ideology has expanded into the suburban communities, and crime has come along with it. Just this week, I met with members of the Fraternal Order of Police. They shared with me their concerns about the rising antipolice sentiment and detailed the skyrocketing violence against law enforcement officers.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, tragically, 378 police officers were shot in the line of duty, 46 of whom were killed, and this was up from 323 officers shot in 2022. It is disgraceful.

One piece of legislation to address these issues is my Holding Prosecutors Accountable Act, which has been endorsed by the National Police Association. It would force ideological prosecutors to do their jobs by mandating

they prosecute at least 67 percent of violent crimes. If they don't, their jurisdiction will lose access to Federal DOJ grant funding.

It would also require prosecutors' offices that serve highly populated jurisdictions to publish their prosecution rate data. Americans deserve to know if their elected prosecutor is deliberately releasing violent criminals back onto the streets.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this ideological social experiment starts at the top. Joe Biden and Vice President HARRIS have not shown support for law enforcement. It is that simple. Just look at their criticism of the border agents that were on horseback, who they accused of whipping migrants, despite knowing that that was categorically false.

These border agents were doing their jobs. There was no whipping that took place, and when the truth finally came out, there was no apology from the White House. Also, when Vice President HARRIS had the opportunity to disavow the defund the police movement during an interview on "The View," she refused to answer, showing an utter lack of support for the brave men and women who protect and serve our communities.

This is, Mr. Speaker, in stark contrast from the former President, who would speak strongly in favor of police officers and backing the blue. President Trump sent a clear pro law enforcement message, but now, under President Biden, we are dealing with rampant smash-and-grab situations, crimes, migrant crime due to our open borders, out-of-control violence in our streets, and gangs riding around on dirt bikes victimizing innocent citizens and small businesses.

We have a serious issue before us that has been created over the last 3 years. Therefore, as a society and as elected officials, we need to come together to correct course, or the American people must elect those that will make national security and public safety job one.

Mr. Speaker, under the past Trump administration, there was no invasion of Ukraine, there was peace in the Middle East, and there was less tension between China and Taiwan. As well, the terrorist state of Iran was defunded because of the strict sanctions on their oil exports.

However, today, Biden's weaknesses on the world stage have plunged the world into chaos. We are now dealing with the horrific invasion by Putin into Ukraine. The Middle East went from peace to chaos, with hostage taking, massive slaughters, and death. Additionally, many parts of our neighboring country, Mexico, have turned into gangland due to the border policies from this administration.

Further, our relationship with China is one of disrespect, not respect.

Plus, Iran is now enormously well funded and responsible for the bulk of terrorism that exists worldwide, from

Hezbollah to the Houthis to Hamas. Despite this, we have an administration that has an irrational affinity for gaining some sort of deal or agreement with the terrorist state of Iran.

In addition, perhaps what is worse, Mr. Speaker, there is no plan to take corrective action. Once again, it is just more of the same, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are asking the American taxpayer to fund the results of the Biden administration's disastrous geopolitical policies.

As former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo put it, this is an America that is on its back foot. Our friends don't trust us, and our adversaries insufficiently fear us.

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree with him more.

#### 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 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

God of all creation, bend Your ear toward the Earth and hear the cries of Your people imprisoned by their adversaries, stolen from their lives and loved ones, and held captive by hatred.

There are countless men, women, and children across the globe who are victims of heartless cruelty, but on this day, we lift up those who remain held hostage in Gaza after 5 months, especially our own countrymen: Edan Alexander, Itai Chen, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Omer Neutra, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, and Keith Siegel.

Ever-present one, we pray the Acheinu with their loved ones and their communities, asking that You have mercy upon them and bring them out of their suffering to relief, from darkness to light, from subjugation to redemption, now, speedily, and soon.

And may the righteous memory of those who have died at the hand of their captors, be a powerful testimony to remember, that in atonement all the ends of the Earth will turn to You, O Lord, and bow before You.

O Lord, be not far from us. You are our strength and the deliverer of all those who endure the interminable wait for the return of these our brothers.

In Your merciful name we pray.  
Amen.



## THE JOURNAL

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALFORD 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.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

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. Con. Res. 93. Concurrent Resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 992) "An Act to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress:

The Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) (Administrative Co-Chair).

The Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. Fischer) (Co-Chair).

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford) (Co-Chair).

The Senator from Florida (Mr. Rubio).

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Graham).

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Wicker).

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. Risch).

The Senator from Utah (Mr. Romney).

The Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Ricketts).

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

## RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA 4-H MEMBERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pennsylvania 4-H members who received the Diamond Clover Award at the recent 4-H State Leadership Conference.

4-H is a youth development program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program's main goal is to educate our Nation's youth on pivotal skills and responsibilities to develop them into outstanding citizens.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I am enlightened to see the work of USDA's programs paving the way for youth.

In total, there were 24 Diamond Clover Award winners from 13 counties across Pennsylvania. I am especially proud to say that out of those 13 counties, 3 of them are from my district, Pennsylvania 15.

Special congratulations to Hannah Trigg from Centre County, Phaedra Bower from Clinton County, and Crystal Clark from Potter Country.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all of them on their hard work and this recognition. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

## U.S. MUST USE ITS LEVERAGE TO GET HUMANITARIAN AID INTO GAZA

(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, we cannot ignore the suffering happening in Gaza. Children are dying of malnutrition. There is no food, no clean water, no medicine, and over 2 million people are starving in desperate need of help.

The October 7 attack by Hamas against innocent Israeli civilians and the taking of hostages are horrific crimes, but I am horrified by Prime Minister Netanyahu's response. His government's actions against civilians in Gaza are intolerable and wrong.

U.S. law says no aid shall be furnished under the Foreign Assistance Act or the Arms Export Control Act to any country that: "... restricts, directly or indirectly, the transport or delivery of United States humanitarian assistance."

Mr. Speaker, I would say to President Biden that if the Netanyahu government continues to keep humanitarian aid from entering Gaza at the scale required to meet the needs of the people of Gaza, then you must, Mr. President, use the full leverage of U.S. law to get the trucks rolling again. The lives of millions are counting on you.

## BIDEN'S DISASTROUS BORDER POLICY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is going to be in this Chamber in just a few hours. I am going to hope for a positive outcome on this in that up to this point the border policy that he and his administration have put in place has been disastrous.

Of late, he has been blaming Republicans for that, for not passing a really bad idea that has come out of the Senate. Well, we have taken responsibility. We passed H.R. 2 very early in this session and sent it over to the Senate where Mr. SCHUMER has ignored it.

I hope the President will call on Mr. SCHUMER and the Democratic Senators to take that bill up over there and have the really strong reform on border strengthening that we need.

If they don't, there are still eight actions right here the President could be doing: end catch and release, reinstate remain in Mexico, and six other ideas that actually were in place when President Trump was in charge that he rescinded on day one.

He could do this with the stroke of a pen, without Congress having to fight over a partisan deal about how to figure this out with legislation.

President Biden could do this. I hope that tonight instead of blaming Republicans, he will take action and use his pen to put these constitutional pieces back in place.

## CELEBRATING BRIDGESTONE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Bridgestone, one of the largest industrial employers in Wilson County, North Carolina, is celebrating 50 years.

The facility manufactures passenger and light-truck tires. There are 1,900 employees at this site. The facility is rated number one globally in 19-inch tire production. It has received several certifications and awards, including the Rising Star in the North Carolina Department of Labor's Carolina Star Program and the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification PLUS.

Eastern North Carolina is most grateful to each of the hardworking team members at this essential facility.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Bridgestone on a job well done in reaching this remarkable milestone. I wish them a happy 50th anniversary.

## ALL LIFE IS PRECIOUS

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

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, as someone who started my family with IVF, I understand how critical it is to so many families that want to have children.

I believe all life is precious.

Like many Americans, I am pro-life with exceptions for rape, incest, and the health and life of the mother.

For years, political opponents have misrepresented my view, but families in my district know where I stand.

Nothing is more pro-life than helping families have children, and I do not support Federal restrictions on IVF.

A recent court ruling prompted confusion about whether the Life At Conception Act bans IVF.

I am removing myself from the bill because it could create confusion about my support for the blessings of having children through IVF.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 431

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 431. I have been and always will be pro-life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

#### MAUI 911 CALL CENTER

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, when things go wrong, when disaster strikes, the first call most of us will make is 911.

On August 8, 2023, dispatchers at Maui's 911 call center were the ones that answered over 4,500 callers as they called in about the wildfires that were tearing through the island.

Through it all, our Maui dispatchers were the first responders who answered the call. Many of them were desperately waiting to hear from their own loved ones, some of whom did not make it.

They operated under incredible stress, absorbing the panic and terror of the callers, providing comfort and direction. There is no doubt in my mind that on that fateful day they saved lives.

Last week, Maui's call center team received the 2023 Outstanding Call Center Award from the Next Gen 911 Institute. They are "Maui Strong," and they represent the very best of us.

All those who answer the call when we need them most deserve to be recognized for what they truly are—first responders. That is why I am proud to cosponsor the bipartisan 911 SAVES Act led by Representatives NORMA TORRES and BRIAN FITZPATRICK.

In honor of all of our dispatchers, it is our turn to answer the call and pass the 911 SAVES Act.

#### CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS

(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, the White House is attempting to downplay the threat that the wide-open southern border presents to our national security. This follows the tragic death of Georgia nursing student, Laken Riley. Investigators say she was killed by an illegal immigrant who was paroled into this country in 2022.

The House Homeland Security Committee found that 600,000 nondetained criminal illegal aliens are in the country. Let me repeat that. We have more than 600,000 illegal immigrants with criminal convictions or pending charges in the United States.

In a 2021 memo, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas wrote to the staff: "The fact that an individual is a removable noncitizen should not alone be the basis of an enforcement action against them."

The Biden administration must end this deadly catch and release scheme. It is time to close the border so that overwhelmed border officials have the manpower to deport these criminals. American lives are depending on it.

#### ROBBINSVILLE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Robbinsville High School wrestling team for winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 1A team tournament title for the first time in the school's history.

The Robbinsville Black Knights defeated their opponent by 10 points, ending their opponent's 4-year winning streak.

Senior and four-time State champion Kage Williams was awarded Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament and broke the program win record with 169 career victories.

It was also a banner year for longtime coach, David Haney. Coach Haney has been with Robbinsville since 1978 and is now taking a well-deserved retirement after this season.

Each Black Knight on the team made important contributions to a historic State championship, all under the experienced leadership of Coach Haney.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Black Knights. They have made western North Carolina proud.

□ 1215

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF LAKEN RILEY

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I sadly rise today in support of H.R. 7511, the

Laken Riley Act, and to honor the namesake of this legislation.

Laken Hope Riley was a beautiful soul taken too soon from her loving family by an illegal migrant who was detained and then released back into our country in 2022.

As a young nursing student, Laken brought joy to everyone around her as she pursued her passion of helping people. She had so much potential and so much life to live. My prayers are with her family as they mourn the loss of her light in this world.

If not for our open borders and catch and release protocols, Laken, and many other innocent Americans who were murdered by illegal immigrants, would be alive today. It is time to secure our border and end these destructive policies now.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7511 and to continue fighting to ensure no other family has to bury their child due to Biden's preventable crisis.

#### BULGARIA STANDS WITH DEMOCRACY

(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, on March 3, the Republic of Bulgaria celebrated National Day. Yesterday, with Co-Chairman BRAD SCHNEIDER, the Bulgarian Caucus hosted a reception recognizing 120 years of diplomatic relations with America. We appreciate Bulgarian Ambassador Georgi Panayotov.

On June 10, 1990, I observed, with the International Republican Institute, the first post-communist Bulgarian election. I was hosted by Professor Stefan Stoyanov, who was elected to the National Assembly and later reinstated Rotary Clubs across Bulgaria.

This is the 20th anniversary of Bulgarian admission to NATO. Now, Bulgaria has equaled American per capita aid to Ukraine in the war of dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law.

We welcome Sweden to NATO today, reinforcing peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

#### McCLAIN STANDS WITH THE FARMERS

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the thankless few, the ones who wake up each morning at

the crack of dawn, rain or shine, and simply go to work. Those thankless few are our farmers.

We are great at thanking our first responders, nurses, firefighters, and police officers, as we should, but how often do we thank our farmers? American farmers are the backbone of this Nation, and we often take them for granted.

Regardless of the lack of gratitude we show them, the same farmers get up and do it over and over again, day after day, just to keep this country going.

I encourage everyone to stop and think about where their food comes from and give thanks to the relentless farmers who keep us fed.

Today, and every day, I say thank you to the farmers.

#### RECOGNIZING HEARTLAND HORSESHOEING SCHOOL

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Heartland Horseshoeing School in Lamar, Missouri, as our district's Small Business of the Month.

Chris and Kelly Gregory opened the school back in 1995 and have since been leaders in teaching the craft of horseshoeing and blacksmithing.

This school is more than just a business. It is a place where students from all over the world can learn a skill that has been very important for centuries.

The Gregorys' work is a reminder of how vital small business is to America. They are not just teaching a trade; they are keeping our heritage strong and helping our economy grow.

Their reach goes far beyond our district, Mr. Speaker. Their YouTube channel shares their knowledge with more than 220,000 subscribers.

Folks like the Gregorys show us what we can do when we achieve with hard work and passion the dreams that make us great in America.

Congratulations to Chris and Kelly Gregory. Their work is shaping the future of horseshoeing and showing the power of small businesses in America.

#### RECOGNIZING STEPHEN ALDRICH

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a remarkable constituent from my hometown and also a great friend, Stephen Aldrich.

Steve is the business manager and financial secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 269 and is renowned in our labor community as an outstanding leader.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to his role within Local 269, Steve has been a strong supporter and constant advo-

cate of the Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade itself for many years. In fact, I have been walking right alongside him in the parade for quite some time now.

With his advocacy, he has helped grow the committee, and he has worked to make the parade grow each and every year, which it has. Because of Steve's outstanding work, he was selected to lead the parade this year as our grand marshal of the 35th Annual Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly grateful for Steve, for his family, and all he has done over the years, not just as a Local 269 leader, but for all the work he has done for the parade and for his friends, as well, both professionally and personally.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Steve great success in this year's parade. I won't be walking alongside him this year; I will be walking behind him. That is the way it should be.

I thank Steve for all his work for the Bucks County community and the parade committee, as well.

#### APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Dr. Masum Momaya, Gilberts, Illinois

#### LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1052, I call up the bill (H.R. 7511) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7511

*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 "Laken Riley Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the Nation—

(1) mourns the devastating loss of Laken Riley and other victims of the Biden administration's open borders policies;

(2) honors the life and memory of Laken Riley and other victims of the Biden administration's open borders policies; and

(3) denounces the open-borders policies of President Joe Biden, "Border Czar" Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and other Biden administration officials.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Biden administration should not have released Laken Riley's alleged murderer into the United States;

(2) the Biden administration should have arrested and detained Laken Riley's alleged murderer after he was charged with crimes in New York, New York, and Athens, Georgia;

(3) President Biden should publicly denounce his administration's immigration policies that resulted in the murder of Laken Riley; and

(4) President Biden should prevent another murder like that of Laken Riley by ending the catch-and-release of illegal aliens, increasing immigration enforcement, detaining and removing criminal aliens, reinstating the Remain in Mexico policy, ending his abuse of parole authority, and securing the United States borders.

#### SEC. 3. DETENTION OF CERTAIN ALIENS WHO COMMIT THEFT.

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking "or";

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the comma at the end and inserting ", or"; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E)(i) is inadmissible under paragraph (6)(A), (6)(C), or (7) of section 212(a), and

"(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense,";

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the terms 'burglary', 'theft', 'larceny', and 'shoplifting' have the meaning given such terms in the jurisdiction where the acts occurred.

"(3) DETAINER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue a detainer for an alien described in paragraph (1)(E) and, if the alien is not otherwise detained by Federal, State, or local officials, shall effectively and expeditiously take custody of the alien."

#### SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.

(a) INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.—Section 235(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention and removal requirements under paragraphs (1) or (2) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of

such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this paragraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this paragraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(b) APPREHENSION AND DETENTION OF ALIENS.—Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “or release”; and

(B) by striking “grant, revocation, or denial” and insert “revocation or denial”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging an action or decision by the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security under this section to release any alien or grant bond or parole to any alien that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subsection to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subsection, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(c) PENALTIES.—Section 243 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1253) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the requirement to discontinue granting visas to citizens, subjects, nationals, and residents as described in subsection (d) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of State on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subsection to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subsection, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(d) CERTAIN CLASSES OF ALIENS.—Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Attorney General” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the limitation under subparagraph (A) that parole solely be granted on a case-by-case basis and solely for urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit, that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subparagraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subparagraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if

the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(e) DETENTION.—Section 241(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “During the removal period,” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—During the removal period,”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention requirement under subparagraph (A) that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief. The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed under this subparagraph to the greatest extent practicable. For purposes of this subparagraph, a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of \$100.”

(f) LIMIT ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Section 242(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CERTAIN ACTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an action brought pursuant to section 235(b)(3), subsections (e) or (f) of section 236, or section 241(a)(2)(B).”

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

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 7511.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House says the name “Laken Riley” through H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act.

On this day, 2 weeks ago, the life of a 22-year-old nursing student, Laken Riley, a beautiful and vibrant young woman, came to an abrupt and shocking end, a totally unnecessary end, when she was abducted from her morning run around Lake Herrick Trail on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens and brutally killed, beaten to death and to a state of disfigurement by a criminal alien whom Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas were under legal obligation to detain.

Laken’s failure to return home alarmed her roommate, who called po-

lice. Police found her discarded body in the woods off the running trail, her skull crushed.

Last Friday, Laken’s parents laid their daughter to rest, their lives destroyed by the senseless and depraved actions of a criminal who should not have been here and the callous indifference of the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security.

A Venezuelan, Jose Ibarra illegally entered into our country across the southwest border in 2022. The Biden administration released him, just like millions of others, paroled him into the country to roam wherever he pleased, rather than detaining him as the law required.

Jose Ibarra roamed to New York City. There, in August, NYPD arrested him for driving a scooter without a license with a child on board unprotected by a helmet, and an independent obligation arose for Homeland Security to detain Mr. Ibarra; namely, that he had committed an offense involving moral turpitude by endangering that child. However, NYPD released him and Homeland Security did nothing.

From New York City, Jose Ibarra roamed to join his brother Diego, another criminal illegal alien, in Athens, Georgia. Athens police arrested Diego in September for driving while intoxicated and without a license, also an offense involving moral turpitude which required detention by Homeland Security. However, Homeland Security again did nothing, and Diego, too, was promptly released.

In October, Jose and Diego joined forces to rip off the local Walmart, and it must have been quite something for them to be arrested for shoplifting in this day and age, but arrested they were. Then another basis in law arose for mandatory detention, specifically two or more criminal offenses, by each of them, involving separate criminal acts. Again, Homeland Security utterly disregarded Congress’ statutory command and did nothing. The Ibarra brothers were set free upon the community again.

In December, a final chance came to prevent Laken Riley’s fate. Athens police arrested Diego again for failure to appear for a fingerprintable offense. Why didn’t they arrest Jose? Who knows. Maybe they figured, what is the point? Homeland Security will just continue looking the other way. Even though Diego was also now an absconder, he was released again. The big bureaucratic Department of Homeland Security did nothing.

Secretary Mayorkas was asked whether Jose Ibarra should have been deported before he beat Laken Riley to death. He answered blandly that his agency works closely with law enforcement “to ensure individuals who pose a threat to public safety are made the highest priority for detention and removal,” which reminds me of the more than 30 times Secretary Mayorkas testified to Congress under oath that the border was secure.

What the Secretary omitted to explain was the law he laid down in September 2021, the memo to the Department of Homeland Security employees, where he instructed that the grounds specified by Congress for detention would never be the basis standing alone for any detention by Homeland Security; the law according to Alejandro Mayorkas.

Today, the Laken Riley Act presents two simple and straightforward amendments to law to break through the Biden administration's brazen, defiant, and reckless disregard for Laken Riley and all the other vulnerable Americans out there victimized already or soon to be victimized.

□ 1230

First, it specifies theft offenses as a ground mandating the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody criminal illegal aliens like Jose Ibarra and to issue a detainer request to local law enforcement.

How hard is that, Mr. Speaker? Shouldn't illegal aliens be required to be detained at the border in the first place? Shouldn't those who go on to engage in thievery in our country be detained and removed? Who could disagree with that?

If H.R. 7511 only added another detention mandate to the slew that Secretary Mayorkas is brazenly defying even today, then it would be an act of futility. It would be more statutory commands to an administration that is lawless, and it would do nothing to honor the life and memory of Laken Riley.

Therefore, the other essential element of this bill is to confer standing upon State attorneys general to bring civil actions against open-borders executive branch officials who refuse to enforce the Nation's immigration laws.

This provision comes from H.R. 7322, the SUE for Immigration Enforcement Act, introduced by CHIP ROY and me. It would empower States to hold Homeland Security accountable in Federal courts for flouting mandatory detention requirements, the limits of parole authority, and visa sanctions against countries that refuse to cooperate with repatriation of illegals removed from our country.

This responds to the Supreme Court's ruling of 2023 in *United States v. Texas* that States lack standing in such cases, and it follows the roadmap set forth in the Court's opinion in that case inviting Congress to cure the standing defect by specifically authorizing such suits in statute.

The provision confers standing upon a narrowly defined set of plaintiffs, the States, and it authorizes the judiciary to grant redress. As such, this legislation would ensure that harmful abuses of our immigration laws—in fact, those policies set forth by the Biden administration that are in direct conflict and contradiction with the plain meaning of our laws—will not go unchallenged.

H.R. 7511 also honors Laken Riley's life and those who mourn her loss as

well as all the other victims of the Biden border crisis.

No law passed by this body can bring back Laken or take away the pain suffered by her family and countless other victims of criminal alien crime. The Laken Riley Act, however, will ensure that illegal aliens who commit theft offenses, as Laken's alleged murderer did, cannot be shielded by the Biden administration's continued reckless and callous indifference.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by expressing my deepest condolences to Laken Riley's family. The pain of losing a child is something no parent should have to go through. The alleged perpetrator should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

By all accounts, Laken was a kind and gentle soul, beloved by everyone around her. May her memory be a blessing.

Unfortunately, instead of coming together to express our sorrow for Laken's tragic loss, the majority appears to be exploiting her death for yet another partisan political stunt.

Rather than approaching this tragic event in a thoughtful manner, Republicans appear to have just thrown together language from existing unrelated bills that target and scapegoat immigrants to score cheap political points in an election year, while doing nothing to address the situation at the border.

This approach is fundamentally unserious. As if to emphasize the point, the author of this legislation spent the weekend promoting anti-Semitic memes on Twitter.

At base, this bill is a rinse and repeat of the majority's unserious attempt to keep immigration in the news: pick a crime; paste it into a template bill with sweeping, unrealistic immigration consequences; and then require detention and deportation of certain immigrants merely accused of committing such a crime—no due process required—all so that you can demonize immigrants and sound tough without actually making this country safer.

The legislation before us today would subject to mandatory detention any undocumented immigrants merely arrested or charged with committing an act of theft, larceny, or shoplifting, along with those who are convicted or who admit to committing such acts.

Let's think about that. Someone who is arrested and who was never even charged with a crime is now going to be subject to mandatory immigration detention?

The case of Laken Riley is a tragedy, but as is often said, hard cases make bad law.

Under this bill, committing a misdemeanor shoplifting, or even committing no crime at all, can result in a DACA or TPS recipient, someone who may have been in this country for dec-

ades, being subject to mandatory detention.

Sadly, there are countless real-life examples of people getting arrested because of mistaken identity through erroneous witness identification, biographical similarities to perpetrators, and errors caused by faulty facial recognition technology.

In a markup we had in the Judiciary Committee last month, Mr. MASSIE discussed how mistaken identification can deprive someone of their constitutional rights. He noted very real concerns about racial disparities in the development of artificial intelligence and facial recognition tools. These tools have led to numerous erroneous arrests, mostly of people of color.

For example, just over a year ago, a Detroit woman was arrested for robbery and carjacking after she was improperly identified as the perpetrator by automatic facial recognition search. She was 8 months pregnant when she was arrested. After being held by the police for 11 hours, she was released on a \$100,000 bond. It took a month and two hearings for the case against her to be dismissed.

Under this bill, however, if this woman had been on DACA or TPS status, ICE would have been required to detain her upon release, and her U.S. citizen son would have been born in immigration detention even though she had committed no crime.

Mandatory detention of innocent people is not a reasonable or sensible policy choice. This is not where we should be focusing our limited enforcement resources.

It is important to remember that this bill would subject more people to mandatory detention at a time when Republicans refuse to give the Department of Homeland Security the resources it needs to carry out its policies.

The Biden administration is currently detaining 39,000 people a day. That is 5,000 more people than Congress has even provided funding for it to detain.

Congress has never appropriated, and no administration has ever requested, sufficient resources to detain all non-citizens who fall under the "mandatory detention" categories. Even former President Trump never tried to detain all migrants subject to mandatory detention.

House Republicans know this, but instead of facing that reality and providing the resources necessary to address weaknesses in the immigration system, they would prefer to demagogue the issue, and they bring us measures like this.

If that wasn't bad enough, this bill also purports to give State attorneys general standing to sue in court for perceived violations of certain sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act, hoping to convince the judicial branch to impose draconian immigration policy preferences that MAGA Republicans have failed to get through

the political branches of the Federal Government.

This bill simply declares that States have standing to sue so long as the State or its residents suffer almost any degree of harm, no matter how trivial, appearing only to exclude financial harms that are less than \$100.

We should note that this provision is almost certainly unconstitutional. Just declaring that there is standing does not make it so.

Just last year, the Supreme Court addressed the issue of States' standing to sue the Federal Government over immigration enforcement matters, which this bill appears to be a half-baked attempt to circumvent. In an 8-1 decision, the Court held that Texas and Louisiana lacked Article III standing to bring suit against the Federal Government over its alleged violation of some of the very same immigration statutes that this bill would purport to grant standing to the States to sue over.

In rejecting the States' standing argument, the Court noted, among other things, that lawsuits alleging insufficient arrests or prosecution run against the executive branch's Article II authority to enforce the law, which includes the discretion to determine enforcement priorities in the face of lack of resources and shifting public safety and public welfare needs.

This bill also goes directly against the Supreme Court's settled precedent in *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, which explicitly states that a statutory right to sue does not constitute an injury for purposes of standing.

Be that as it may, settled precedent, much like responsible governance, doesn't seem to matter much to the majority. Time and again, Republicans have refused to engage in bipartisan immigration reform. At the behest of Donald Trump, Republicans dismissed out of hand a bipartisan Senate border bill that Senate Minority Leader McConnell called the strongest border bill in 30 years.

In October, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$14 billion for border security. House Republicans refused to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and would provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

Both these bills would have allowed the Biden administration to hire thousands more asylum officers and asylum and immigration judges, so asylum hearings happen in weeks, not years. This would help put an end to what my Republican colleagues refer to as catch and release.

That is the procedure in immigration law that has been used by every administration for decades. What they mean by that is you catch someone, but because of lack of resources, his court date is 3 years from then, so you have to release him pending the court date

because he has a credible claim to asylum. However, with the appropriation that the Biden administration had requested, it could be done in weeks, not years, and we wouldn't have the problem of the so-called catch and release.

All they can point to is H.R. 2, which last week had a grand total of 32 "yes" votes in the Senate when it was brought up for a vote.

Instead of rushing yet another partisan stunt to the floor, the majority should work with Democrats to pass bipartisan solutions to address the situation at the border. That would be a far better way to truly honor the lives of those we have tragically lost.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, just 2 weeks ago, at the hands of a violent illegal alien, we lost yet another American life, a beloved daughter, student, and Georgian. This has been heartbreaking for the family, our communities, and this Nation. That is why I stand before you today, Mr. Speaker, and rise in strong support of H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act.

Laken was an outstanding student at Augusta University's nursing school in Athens and was well on her way to a successful career in helping others and saving countless lives, all to be cut brutally short by a vicious criminal.

This should have never happened and cannot happen again in this Nation. In fact, this could have been prevented had the Senate passed H.R. 2 and secured our border.

It is the responsibility of Congress and this administration to make sure that every American can live in this country safely and that we are a law-abiding nation.

Not only is the suspect in Laken Riley's tragic death here illegally, but he also has a criminal record that includes shoplifting in Athens-Clarke County. Allowing this criminal to freely roam our communities was absolutely unacceptable.

H.R. 7511 would ensure illegal immigrants who commit theft are detained by ICE rather than released back into our communities. The bill would also allow States to sue the Federal Government for failing to enforce our border laws.

I am sick of President Biden and liberal officials across the country not enforcing current law. It is beyond me how anyone can support the sanctuary and catch and release policies that have attracted illegal aliens to those communities, just like the one responsible for taking Laken Riley's life.

In fact, the President has statutory authority to secure our border.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "yes" vote on this important legislation to protect our Nation.

Robin, our family, and I continue to join all of our fellow Georgians and

this Nation in praying for Laken's family and loved ones. She will not be forgotten.

□ 1245

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 7511, the House Republicans' unconstitutional attempt to violate the separation of powers doctrine.

While I take issue with many aspects of this bill, I am particularly concerned that this bill is a blatant effort to overturn the Supreme Court's 8-1 ruling in *United States v. Texas* and wrongly blame the Biden administration for three decades of border enforcement challenges.

In the Texas case, States sued the Department of Homeland Security about border enforcement. Justice Kavanaugh, a Trump appointee, writing for the 8-1 majority, stated that Texas did not have standing in its lawsuit against the Federal Government. He wrote:

The threshold question is whether the States have standing under Article III to maintain this suit. The answer is no.

This bill does not change the Supreme Court's clear ruling. Determining whether States can bring suit in this type of immigration case is a power that is vested in the Federal courts, not Congress.

Justice Kavanaugh also made clear that the discretion to arrest and detain aliens is a power granted to the executive branch and that:

Executive branch does not possess the resources necessary to arrest or remove all of the noncitizens covered by the Federal immigration laws.

That reality is not an anomaly. It is a constant.

Kavanaugh noted, in addition, that: "For the last 27 years . . . all five Presidential administrations have determined that resource constraints necessitated prioritization in making immigration arrests."

That means DHS cannot detain everybody, so the executive branch, not the States, have to make choices. Unfortunately, this bill would not give DHS the resources to change that.

Instead, House Republicans rely on political stunts, like impeaching Secretary Mayorkas, even though that won't fix the problem at the border. The bipartisan Senate bill that House Republicans refuse to even debate actually would help to address these problems, but the majority won't bring that bill to the floor for a vote. If the Republicans did, it would pass. That is because we all know we need more border agents and more judges to eliminate the backlog of immigration cases.

However, the Republicans are not proposing more resources or any legislation that might truly make a difference.



This bill was not a serious attempt to address the actual border security needs and, as such, I would urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, Laken Riley's death was foreordained the day that this administration took office and reversed the successful Trump policies that had finally secured our borders.

Since that day, just 3 years ago, more than 6 million illegal aliens have been allowed to enter our country, a population the size of the State of Missouri, our eighteenth largest State.

Very little is done to vet these millions of illegal migrants. We don't know how many terrorists or violent criminals are among them. Additionally, worse, this administration seems not to care.

However, we do know that the number of suspected terrorists that we are apprehending has skyrocketed and that violent international crime cartels and violent foreign gangs are now operating freely in our communities, often protected from deportation and detention by the Democrats' sanctuary laws.

One of these criminals is now accused of the brutal murder of Laken Riley. We do not know how many such monsters this President has allowed into our country, but we are slowly, painfully, and tragically finding out victim by victim.

In this case, the suspect was paroled into this country through a shocking abuse of power by this President. He was repeatedly arrested for theft and other crimes in sanctuary jurisdictions and was each time released back onto our streets.

The bill before us would require this administration to detain illegal aliens who commit theft, burglary, larceny, or shoplifting, something it simply refuses to do. It would also allow States to bring civil action against Federal officials who refuse to enforce these laws.

Today, the name on the bill is Laken Riley. Tomorrow, it will be another victim of these policies, another son or daughter or loved one, and it won't stop until this administration is stopped. That can only be done by the American people.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker said that illegal aliens who committed crimes should be detained, and, indeed, they should. However, this bill says that illegal aliens who somebody thinks may have committed a crime should be detained mandatorily. That is un-American.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the Laken Riley Act.

First, I want to express sincere condolences from everyone in the Seventh Congressional District to Laken Riley's family.

Then-candidate Biden promised in 2020 that we would have open borders, and we have seen the devastating consequences, and it is happening all over the country.

In January, a father of three daughters was killed by an illegal alien in my congressional district in northern Wisconsin. Once again, this illegal alien should have been deported by ICE agents when he was first convicted of drunk driving in 2023. Once again, the Biden administration chose not to deport him.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this is hardly a surprise. In fact, in 2020, Joe Biden himself declared, I don't count drunk driving, when asked what crimes should merit the removal of illegal aliens. He is not alone.

As we all know, just a few short weeks ago, 150 Democrats in this Chamber voted against legislation to deport criminal aliens convicted of drunk driving. Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is that both Laken Riley and Steven Nasholm's deaths were preventable.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, our hearts do go out to the family of Laken Riley.

Now, we also must acknowledge that we can no longer take the feigned, empty words of sympathy from those across the aisle who refuse to do something meaningful to stop the onslaught that is happening in America today.

Let's think about this. You need to acknowledge you haven't done anything. You sent to us a foreign aid bill that you have claimed is a border security bill. It is no such thing.

However, let's face this fact, as well. Let's face the fact that the law requires detention already. The detention provisions of title 8 are civil in nature and not criminal in nature, and that is why there is already authority and mandates to hold people in custody when they haven't been convicted of various acts, such as drug distribution, prostitution, and other vices. This bill simply adds another criminal offense to a civil construct.

Let's admit that you don't want to stop that. Let's admit that you don't really want to secure the border. If you wanted to secure the border and if this administration wanted to secure the border, there is authority under title 8 right now to enact border closure procedures.

This administration has allowed people to come in running rampant. This administration should apologize to the family of the 11-year-old girl who was raped last week by a Guatemalan illegal alien who should never have been released from custody.

This happens over and over again. It is time now to stand up and say you support this bill, and you are going to begin to take action to bring the border under control.

If you want to talk about parole, we can go into a lengthy discussion about parole, but I am not going into a lengthy discussion.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Laken Riley is dead because of Joe Biden's policies. There are no words that I can say that will bring her back to life. There are no words that will bring back State Trooper Christopher Gadd. There are no words that will bring back 16-year-old Lizbeth Medina. There are no words that will bring back all those who have been brutally beaten, murdered, and damaged by illegals who were let out on parole.

However, for God's sake, pass the Laken Riley Act.

Also, President Biden, stop paroling illegals over and over again. Stop killing our Americans. Stop hurting our Americans.

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

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act, and our hearts do go out to her grieving family today.

This bill is in remembrance of Laken Riley, the 22-year-old nursing student who was tragically murdered in my home community of Athens, Georgia, by an illegal alien who should never have even been in the United States. After illegally entering the country, Laken's murderer was arrested by the NYPD in September of 2023 for acting in a manner to injure a minor and for committing a motor vehicle license violation.

Also, according to an Athens-Clarke County police report, this illegal alien went on to shoplift in Georgia the following month. Clearly, this illegal alien had a pattern of criminal history, one that started when he accepted Joe Biden's invitation to illegally enter our country and do so under an abuse of the parole system.

He should never have been allowed to reside in the United States illegally, and ICE should have immediately issued a detainer after he committed these crimes because, ultimately, if ICE had issued a detainer, this illegal alien would never have been in the United States to commit the horrific murder of Laken Riley.



We must enact changes now to protect communities across the country from facing additional avoidable tragedies. H.R. 7511 provides a commonsense solution to do just that. This legislation requires ICE to issue detainers and take custody of illegal aliens who commit crimes like theft, burglary, and larceny.

Additionally, the local jurisdiction, the Clarke County Sheriff's Office, would also have to recognize and act upon the ICE detainer. When you have a sanctuary city like the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government ignoring these detainers, it makes them a magnet for criminal illegal aliens.

Therefore, I call right now on Athens-Clarke County to publicly reject their sanctuary city policy. If they did, it would be a strong step in the right direction toward preventing our citizens from becoming future victims of violent crimes committed by illegal aliens.

Additionally, the Laken Riley Act contains within it Representative DAN BISHOP's own legislation that just passed out of the Judiciary Committee. It is called the Standing Up to the Executive branch for Immigration Enforcement Act. Hence, my friend, I want to recognize your part in making this legislation happen.

These important provisions that Representative BISHOP authored give State attorneys general standing to bring suit against DHS Secretary Mayorkas, Secretary of State Blinken, and Attorney General Garland for violating certain immigration laws that harm the State or its respective citizens. Representative BISHOP's legislation also allows for appropriate injunctive relief and expedites the disposition of such civil actions.

This important legislation is critical. As a cosponsor, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Laken Riley Act. After all, one of the most formidable ways that Congress can deliver justice to the Laken Riley family is by passing this legislation.

□ 1300

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, Laken Riley's future was taken away from her and she from her family because an illegal immigrant in the State of New York was arrested and released, my home State.

My colleague across the aisle knows this full well. Because of policies put in place by this administration, embraced by governors like Kathy Hochul in States like New York, we have surrendered our southern border and made our communities less safe.

It is important to move on this piece of legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support the Laken Riley Act, but I also ask my colleagues, espe-

cially those from New York, to take serious the challenge that has been made worse and communities less safe because of cashless bail, catch and release, and sanctuary city policies in the State of New York.

I ask them to join me in calling on Governor Kathy Hochul—instead of talking about it—to take action to rescind cashless bail, reform catch and release, and end sanctuary city policies to make safe the people and communities in the State of New York.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the majority leader.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we have this debate on the floor and that we pass the Laken Riley Act.

It would be more significant if later tonight in this very Chamber Joe Biden joined us and said that he was going to finally take action, using the same pen that on day one when he became President he used to undo all of those actions that were securing our border if he would say he is going to reverse those actions.

He can work to restore the remain in Mexico protocol, getting us back to a functioning asylum process. He could take direct action with his own pen, no act of Congress, to end catch and release, so that when people come here by the millions as they have, they are not just allowed to go into the interior of our country where we don't even know where they are going.

Governors can't tell you how many people have come into their States illegally, where they are showing up. You see it in cities where they are showing up and they are shutting down schools and gymnasiums to house people.

This is out of control and Joe Biden created the mess. He could solve it, but short of Joe Biden solving it, the House has taken multiple actions to address it.

This Republican House came together last year to pass H.R. 2, a bill designed to actually secure America's border. We took all of those necessary actions, whether the President wants to or not, doing the things that it takes, working with our Border Patrol agents to secure America's border so that we don't have what we have seen, at least 8 million people that have come across illegally.

When you look at some of the devastating consequences, Laken Riley is just one example. I pray for her and I pray for her family. No family should have to go through what Laken Riley's family is still grieving with today, but, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not even an isolated incident.

It is happening over and over again in communities all across America ever since Joe Biden opened our southern border, allowing millions of people

to come in. You are seeing countries emptying out prisons to send people here. People on the terrorist watch list, over 140 that we know of on the terrorist watch list, that have been detained. How many that we don't know of that haven't been caught that are here in America planning to do us harm because Joe Biden opened the southern border?

There is serious negative consequences to those actions that Joe Biden took. When you think about Kenner, Louisiana, a community in my backyard, part of which I represent in my district, just days ago a 14-year-old girl was raped by someone here illegally.

You saw just recently where a 2-year-old was murdered by someone here illegally. How many more communities are going to have to suffer? How many more families are going to have to be victims before Joe Biden admits this problem and then works with us to solve it?

They tried passing a bill in the Senate that actually makes it worse, that codifies things like catch and release, and that gives over a billion dollars of your taxpayer money to fund lawyers for people here illegally.

Yes, that was in the Senate bill that even the Senate didn't pass after all of that hoopla about a bipartisan coalescence. They didn't even pass that bill once they read it.

The House did pass a bill to solve this problem. Today, we are coming together to pass another bill here with the Laken Riley Act to solve this problem, but the worst part of it is, this problem should have never happened if Joe Biden didn't take the steps he took with the pen to open the southern border. He could close it himself. He chooses not to.

We came together and said, then we will close it, Mr. President, and issued veto threats on those bills. He wants an open border, but does he want the consequences to?

Will he look those families in the eye and tell them enough is enough and apologize to them? He could do that tonight from that podium. I sure hope he does, but in the meantime what he really needs to do is work with us to end this madness, to secure America's border, and get back to a functioning, legal system of immigration in America like every other country has so that we don't see this endless flow that is devastating communities all across America.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass the Laken Riley Act and, hopefully, there will be no more examples like Laken Riley in the future.

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

Mr. Speaker, Mr. SCALISE and the other Republicans are not serious about solving the problem we all talk about. Mr. SCALISE says the solution is H.R. 2, a bill so serious it received 32 votes in the United States Senate, a body with 49 Republican Senators.

If the Republicans were sincere and serious about solving this problem, they would vote for the \$14 billion that the President has requested to hire more Border Patrol people and more judges so that asylum decisions can be made in weeks and not years, and he wouldn't have the problem of catch and release.

If Republicans were serious, they wouldn't have tanked the Senate bill developed in negotiations with principally Senator LANKFORD, who is considered the second-most conservative Senator in the Senate, and that bill was going to be agreed to until President Trump decided—former President Trump and hopefully never again President Trump—decided that he would rather have an issue for the campaign than solve the problem, so he told the Republicans to tank the bill that they had just written.

Let's talk about hypocrisy. That is what we are hearing in this Chamber. That is what we hear all the time from a Republican Party that loves the rhetoric, that loves to use the victimhood of people like Laken Riley for political purposes, but this is a Republican Party that does not want to solve this problem, will not take any serious step to solve this problem, and is trying to create a fraud on the American people by pretending that it cares about this problem.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), who represents Athens, Georgia.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BISHOP for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have introduced the Laken Riley Act, and I urge you to join me in voting to pass this bill today.

As Joe Biden comes to the Capitol tonight to defend his atrocious record, the House is voting to rebuke him for the open border policies that led directly to Laken Riley's murder.

Enough is enough. The President and the DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas have released millions of illegal aliens into this country and they refuse to secure our border and keep Americans safe.

Unfortunately, the man who murdered Laken was among those millions. Despite committing several crimes in multiple jurisdictions, he was allowed to roam free in America before brutally murdering Ms. Riley on the campus of the University of Georgia on February 22.

Mr. Speaker, Laken was only 22 years old, a nursing student. She had her whole life and a bright future ahead of her. This young woman was an exemplary daughter, sister, and friend. She was cherished by so many people for her loving nature and her servant's heart. She would be with us today if elected leaders who took an oath to preserve our Constitution and faithfully execute our laws had kept their word, but they didn't.

While we can't bring Laken back, we must now turn our focus to doing everything we can to prevent this from happening to another American.

The Laken Riley Act is a key piece in our fight to restore the rule of law and get criminal illegal aliens off our street. This legislation will give Immigration and Customs Enforcement more tools. It will add theft to the list of crimes for which the agency must detain and deport an illegal alien.

This is crucial. Many people who commit petty crimes go on to commit worse crimes. Laken's murderer, Jose Antonio Ibarra, is a prime example of this. Ibarra was cited for shoplifting in Athens, Georgia, just prior to murdering Laken, but under current law, ICE would not have been required to pick up Ibarra, even if local law enforcement had reported him.

Let's change that.

Let's also give States the legal recourse when the Federal Government fails to enforce immigration law. The Laken Riley Act does that. States will be able to sue the Federal Government for injunctive relief when illegals released into this country harm our people.

Lastly, the bill condemns the President's border policies and calls on him to end catch and release, reinstate remain in Mexico, and secure the borders of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today we act on behalf of those who are no longer with us because of Joe Biden's policies. I thank my colleagues for rallying alongside me to highlight Laken Riley's life these past 2 weeks. Let's continue to pray for her family and friends as they grieve her loss and resolve to continue fighting for the American people against the lawlessness created by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on the Laken Riley Act, and when it passes, I also urge my colleagues in the Senate to take this up immediately.

Let's ensure justice for Laken Riley.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close as well, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to close where I began, by expressing my deepest condolences to the family of Laken Riley. I only wish that we were debating a bill worthy of her name. Instead, we have the latest Republican press release, a bill that serves as an excuse to target and demonize immigrants while making our country no safer. I hope that my Republican colleagues will change course and choose to work with Democrats and with the administration in a constructive manner that improves our immigration system and makes our border more secure.

Until then, I must urge Members to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1315

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

H.R. 7511 is but the latest effort by Republicans to do something about the harm that confronts our Nation from an uncontrolled border by the determined action of President Biden and Democrats.

H.R. 2 is an extensive bill with many provisions and extensive reform. Democrats have ignored it. This bill is exceedingly simple and straightforward. Democrats attack it. The excuses for doing nothing never end.

The only answers offered by Democrats are to spend more money processing more aliens faster into the country, making the problem worse, and yet they always deflect blame to someone else for the calamitous results of their policies.

This bill is very straightforward. The objection that a thief should not be deported until after a conviction leaves Americans to be victimized for all the time that would have gone by until a conviction. It is not required under the law.

The distinction between the point the gentleman from New York made about Mr. MASSIE's bill concerning the use of facial recognition technology, that is about American citizens. The people involved here have no right to be in this country. They are not supposed to be here.

They also object that the standing change, that the conferral of standing on State attorneys general is unconstitutional, will not work, but it is Justice Kavanaugh in the opinion of the Court in *United States v. Texas* who said:

For example, Congress might specifically authorize suits against the executive branch by a defined set of plaintiffs who have suffered concrete harms by executive under-enforcement and specifically authorize the judiciary to enter appropriate orders requiring additional arrests or prosecutions by the executive branch.

This bill takes that invitation from the Court to act. It is far past the time for President Biden to act. He will not act. Let's act in this United States Congress.

We have the chance to give States the ability to fight back. We have the chance to recognize Laken Riley's story as a tragedy. There need not be other tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Laken Riley Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7511, the Laken Riley Act.

For the third time in three months, House Republicans are bringing their repackaged partisan talking points to the floor and reviling America's immigrant communities. H.R. 7511 is another bill that undermines constitutional due process and politicizes a tragedy. The murder of Laken Riley is tragic, and it should not be exploited by Republicans looking to use it to pass their harmful legislation.

This bill would compel the Department of Homeland Security to take into custody all non-citizens who have been arrested for theft. No conviction is required, and no additional resources are provided to the Department to carry out this mandate. As I've said before, in America, you are innocent until proven guilty. This has been the law of the land for hundreds of years. This bill is another poorly written slippery slope that undermines the rights of all people legally present in the United States.

Laken Riley's murder is a tragedy. She was a 22-year-old college student who should still be alive today. Republicans are using this horrible event as a political ploy, when they should be coming to the table to find meaningful, bipartisan solutions to fix our broken immigration system. Until then, their dangerous and partisan ploys ring hollow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1052, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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

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

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

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 7511; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3843.

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

#### LAKEN RILEY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 7511) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, 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 passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 251, nays 170, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 66]

YEAS—251

Aderholt	Fitzgerald	Loudermilk
Alford	Fitzpatrick	Lucas
Allen	Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer
Alfred	Flood	Luna
Amodei	Foxx	Luttrell
Armstrong	Franklin, Scott	Lynch
Arrington	Fry	Mace
Babin	Fulcher	Malliotakis
Bacon	Gaetz	Maloy
Baird	Gallagher	Mann
Balderson	Gallego	Massie
Banks	Garbarino	Mast
Barr	Garcia, Mike	McCaul
Bean (FL)	Gimenez	McClain
Bentz	Golden (ME)	McClintock
Bergman	Gonzales, Tony	McCormick
Bice	Gonzalez,	McHenry
Biggs	Vicente	Meuser
Bilirakis	Good (VA)	Miller (OH)
Bishop (NC)	Gooden (TX)	Miller (OH)
Boebert	Gottheimer	Miller (WV)
Bost	Granger	Miller-Meeks
Brecheen	Graves (LA)	Mills
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	Molinaro
Buck	Green (TN)	Moolenaar
Bucshon	Greene (GA)	Mooney
Budzinski	Griffith	Moore (AL)
Burchett	Grothman	Moore (UT)
Burgess	Guest	Moran
Burlison	Guthrie	Mrvan
Calvert	Hageman	Murphy
Caraveo	Harder (CA)	Nehls
Carey	Harris	Newhouse
Carli	Harshbarger	Norman
Carter (GA)	Hayes	Nunn (IA)
Carter (TX)	Hern	Ogles
Cartwright	Higgins (LA)	Owens
Chavez-DeRemer	Hill	Palmer
Ciscomani	Hinson	Pappas
Cline	Horsford	Peltola
Cloud	Houchin	Pence
Clyde	Hudson	Perez
Cole	Huizenga	Perry
Collins	Hunt	Pfluger
Comer	Issa	Posey
Costa	Jackson (NC)	Reschenthaler
Courtney	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Craig	James	Rogers (KY)
Crane	Johnson (LA)	Rose
Crawford	Johnson (SD)	Rosendale
Crenshaw	Jordan	Rouzer
Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Roy
Curtis	Joyce (PA)	Rutherford
D'Esposito	Kaptur	Salazar
Dauids (KS)	Kean (NJ)	Scalise
Davidson	Kelly (MS)	Scholten
Davis (NC)	Kelly (PA)	Schrier
De La Cruz	Kiggrans (VA)	Schweikert
Deluzio	Kiley	Scott, Austin
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Self
Diaz-Balart	Kustoff	Sessions
Donalds	LaHood	Simpson
Duarte	LaLota	Slotkin
Duncan	LaMalfa	Smith (MO)
Dunn (FL)	Lamborn	Smith (NE)
Edwards	Landsman	Smith (NJ)
Ellzey	Langworthy	Smucker
Emmer	Latta	Sorensen
Estes	LaTurner	Spartz
Ezell	Lawler	Stanton
Fallon	Lee (FL)	Staubert
Feenstra	Lee (NV)	Steel
Ferguson	Lesko	Stefanik
Finstad	Letlow	Steil
Fischbach	Levin	Steube

Strong	Van Drew	Westerman
Suozzi	Van Dyne	Wild
Sykes	Van Orden	Williams (NY)
Tenney	Wagner	Williams (TX)
Thompson (PA)	Walberg	Wilson (SC)
Tiffany	Waltz	Wittman
Timmons	Weber (TX)	Womack
Titus	Webster (FL)	Yakym
Turner	Wenstrup	Zinke

NAYS—170

Adams	Garcia (TX)	Payne
Aguilar	Garcia, Robert	Pelosi
Amo	Goldman (NY)	Peters
Auchincloss	Gomez	Pettersen
Balint	Green, Al (TX)	Phillips
Barragan	Himes	Pingree
Beatty	Houlihan	Pocan
Bera	Hoyer	Pressley
Beyer	Hoyle (OR)	Quigley
Bishop (GA)	Huffman	Ramirez
Blumenauer	Ivey	Raskin
Blunt Rochester	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Bonamici	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Bowman	Jacobs	Ruppersberger
Boyle (PA)	Jayapal	Ryan
Brown	Jeffries	Salinas
Brownley	Johnson (GA)	Sanchez
Bush	Kamlager-Dove	Sarbanes
Carbajal	Keating	Scanlon
Cardenas	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Carson	Khanma	Schneider
Carter (LA)	Kildee	Scott (VA)
Casar	Kilmer	Scott, David
Case	Krishnamoorthi	Sewell
Casten	Kuster	Sherman
Castor (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Sherrill
Castro (TX)	Larson (CT)	Smith (WA)
Cherfilus-	Lee (CA)	Soto
McCormick	Lee (PA)	Spanberger
Chu	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Clark (MA)	Lieu	Stevens
Clarke (NY)	Lofgren	Strickland
Cleaver	Magaziner	Swalwell
Clyburn	Manning	Matsui
Cohen	Matsui	McBath
Connolly	McBath	McClellan
Correa	McClellan	McCollum
Crockett	McCollum	McGarvey
Crow	McGovern	McGovern
Davis (IL)	Meeks	Meeks
Dean (PA)	DeGette	Menendez
DeGette	Meng	Torres (CA)
DeLauro	Mfume	Torres (NY)
DelBene	Moore (WI)	Trahan
DeSaulnier	Moore (WI)	Trone
Dingell	Morelle	Underwood
Doggett	Moulton	Vargas
Escobar	Mullin	Vasquez
Eshoo	Nadler	Veasey
Espallat	Napolitano	Velázquez
Evans	Neal	Wasserman
Fletcher	Neguse	Schultz
Foster	Nickel	Waters
Foushee	Norcross	Watson Coleman
Frankel, Lois	Ocasio-Cortez	Wexton
Frost	Omar	Williams (GA)
Garamendi	Panetta	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL)	Pascrell	

NOT VOTING—11

Cammack	Moskowitz	Rodgers (WA)
Gosar	Obornolte	Schiff
Grijalva	Pallone	Valadao
Kim (NJ)	Porter	

□ 1401

Messrs. BLUMENAUER, ROBERT GARCIA of California, CLYBURN, Mses. MOORE of Wisconsin, and CHU changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. GALLEGO, VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, GROTHMAN, SORENSEN, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. DELUZIO changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So 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:

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I was delayed for this vote while in a classified hearing

for the Energy & Commerce Committee. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 66, H.R. 7511.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 66.

**ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACT OF 2023**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3843) to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize grants to address dental workforce needs 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) 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 391, nays 32, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 67]

YEAS—391

Adams	Chavez-DeRemer	Fleischmann
Aderholt	Cherfilus-	Fletcher
Aguilar	McCormick	Flood
Alford	Chu	Foster
Allen	Ciscomani	Foushee
Allred	Clark (MA)	Fox
Amo	Clarke (NY)	Frankel, Lois
Amodoi	Cleaver	Franklin, Scott
Armstrong	Clyburn	Frost
Arrington	Cohen	Fry
Auchincloss	Cole	Fulcher
Babin	Collins	Gallagher
Bacon	Comer	Gallego
Baird	Connolly	Garamendi
Balderson	Correa	Garbarino
Balint	Costa	García (IL)
Banks	Courtney	García (TX)
Barr	Craig	García, Mike
Barragán	Crawford	García, Robert
Bean (FL)	Crenshaw	Gimenez
Beatty	Crockett	Golden (ME)
Bentz	Crow	Goldman (NY)
Bera	Cuellar	Gomez
Bergman	Curtis	Gonzales, Tony
Beyer	D'Esposito	Gonzalez,
Bice	Dauids (KS)	Vicente
Bilirakis	Davis (IL)	Gooden (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (NC)	Gottheimer
Bishop (NC)	De La Cruz	Graves (LA)
Blumenauer	Dean (PA)	Graves (MO)
Blunt Rochester	DeGette	Green (TN)
Bonamici	DeLauro	Green, Al (TX)
Bost	DelBene	Griffith
Bowman	Deluzio	Grothman
Boyle (PA)	DeSaulnier	Guest
Brown	DesJarlais	Guthrie
Brownley	Diaz-Balart	Hageman
Buchanan	Dingell	Harder (CA)
Buchon	Doggett	Harris
Budzinski	Duarte	Harshbarger
Burgess	Duncan	Hayes
Bush	Dunn (FL)	Higgins (LA)
Calvert	Edwards	Hill
Caraveo	Ellzey	Himes
Carbajal	Emmer	Hinson
Cárdenas	Escobar	Horsford
Carey	Eshoo	Houchin
Carl	Españillat	Houlahan
Carson	Estes	Hoyer
Carter (GA)	Evans	Hoyle (OR)
Carter (LA)	Ezell	Hudson
Carter (TX)	Fallon	Huffman
Cartwright	Feenstra	Huizenga
Casar	Ferguson	Hunt
Case	Finstad	Issa
Casten	Fischbach	Ivey
Castor (FL)	Fitzgerald	Jackson (IL)
Castro (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jackson (NC)

Jackson (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Sessions
Jackson Lee	Mills	Sewell
Jacobs	Molinaro	Sherman
James	Moolenaar	Sherrill
Jayapal	Mooney	Simpson
Jeffries	Moore (UT)	Slotkin
Johnson (GA)	Moore (WI)	Smith (MO)
Johnson (LA)	Moran	Smith (NE)
Johnson (SD)	Morelle	Smith (NJ)
Joyce (OH)	Moskowitz	Smith (WA)
Joyce (PA)	Moulton	Smucker
Kamlager-Dove	Mrvan	Sorensen
Kaptur	Mullin	Soto
Kean (NJ)	Murphy	Spanberger
Keating	Nadler	Spartz
Kelly (IL)	Napolitano	Stansbury
Kelly (MS)	Neal	Stanton
Kelly (PA)	Neguse	Staubert
Khanna	Nehls	Steel
Kiggans (VA)	Newhouse	Stefanik
Kildee	Nickel	Steil
Kiley	Norcross	Stevens
Kilmer	Norman	Strickland
Kim (CA)	Nunn (IA)	Strong
Krishnamoorthi	Obernalte	Suozzi
Kuster	Ocasio-Cortez	Swalwell
Kustoff	Omar	Sykes
LaHood	Owens	Takano
LaLota	Pallone	Tenney
LaMalfa	Palmer	Thanedar
Lamborn	Panetta	Thompson (CA)
Landsman	Pappas	Thompson (MS)
Langworthy	Pascrell	Thompson (PA)
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Timmons
Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Titus
Latta	Peltola	Tlaib
LaTurner	Pence	Tokuda
Lawler	Perez	Tonko
Lee (CA)	Peters	Torres (CA)
Lee (FL)	Pettersen	Torres (NY)
Lee (NV)	Pfluger	Trahan
Lee (PA)	Phillips	Trone
Leger Fernandez	Pingree	Turner
Letlow	Pocan	Underwood
Levin	Posey	Van Drew
Lieu	Pressley	Van Deyne
Lofgren	Quigley	Van Orden
Lucas	Ramirez	Vargas
Luetkemeyer	Raskin	Vasquez
Luttrell	Reschenthaler	Veasey
Lynch	Rodgers (WA)	Velázquez
Mace	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
Magaziner	Rogers (KY)	Walberg
Malliotakis	Rose	Waltz
Comer	Ross	Wasserman
Garamendi	Rouzer	Schultz
Correa	Ruiz	Waters
Costa	Manning	Watson Coleman
García (IL)	Matsui	Webster (FL)
García (TX)	McBath	Wenstrup
García, Mike	McCaul	Westerman
García, Robert	McClain	Wexton
Gimenez	McClellan	Wild
Golden (ME)	McCollum	Williams (GA)
Goldman (NY)	McGarvey	Williams (NY)
Gomez	McGovern	Williams (TX)
Gonzales, Tony	McHenry	Wilson (FL)
Gonzalez,	Meeks	Wilson (SC)
Vicente	Menendez	Wittman
Gooden (TX)	Meng	Womack
Gottheimer	Meuser	Yakym
Graves (LA)	Mfume	Zinke
Graves (MO)	Miller (IL)	
Green (TN)	Miller (OH)	
Green, Al (TX)	Miller (WV)	

NAYS—32

Biggs	Donalds	McCormick
Boebert	Gaetz	Moore (AL)
Brecheen	Good (VA)	Ogles
Burchett	Hern	Perry
Burlison	Jordan	Rosendale
Cammack	Lesko	Roy
Cline	Loudermilk	Self
Cloud	Luna	Steube
Clyde	Massie	Tiffany
Crane	Mast	Weber (TX)
Davidson	McClintock	

NOT VOTING—9

Buck	Greene (GA)	Porter
Gosar	Grijalva	Schiff
Granger	Kim (NJ)	Valadao

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1410

Mr. CRANE changed his 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.

**EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2023**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). Pursuant to House Resolution 1052 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2799.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) kindly take the chair.

□ 1415

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2799) to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes, with Mr. MURPHY (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5, printed in part B of House Report 118-407, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 118-407 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. LAWLER of New York.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma.

Amendment No. 4 by Mrs. WAGNER of Missouri.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. SHERMAN of California.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic votes in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in part B of House Report 118-407, offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.  
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 278, noes 146, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 68]

AYES—278

Aderholt	Fry	Miller (WV)
Alford	Fulcher	Miller-Meeks
Allen	Gaetz	Mills
Allred	Gallagher	Molinaro
Armstrong	Gallego	Moolenaar
Arrington	Garbarino	Mooney
Auchincloss	Garcia, Mike	Moore (AL)
Babin	Gimenez	Moore (UT)
Bacon	Goldman (NY)	Morelle
Baird	Gonzales, Tony	Good (VA)
Balderson	Good (VA)	Moskowitz
Banks	Gooden (TX)	Moulton
Barr	Gottheimer	Moylan
Bean (FL)	Graves (LA)	Mrvan
Bentz	Graves (MO)	Murphy
Bera	Green (TN)	Nehls
Bergman	Greene (GA)	Newhouse
Beyer	Griffith	Nickel
Bice	Grothman	Norman
Biggs	Guest	Nunn (IA)
Bilirakis	Guthrie	Obernolte
Bishop (NC)	Hageman	Ogles
Boebert	Harder (CA)	Owens
Bost	Harris	Palmer
Brecheen	Harshbarger	Panetta
Buchanan	Hern	Pappas
Buchson	Higgins (LA)	Peltola
Burchett	Hill	Pence
Burgess	Himes	Perez
Burlison	Hinson	Perry
Calvert	Houchin	Peters
Cammack	Houlahan	Pettersen
Caraveo	Hudson	Pfleger
Carbajal	Huizenga	Phillips
Cardenas	Hunt	Posey
Carey	Issa	Quigley
Carl	Jackson (TX)	Reschenthaler
Carter (GA)	James	Rodgers (WA)
Carter (TX)	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (AL)
Case	Jordan	Rogers (KY)
Casten	Joyce (OH)	Rose
Chavez-DeRemer	Joyce (PA)	Rosendale
Chu	Kean (NJ)	Rouzer
Ciscomani	Kelly (MS)	Roy
Cline	Kelly (PA)	Ryan
Cloud	Kiggans (VA)	Salazar
Clyde	Kiley	Salinas
Cole	Kilmer	Scalise
Collins	Kim (CA)	Schneider
Comer	Kuster	Scholten
Correa	Kustoff	Schrier
Costa	LaHood	Schweikert
Crane	LaLota	Scott, Austin
Crawford	LaMalfa	Scott, David
Crow	Lamborn	Self
Cuellar	Landsman	Sessions
Curtis	Langworthy	Sherrill
D'Esposito	Larsen (WA)	Simpson
Davidson	Latta	Slotkin
Davis (NC)	LaTurner	Smith (MO)
De La Cruz	Lawler	Smith (NE)
DelBene	Lee (FL)	Smith (NJ)
DesJarlais	Lee (NV)	Smucker
Diaz-Balart	Lesko	Soto
Donalds	Letlow	Spanberger
Duarte	Loudermilk	Spartz
Duncan	Lucas	Stanton
Dunn (FL)	Luetkemeyer	Staubert
Edwards	Luna	Steel
Ellzey	Luttrell	Stefanik
Emmer	Mace	Steil
Eshoo	Magaziner	Steube
Estes	Malliotakis	Stevens
Ezell	Maloy	Strong
Fallon	Mann	Suozi
Feenstra	Manning	Swalwell
Ferguson	Massie	Tenney
Finstad	Mast	Tompson (CA)
Fischbach	Matsui	Tompson (PA)
Fitzgerald	McCaul	Tiffany
Fitzpatrick	McClain	Timmons
Fleischmann	McClintock	Torres (NY)
Fletcher	McCormick	Turner
Flood	McHenry	Van Drew
Foster	Meeks	Van Dwyne
Foxx	Meuser	Van Orden
Franklin, Scott	Miller (IL)	Vargas
	Miller (OH)	Vasquez

Wagner	Wenstrup	Wittman
Walberg	Westerman	Womack
Waltz	Williams (NY)	Yakym
Weber (TX)	Williams (TX)	Zinke
Webster (FL)	Wilson (SC)	

NOES—146

Adams	Garcia, Robert
Aguilar	Golden (ME)
Amo	Gomez
Balint	Gonzalez,
Barragan	Vicente
Beatty	Green, Al (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Hayes
Blumenauer	Horsford
Blunt Rochester	Hoyer
Bonamici	Hoyle (OR)
Bowman	Huffman
Boyle (PA)	Ivey
Brown	Jackson (IL)
Brownley	Jackson (NC)
Budzinski	Jackson Lee
Bush	Jacobs
Carson	Jayapal
Carter (LA)	Jeffries
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)
Casar	Kamllager-Dove
Castor (FL)	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Keating
Cherfilus-	Kelly (IL)
McCormick	Khanna
Clark (MA)	Kildee
Clarke (NY)	Krishnamoorthi
Cleaver	Larson (CT)
Clyburn	Lee (CA)
Cohen	Lee (PA)
Connolly	Leger Fernandez
Courtney	Levin
Craig	Lieu
Crockett	Lofgren
Davis (IL)	Lynch
Dean (PA)	McBath
DeGette	McClellan
DeLauro	McCollum
Deluzio	McGarvey
DeSaulnier	McGovern
Dingell	Menendez
Doggett	Meng
Escobar	Mfume
Espallat	Moore (WI)
Evans	Mullin
Foushee	Nadler
Frankel, Lois	Napolitano
Frost	Neal
Garamendi	Neguse
Garcia (IL)	Norcross
Garcia (TX)	Norton

NOT VOTING—13

Amodei	Granger	Rutherford
Buck	Grijalva	Schiff
Crenshaw	Kim (NJ)	Valadao
González-Colón	Porter	
Gosar	Radewagen	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1416

So the amendment was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2, printed in part B of House Report 118-407, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered. The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 269, noes 153, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]

AYES—269

Alford	Gallego	Morelle
Allen	Garbarino	Moskowitz
Allred	Garcia, Mike	Moulton
Amo	Gimenez	Moylan
Amodei	Goldman (NY)	Murphy
Armstrong	Gonzales, Tony	Nehls
Arrington	Gonzalez,	Newhouse
Auchincloss	Vicente	Nickel
Babin	Good (VA)	Norman
Bacon	Gooden (TX)	Nunn (IA)
Baird	Gottheimer	Obernolte
Balderson	Graves (LA)	Ogles
Banks	Graves (MO)	Owens
Barr	Green (TN)	Palmer
Bean (FL)	Greene (GA)	Pappas
Bentz	Griffith	Peltola
Bera	Grothman	Pence
Bergman	Guest	Perez
Beyer	Guthrie	Perry
Bice	Hageman	Peters
Biggs	Harder (CA)	Pettersen
Bilirakis	Harris	Pfleger
Bishop (NC)	Harshbarger	Phillips
Boebert	Hern	Posey
Bost	Higgins (LA)	Quigley
Brownley	Hill	Reschenthaler
Buchanan	Himes	Rodgers (WA)
Buchson	Hinson	Rogers (AL)
Burchett	Houchin	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Houlahan	Rose
Burlison	Hudson	Rosendale
Calvert	Huizenga	Rouzer
Cammack	Hunt	Roy
Caraveo	Issa	Rutherford
Carbajal	James	Ryan
Cardenas	Johnson (SD)	Salazar
Carey	Jordan	Sánchez
Carl	Joyce (OH)	Scalise
Carter (GA)	Joyce (PA)	Scholten
Carter (TX)	Kaptur	Schrier
Case	Chavez-DeRemer	Kean (NJ)
Casten	Ciscomani	Kelly (MS)
Chavez-DeRemer	Clark (MA)	Kelly (PA)
Chu	Cline	Kildee
Ciscomani	Clark (MA)	Kelly (PA)
Cline	Cline	Kiley
Cloud	Cloud	Kilmer
Clyde	Clyde	Kim (CA)
Cole	Cole	Kim (CA)
Collins	Collins	Kuster
Comer	Comer	Kustoff
Correa	Costa	Kustoff
Costa	Crane	LaHood
Curtis	Crenshaw	LaLota
D'Esposito	Crow	LaMalfa
Davidson	Cuellar	LaMalfa
Davis (NC)	Curtis	Lamborn
De La Cruz	D'Esposito	Landsman
DelBene	Davidson	Langworthy
DesJarlais	Davis (NC)	Latta
Diaz-Balart	De La Cruz	LaTurner
Donalds	DelBene	Lawler
Duarte	DesJarlais	Lee (FL)
Duncan	Diaz-Balart	Lee (NV)
Dunn (FL)	Donalds	Lesko
Edwards	Duarte	Letlow
Ellzey	Duncan	Loudermilk
Emmer	Dunn (FL)	Lucas
Eshoo	Edwards	Luetkemeyer
Estes	Ellzey	Luna
Ezell	Emmer	Luttrell
Fallon	Eshoo	Mace
Feenstra	Estes	Malliotakis
Ferguson	Ezell	Maloy
Finstad	Fallon	Mann
Fischbach	Feenstra	Mast
Fitzgerald	Ferguson	McCaul
Fitzpatrick	Finstad	McClain
Fleischmann	Fischbach	McClintock
Fletcher	Fitzgerald	McCormick
Flood	Fitzpatrick	McHenry
Foster	Fleischmann	Meeks
Foxx	Fletcher	Meuser
Franklin, Scott	Flood	Miller (IL)
	Foster	Miller (OH)
	Foxx	Miller (WV)
	Franklin, Scott	Miller-Meeks
	Fry	Molinaro
	Fulcher	Moolenaar
	Gaetz	Mooney
	Gallagher	Moore (AL)
		Moore (UT)
		Moore (WI)
		Moran

NOES—153

Adams	Garcia, Robert	Ocasio-Cortez
Aderholt	Golden (ME)	Omar
Aguilar	Gomez	Pallone
Balint	Green, Al (TX)	Panetta
Barragan	Hayes	Pascarell
Beatty	Horsford	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Hoyer	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Hoyle (OR)	Pingree
Blunt Rochester	Huffman	Plaskett
Bonamici	Ivey	Pocan
Bowman	Jackson (IL)	Pressley
Brown	Jackson (NC)	Ramirez
Budzinski	Jackson Lee	Raskin
Bush	Jacobs	Ross
Carbajal	Jayapal	Ruiz
Carson	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Carter (LA)	Johnson (GA)	Sablan
Cartwright	Kamlager-Dove	Salinas
Casar	Keating	Sarbanes
Casten	Kelly (IL)	Scanlon
Castor (FL)	Khanna	Schakowsky
Castro (TX)	Kiggans (VA)	Schneider
Cherfilus-	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
McCormick	Larsen (WA)	Scott (VA)
Chu	Larson (CT)	Sewell
Clarke (NY)	Lee (CA)	Smith (WA)
Cleaver	Lee (PA)	Sorensen
Clyburn	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Cohen	Levin	Stanton
Connolly	Lieu	Stevens
Correa	Lofgren	Sykes
Courtney	Lynch	Takano
Craig	Magaziner	Thanedar
Crawford	Manning	Thompson (CA)
Crockett	Massie	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Titus
Dean (PA)	McBath	Tlaib
DeGette	McClellan	Tokuda
DeLauro	McCollum	Tonko
Deluzio	McGarvey	Trone
DeSaulnier	McGovern	Underwood
Dingell	Menendez	Vargas
Doggett	Meng	Veasey
Escobar	Mfume	Velázquez
Espallat	Mrvan	Wasserman
Evans	Mullin	Schultz
Foushee	Nadler	Waters
Frankel, Lois	Napolitano	Watson Coleman
Frost	Neal	Wexton
Garamendi	Neguse	Wild
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Williams (GA)
Garcia (TX)	Norton	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Brecheen	Granger	Porter
Buck	Grijalva	Radewagen
Cárdenas	Jackson (TX)	Schiff
González-Colón	Kim (NJ)	Valadao
Gosar	Mills	Van Duyne

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1420

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LUCAS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 3, printed in part B of House Report 118-407, offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 301, noes 125, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 70]

AYES—301

Aderholt	Fulcher	Miller-Meeks
Alford	Gaetz	Mills
Allen	Gallagher	Molinaro
Amodei	Gallego	Moolenaar
Armstrong	Garbarino	Mooney
Arrington	Garcia, Mike	Moore (AL)
Auchincloss	Gimenez	Moore (UT)
Babin	Goldman (NY)	Moore (WI)
Bacon	Gonzales, Tony	Moran
Baird	Gonzalez,	Morelle
Balderson	Vicente	Moskowitz
Banks	Good (VA)	Moulton
Barr	Gooden (TX)	Moylan
Barragan	Gottheimer	Mrvan
Bean (FL)	Graves (LA)	Murphy
Bentz	Graves (MO)	Neguse
Bera	Green (TN)	Nehls
Bergman	Greene (GA)	Newhouse
Beyer	Griffith	Nickel
Bice	Grothman	Norcross
Biggs	Guest	Norman
Billrakis	Guthrie	Nunn (IA)
Bishop (NC)	Hageman	Obernolte
Boebert	Harder (CA)	Ogles
Bost	Harris	Owens
Boyle (PA)	Harshbarger	Palmer
Brecheen	Hayes	Panetta
Buchanan	Hern	Pappas
Bucshon	Higgins (LA)	Pascarell
Budzinski	Hill	Peltola
Burchett	Himes	Pence
Burgess	Hinson	Perez
Burlison	Horsford	Perry
Calvert	Houchin	Peters
Cammack	Houlihan	Petersen
Caraveo	Hudson	Pfluger
Carbajal	Huizenga	Phillips
Cárdenas	Hunt	Posey
Cádenas	Issa	Quigley
Carey	Jackson (NC)	Reschenthaler
Carl	Jackson (TX)	Rodgers (WA)
Carter (GA)	James	Rogers (AL)
Carter (TX)	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (KY)
Case	Jordan	Rose
Casten	Joyce (OH)	Rosendale
Chavez-DeRemer	Joyce (PA)	Rouzer
Chu	Kaptur	Roy
Ciscomani	Kean (NJ)	Ruppersberger
Cline	Keating	Rutherford
Cloud	Kelly (MS)	Ryan
Clyde	Kelly (PA)	Salinas
Cole	Kiggans (VA)	Sánchez
Collins	Kiley	Scalise
Comer	Kilmer	Schneider
Connolly	Kim (CA)	Scholten
Correa	Kuster	Schrier
Costa	Kustoff	Schweikert
Courtney	LaHood	Scott, Austin
Craig	LaLota	Scott, David
Crane	LaMalfa	Self
Crawford	Lamborn	Sessions
Crenshaw	Landsman	Sherrill
Crow	Langworthy	Simpson
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Slotkin
Curtis	Latta	Smith (MO)
D'Esposito	LaTurner	Smith (NE)
Daids (KS)	Lawler	Smith (NJ)
Davidson	Lee (FL)	Smucker
Davis (NC)	Lee (NV)	Soto
De La Cruz	Lesko	Spanberger
Dean (PA)	Letlow	Spartz
DelBene	Loudermilk	Stanton
DesJarlais	Lucas	Stauber
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Steel
Donalds	Luna	Stefanik
Duarte	Luttrell	Steil
Duncan	Mace	Steube
Dunn (FL)	Malliotakis	Strickland
Edwards	Maloy	Strong
Eilzey	Mann	Suozi
Emmer	Manning	Swalwell
Estes	Massie	Tenney
Ezell	Mast	Thompson (CA)
Fallon	Matsui	Thompson (PA)
Feenstra	McBath	Tiffany
Ferguson	McCaul	Timmons
Finstad	McClain	Torres (NY)
Fischbach	McClintock	Turner
Fitzgerald	McClintock	Van Drew
Fitzpatrick	McCormick	Van Duyne
Fleischmann	McHenry	Van Orden
Fletcher	Meeke	Vargas
Flood	Menendez	Vasquez
Foster	Meuser	Wagner
Fox	Miller (IL)	Walberg
Franklin, Scott	Miller (OH)	Waltz
Fry	Miller (WV)	

Wasserman	Westerman	Wilson (SC)
Schultz	Wexton	Wittman
Weber (TX)	Wild	Womack
Webster (FL)	Williams (NY)	Yakym
Wenstrup	Williams (TX)	Zinke

NOES—125

Adams	Garamendi	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguilar	Garcia (IL)	Omar
Allred	Garcia (TX)	Pallone
Amo	Garcia, Robert	Payne
Balint	Golden (ME)	Pelosi
Beatty	Gomez	Pingree
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al (TX)	Plaskett
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Pocan
Blunt Rochester	Hoyle (OR)	Pressley
Bonamici	Huffman	Ramirez
Bowman	Ivey	Raskin
Brown	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Brownley	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Bush	Jacobs	Sablan
Carson	Jayapal	Sarbanes
Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Scanlon
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Schakowsky
Casar	Kamlager-Dove	Scott (VA)
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Sewell
Castro (TX)	Khanna	Sherman
Cherfilus-	Kildee	Smith (WA)
McCormick	Krishnamoorthi	Sorensen
Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Stansbury
Clarke (NY)	Lee (CA)	Stevens
Cleaver	Lee (PA)	Sykes
Clyburn	Leger Fernandez	Takano
Cohen	Levin	Thanedar
Crockett	Lieu	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	Lofgren	Titus
DeGette	Lynch	Tlaib
DeLauro	Magaziner	Tokuda
Deluzio	McClellan	Tonko
DeSaulnier	McCollum	Torres (CA)
Dingell	McGarvey	Trahan
Doggett	McGovern	Trone
Escobar	Meng	Underwood
Eshoo	Mfume	Veasey
Espallat	Mullin	Velázquez
Evans	Nadler	Waters
Foushee	Napolitano	Watson Coleman
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Williams (GA)
Frost	Norton	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Buck	Grijalva	Salazar
González-Colón	Kim (NJ)	Schiff
Gosar	Porter	Valadao
Granger	Radewagen	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1425

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MRS. WAGNER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 4, printed in part B of House Report 118-407 offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 270, noes 154, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 71]

AYES—270

Aderholt	Garcia, Mike	Moskowitz
Alford	Gimenez	Moulton
Allen	Gonzales, Tony	Moylan
Allred	Gonzalez,	Mrvan
Amodei	Vicente	Murphy
Armstrong	Good (VA)	Neguse
Arrington	Good (TX)	Nehls
Auchincloss	Gottheimer	Newhouse
Babin	Graves (LA)	Nickel
Bacon	Graves (MO)	Norman
Baird	Green (TN)	Nunn (IA)
Balderson	Greene (GA)	Obernolte
Banks	Griffith	Ogles
Barr	Grothman	Owens
Barragán	Guest	Palmer
Bean (FL)	Guthrie	Panetta
Bentz	Hageman	Pappas
Bera	Harder (CA)	Peltola
Bergman	Harris	Pence
Bice	Harshbarger	Perry
Biggs	Hern	Peters
Bilirakis	Higgins (LA)	Pettersen
Bishop (NC)	Hill	Pf luger
Boebert	Himes	Phillips
Bost	Hinson	Posey
Brecheen	Horsford	Quigley
Buchanan	Houchin	Reschenthaler
Buohon	Houlihan	Rodgers (WA)
Burchett	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Burgess	Huizenga	Rogers (KY)
Burlison	Issa	Rose
Calvert	Jackson (TX)	Rosendale
Cammack	James	Rouzer
Caraveo	Johnson (SD)	Roy
Carey	Jordan	Rutherford
Carl	Joyce (OH)	Ryan
Carter (GA)	Joyce (PA)	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Kaptur	Scalise
Case	Kean (NJ)	Schneider
Casten	Kelly (MS)	Scholten
Chavez-DeRemer	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert
Ciscomani	Kiggans (VA)	Scott, Austin
Cline	Kiley	Scott, David
Cloud	Kim (CA)	Self
Clyde	Kuster	Sessions
Cole	Kustoff	Sherrill
Collins	LaHood	Simpson
Comer	LaLota	Smith (MO)
Correa	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Costa	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)
Courtney	Landsman	Smucker
Crane	Langworthy	Soto
Crawford	Larson (CT)	Spanberger
Crenshaw	Latta	Spartz
Crow	LaTurner	Stanton
Cuellar	Lawler	Stauber
Curtis	Lee (FL)	Steel
D'Esposito	Lee (NV)	Stefanik
Davidson	Letlow	Loudermilk
Davis (NC)	Loudermilk	Steil
De La Cruz	Lucas	Steube
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Strickland
Diaz-Balart	Luna	Strong
Donalds	Luttrell	Suozzi
Duarte	Mace	Swalwell
Duncan	Malliotakis	Tenney
Dunn (FL)	Maloy	Thompson (PA)
Edwards	Mann	Tiffany
Ellzey	Manning	Timmons
Emmer	Massie	Turner
Estes	Mast	Van Drew
Ezell	McCauley	Van Duyn
Fallon	McClain	Van Orden
Feenstra	McClintock	Vargas
Ferguson	McCormick	Vasquez
Finstad	McHenry	Wagner
Fischbach	Meeks	Walberg
Fitzgerald	Meuser	Waltz
Fitzpatrick	Miller (IL)	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	Miller (OH)	Webster (FL)
Fletcher	Miller (WV)	Wenstrup
Flood	Miller-Meeks	Westerman
Foster	Mills	Wild
Fox	Molinaro	Williams (NY)
Franklin, Scott	Moolenaar	Williams (TX)
Fry	Mooney	Wilson (SC)
Fulcher	Moore (AL)	Wittman
Gaetz	Moore (UT)	Womack
Gallagher	Moore (WI)	Yakym
Gallego	Moran	Zinke
Garbarino	Morelle	

NOES—154

Adams	Balint	Bishop (GA)
Aguilar	Beatty	Blumenauer
Amo	Beyer	Blunt Rochester

[Roll No. 72]

AYES—203

Bonamici	Gomez	Payne	Adams	Garcia, Robert	Pappas
Bowman	Green, Al (TX)	Pelosi	Aguilar	Golden (ME)	Pascarell
Boyle (PA)	Hayes	Perez	Allred	Goldman (NY)	Payne
Brown	Hoyer	Pingree	Amo	Gomez	Pelosi
Brownley	Hoyle (OR)	Plaskett	Balint	Gonzalez,	Peltola
Budzinski	Huffman	Pocan	Barragán	Vicente	Peters
Bush	Ivey	Pressley	Beatty	Gottheimer	Pettersen
Carbajal	Jackson (IL)	Ramirez	Bera	Green, Al (TX)	Phillips
Cardenas	Jackson (NC)	Raskin	Beyer	Harder (CA)	Pingree
Carson	Jackson Lee	Ross	Bishop (GA)	Hayes	Plaskett
Carter (LA)	Jacobs	Ruiz	Blumenauer	Himes	Pocan
Cartwright	Jayapal	Ruppersberger	Blunt Rochester	Horsford	Pressley
Casar	Jeffries	Sablan	Bonamici	Hoyer	Quigley
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Salinas	Bowman	Hoyle (OR)	Ramirez
Castro (TX)	Kamlager-Dove	Sánchez	Boyle (PA)	Huffman	Raskin
Cherfilus-	Keating	Sarbanes	Brown	Ivey	Ross
McCormick	Kelly (IL)	Scanlon	Brownley	Jackson (IL)	Ruiz
Chu	Khanna	Schakowsky	Budzinski	Jackson (NC)	Ruppersberger
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schrier	Bush	Jackson Lee	Ryan
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Scott (VA)	Caraveo	Jacobs	Sablan
Cleaver	Krishnamoorthi	Sewell	Carbajal	Jayapal	Sablan
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Sherman	Cardenas	Jeffries	Salinas
Cohen	Lee (CA)	Slotkin	Carson	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Connolly	Lee (PA)	Smith (WA)	Carter (LA)	Kamlager-Dove	Sarbanes
Craig	Leger Fernandez	Sorensen	Cartwright	Kaptur	Scanlon
Crockett	Levin	Stansbury	Casar	Keating	Schakowsky
Davids (KS)	Lieu	Stevens	Case	Khanna	Schneider
Davis (IL)	Lofgren	Sykes	Casten	Kildee	Scholten
Dean (PA)	Lynch	Takano	Castor (FL)	Kilmer	Scott (VA)
DeGette	Magaziner	Thanedar	Castro (TX)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
DeLauro	Matsui	Thompson (CA)	Cherfilus-	Kuster	Sewell
DelBene	McBath	Thompson (MS)	McCormick	Landsman	Sherman
Deluzio	McClellan	Titus	Chu	Larsen (WA)	Sherrill
DeSaulnier	McCollum	Tlaib	Clark (MA)	Larson (CT)	Slotkin
Dingell	McGarvey	Tokuda	Clarke (NY)	Lee (CA)	Smith (WA)
Doggett	McGovern	Tonko	Cleaver	Lee (PA)	Sorensen
Escobar	Menendez	Torres (CA)	Clyburn	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Eshoo	Meng	Trahan	Cohen	Levin	Spanberger
Españillat	Mfume	Trone	Connolly	Lieu	Stanton
Evans	Mullin	Underwood	Correa	Lofgren	Stevens
Foushee	Nadler	Veasey	Costa	Lynch	Strickland
Frankel, Lois	Napolitano	Velázquez	Courtney	Magaziner	Suozi
Frost	Norcross	Wasserman	Crockett	Manning	Swalwell
Garamendi	Norton	Schultz	Crow	Matsui	Sykes
Garcia (IL)	Ocasio-Cortez	Waters	Cuellar	McBath	Thanedar
Garcia (TX)	Omar	Watson Coleman	Davids (KS)	McClellan	Thompson (CA)
Garcia, Robert	Pallone	Wexton	Davis (IL)	McCollum	Thompson (MS)
Golden (ME)	Pascarell	Williams (GA)	Davis (NC)	McGarvey	Titus
Goldman (NY)		Wilson (FL)	Dean (PA)	McGovern	Tlaib
			DeGette	Meeks	Tokuda
			DeLauro	Menendez	Tonko
			DelBene	Meng	Torres (CA)
			Deluzio	Mfume	Torres (NY)
			DeSaulnier	Moore (WI)	Trahan
			Dingell	Morelle	Trone
			Doggett	Moskowitz	Underwood
			Escobar	Mrvan	Vargas
			Eshoo	Mullin	Vasquez
			Españillat	Nadler	Veasey
			Evans	Napolitano	Velázquez
			Fletcher	Neal	Wasserman
			Foster	Neguse	Schultz
			Foushee	Nickel	Waters
			Frankel, Lois	Norcross	Watson Coleman
			Frost	Norton	Wexton
			Gallego	Ocasio-Cortez	Wild
			Garamendi	Omar	Williams (GA)
			Garcia (IL)	Pallone	Wilson (FL)
			Garcia (TX)	Panetta	

NOT VOTING—13

Buck	Hunt	Schiff
González-Colón	Kim (NJ)	Torres (NY)
Gosar	Lesko	Valadao
Granger	Porter	
Grijalva	Radewagen	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1428

Mrs. HAYES changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. SHERMAN  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5, printed in part B of House Report 118-407 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.  
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED NOTE  
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.  
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 203, noes 223, not voting 11, as follows:

NOES—223

Aderholt	Burchett	DesJarlais
Alford	Burgess	Diaz-Balart
Allen	Burlison	Donalds
Amodei	Calvert	Duarte
Armstrong	Cammack	Duncan
Arrington	Carey	Dunn (FL)
Auchincloss	Carl	Edwards
Babin	Carter (GA)	Ellzey
Bacon	Carter (TX)	Emmer
Baird	Chavez-DeRemer	Estes
Balderson	Ciscomani	Ezell
Banks	Cline	Fallon
Barr	Cloud	Feenstra
Bean (FL)	Clyde	Ferguson
Bentz	Cole	Finstad
Bergman	Collins	Fischbach
Bice	Comer	Fitzgerald
Biggs	Craig	Fitzpatrick
Bilirakis	Crane	Fleischmann
Bishop (NC)	Crawford	Flood
Boebert	Crenshaw	Fox
Bost	Curtis	Franklin, Scott
Brecheen	D'Esposito	Fry
Buchanan	Davidson	Fulcher
Buohon	De La Cruz	Gaetz



Gallagher	Lee (NV)	Rogers (KY)
Garbarino	Lesko	Rose
García, Mike	Letlow	Rosendale
Gimenez	Loudermilk	Rouzer
Gonzales, Tony	Lucas	Roy
Good (VA)	Luetkemeyer	Rutherford
Gooden (TX)	Luna	Salazar
Graves (LA)	Luttrell	Scalise
Graves (MO)	Mace	Schrier
Green (TN)	Malliotakis	Schweikert
Greene (GA)	Maloy	Scott, Austin
Griffith	Mann	Self
Grothman	Massie	Sessions
Guest	Mast	Simpson
Guthrie	McCaul	Smith (MO)
Hageman	McClain	Smith (NE)
Harris	McClintock	Smith (NJ)
Harshbarger	McCormick	Smucker
Hern	McHenry	Spartz
Higgins (LA)	Meuser	Staubert
Hill	Miller (IL)	Steel
Hinson	Miller (OH)	Stefanik
Houchin	Miller (WV)	Steil
Houlahan	Miller-Meeks	Steube
Hudson	Mills	Strong
Huizenga	Molinaro	Takano
Hunt	Moolenaar	Takano
Issa	Mooney	Tenney
Jackson (TX)	Moore (AL)	Thompson (PA)
James	Moore (UT)	Tiffany
Johnson (SD)	Moran	Timmons
Jordan	Moulton	Turner
Joyce (OH)	Moylan	Van Drew
Joyce (PA)	Murphy	Van Dwyne
Kean (NJ)	Nehls	Van Orden
Kelly (MS)	Newhouse	Wagner
Kelly (PA)	Norman	Walberg
Kiggans (VA)	Nunn (IA)	Waltz
Kiley	Obernalte	Weber (TX)
Kim (CA)	Ogles	Webster (FL)
Kustoff	Owens	Wenstrup
LaHood	Palmer	Westerman
LaLota	Pence	Williams (NY)
LaMalfa	Perez	Williams (TX)
Lamborn	Perry	Wilson (SC)
Langworthy	Pfleger	Wittman
Latta	Posey	Womack
LaTurner	Reschenthaler	Yakym
Lawler	Rodgers (WA)	Zinke
Lee (FL)	Rogers (AL)	

NOT VOTING—11

Buck	Grijalva	Radewagen
González-Colón	Kelly (IL)	Schiff
Gosar	Kim (NJ)	Valadao
Granger	Porter	

1432

Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. TURNER, and Ms. SALAZAR changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, I was unable to be present to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 66, “yea” on rollcall 67, “nay” on rollcall 68, “nay” on rollcall 69, “nay” on rollcall 70, “nay” on rollcall 71, and “yea” on rollcall 72.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chair, due to a family emergency, I was not present for today’s votes on H.R. 7511 and H.R. 3843, as well as the amendments to H.R. 2799. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 66, “yea” on rollcall No. 67, “yea” on rollcall No. 68, “yea” on rollcall No. 69, “yea” on rollcall No. 70, “yea” on rollcall No. 71, and “nay” on rollcall No. 72.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chair, due to events in California, I will unfortunately be unable to cast my vote for legislation considered on the House floor today. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted according to the following: “no” on rollcall No. 66, Passage of H.R. 7511—Laken Riley Act, “yea” on rollcall No. 67, H.R. 3843—Action for Dental Health

Act of 2023, “no” on rollcall No. 68, Lawler #1 Amendment on H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act, “no” on rollcall No. 69, Huizenga #2 Amendment on H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act, “no” on rollcall No. 70, Lucas #3 Amendment on H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act, “no” on rollcall No. 71, Wagner #4 Amendment on H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act, and “yea” on rollcall No. 72, Sherman #5 Amendment on H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY) having assumed the chair, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2799) to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ERADICATING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND FORMULATING EFFECTIVE NEW TOOLS TO ADDRESS NATIONAL YEARLY LOSSES OF LIFE ACT

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 (S. 206) to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) 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.

DHS BIODETECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARBARINO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 6174) to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, 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 Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) 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.

MISCOMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to take note of the fact that some of us on the Energy and Commerce Committee were in executive session on a very important national security matter, and we were told that the first vote this evening was going to be held for us for a few minutes so we could get down here and vote.

Unfortunately, that did not happen. I was upset by it. It was obviously a miscommunication from the floor. However, I do want everyone to understand that those of us who were not able to vote on that first matter this evening did so because of the executive session on national security, and it was through no fault of our own that we missed that first vote.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF 6542.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 6542.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman’s request is granted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet tonight in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of purporting to reserve seats prior to the joint session by placement of placards or personal items will not be allowed. Chamber Security may remove these items from the seats. Members may reserve their seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2036

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS  
PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION 93 TO RE-  
CEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER);

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE);

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE);

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD);

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN); and

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO); and

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William P. McFarland, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Good evening. Good evening.

If I were smart, I would go home now.

Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, Members of Congress, my fellow Americans, in January 1941, Franklin Roosevelt came to this Chamber to speak to the Nation, and he said: "I address you . . . at a moment unprecedented in the history of the Union."

Hitler was on the march. War was raging in Europe. President Roosevelt's purpose was to wake up Congress and alert the American people that this was no ordinary time. Freedom and democracy were under assault in the world.

Tonight, I come to this same Chamber to address the Nation. Now, it is we

who face an unprecedented moment in the history of the Union, and, yes, my purpose tonight is to wake up the Congress and alert the American people that this is no ordinary moment, either.

Not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under assault at home as they are today. What makes our moment rare is that freedom and democracy are under attack both at home and overseas at the very same time.

Overseas, Putin of Russia is on the march, invading Ukraine and sowing chaos throughout Europe and beyond. If anybody in this room thinks Putin will stop at Ukraine, I assure you, he will not. But Ukraine can stop Putin.

Ukraine can stop Putin if we stand with Ukraine and provide the weapons that it needs to defend itself. That is all. That is all Ukraine is asking. They are not asking for American soldiers. In fact, there are no American soldiers at war in Ukraine, and I am determined to keep it that way. But, now, assistance to Ukraine is being blocked by those who want to walk away from our world leadership.

It wasn't long ago when a Republican President named Ronald Reagan thundered: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

Now, my predecessor, a former Republican President, tells Putin: Do whatever the hell you want.

That is a quote. The former President actually said that, bowing down to a Russian leader.

I think it is outrageous, it is dangerous, and it is unacceptable.

America is a founding member of NATO, the military alliance of democratic nations created after World War II to prevent war and keep the peace, and today, we have made NATO stronger than ever. We welcomed Finland to the alliance last year, and, just this morning, Sweden officially joined, and their Minister is here tonight.

Stand up.

Welcome. Welcome. Welcome. Welcome.

And they know how to fight.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to NATO, the strongest military alliance the world has ever seen.

I say this to Congress: We have to stand up to Putin. Send me a bipartisan national security bill. History is literally watching. History is watching.

If the United States walks away, it will put Ukraine at risk. Europe is at risk. The free world will be at risk, emboldening others to do what they wish to do us harm.

My message to President Putin, whom I have known for a long time, is simple. We will not walk away. We will not bow down. I will not bow down. In a literal sense, history is watching.

History is watching, just like history watched 3 years ago on January 6th.

Insurrectionists stormed this very Capitol and placed a dagger to the throat of American democracy.

Many of you were here on that darkest of days.

We all saw with our own eyes the insurrectionists were not patriots.

They had come to stop the peaceful transfer of power and to overturn the will of the people.

January 6th and the lies about the 2020 election, and the plots to steal the election, posed the gravest threat to U.S. democracy since the Civil War.

But they failed. America stood strong and democracy prevailed.

We must be honest, the threat to democracy must be defended.

My predecessor and some of you here seek to bury the truth about January 6th.

I will not do that.

This is a moment to speak the truth and bury the lies.

Here is the simple truth: You can't love your country only when you win.

As I have done ever since being elected to office, I ask all of you, without regard to party, to join together and defend democracy.

Remember your oath of office to defend against all threats foreign and domestic.

Respect free and fair elections. Restore trust in our institutions. And make clear, political violence has absolutely no place, no place in America. Zero place.

Again, it is not hyperbole to suggest history is watching. We are watching. Your children and grandchildren will read about this day and what we do.

History is watching another assault on freedom. Joining us tonight is Latorya Beasley, a social worker from Birmingham, Alabama. Fourteen months ago, she and her husband welcomed a baby girl thanks to the miracle of IVF.

She scheduled treatments to have that second child, but the Alabama Supreme Court shut down IVF treatments across the State, unleashed by a Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade. She was told her dream would have to wait.

What her family has gone through should never have happened. Unless Congress acts, it could happen again.

Tonight, let's stand up for families like hers. To my friends across the aisle, don't keep us waiting any longer. Guarantee the right to IVF. Guarantee it nationwide.

Like most Americans, I believe Roe v. Wade got it right. I thank Vice President HARRIS for being an incredible leader, defending reproductive freedom and so much more.

My predecessor came to office determined to see Roe v. Wade overturned. He is the reason it was overturned, and he brags about it.

Look at the chaos that has resulted.

Joining us tonight is Kate Cox, a wife and mother from Dallas. When she became pregnant again, the fetus had a fatal condition. Her doctors told Kate that her own life and her ability to have children in the future were at risk if she didn't act.

Because Texas law banned her ability to act, Kate and her husband had to leave the State to get what she needed.

What her family has gone through should never have happened as well, but it is happening to so many others.

There are State laws banning the freedom to choose, criminalizing doctors, and forcing survivors of rape and incest to leave their States to get the treatment they need.

Many of you in this Chamber and my predecessor are promising to pass a national ban on reproductive freedom. My God, what freedoms will you take away?

In its decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court majority wrote the following—and with all due respect, Justices—“Women are not without electoral or political power.” You are about to realize just how much you were wrong about that.

Clearly, those bragging about overturning Roe v. Wade have no clue about the power of women, but they found out when reproductive freedom was on the ballot. We won in 2022, 2023, and we will win again in 2024.

If you, the American people, send me a Congress that supports the right to choose, I promise you I will restore Roe v. Wade as the law of the land again.

America cannot go back. I am here tonight to show the way forward because I know how far we have come.

Four years ago next week, before I came to office, the country was hit by the worst pandemic and the worst economic crisis in a century.

Remember the fear; record job losses. Remember the spikes in crime and the murder rate; a raging virus that took more than 1 million American lives of loved ones and millions left behind; a mental health crisis of isolation and loneliness.

A President, my predecessor, failed the most basic Presidential duty that he owes to American people, the duty to care.

I think that is unforgivable. I came to office determined to get us through one of the toughest periods in the Nation's history. We have. It doesn't make news, but in thousands of cities and towns, the American people are writing the greatest comeback story never told.

So let's tell the story here and now. America's comeback is building a future of American possibilities, building an economy from the middle out and the bottom up, not the top down, investing in all America, in all Americans to make sure everyone has a fair shot and we leave no one behind.

The pandemic no longer controls our lives. The vaccine that saved us from COVID are now being used to beat cancer. Turning setback into comeback. That is what America does.

That is what America does. I inherited an economy that was on the brink. Now our economy is literally the envy of the world: 15 million new jobs in just 3 years, a record; unemployment at 50-year lows; a record 16 million Ameri-

cans are starting small businesses and each one is a literal act of hope.

With historic job growth and small business growth for Black and Hispanics and Asian Americans; 800,000 new manufacturing jobs in America and counting.

Where is it written we can't be the manufacturing capital of the world? We are. We will.

More people have health insurance today than ever before. The racial wealth gap is as small as it has been in 20 years. Wages keep going up, and inflation keeps coming down. Inflation has dropped from 9 percent to 3 percent, the lowest in the world, and trending lower. The landing is and will be soft.

And now, instead of importing foreign products and exporting American jobs, we are exporting American products and creating American jobs—right here in America, where they belong.

It takes time, but the American people are beginning to feel it. Consumer studies show consumer confidence is soaring. Buy American has been the law of the land since the 1930s. Past administrations, including my predecessor, including some Democrats as well in the past, failed to buy American. Not anymore.

On my watch, Federal projects that you fund, like helping build American roads, bridges, and highways, will be made with American products and built by American workers, creating good-paying American jobs.

Thanks to our Chips and Science Act, the United States is investing more in research and development than ever before. During the pandemic, a shortage of semiconductor chips drove up the price of everything from cell phones to automobiles. And by the way, we invented those chips right here in America.

Well, instead of having to import them, private companies are now investing billions of dollars to build new chip factories here in America, creating tens of thousands of jobs, many of those jobs paying \$100,000 a year and don't require a college degree.

In fact, my policies have attracted \$650 billion in private-sector investments in clean energy and advanced manufacturing, creating tens of thousands of jobs here in America.

Thanks to our bipartisan infrastructure law, 46,000 new projects have been announced all across your communities.

By the way, I notice some of you who strongly voted against it are there cheering on that money coming in. I like it. I am with you. I am with you. If any of you don't want that money in your district, just let me know.

We are modernizing our roads and bridges, ports and airports, and public transit systems; removing poisonous lead pipes so every child can drink clean water without risk of brain damage; providing affordable, high-speed internet for every American, no matter where you live, urban, suburban, and

rural communities in red States and blue States; record investments in Tribal communities.

Because of my investments in family farms, led by my Secretary of Agriculture, who knows more about this than anybody I know, those farms are better able to stay in the family, so their children and grandchildren won't have to leave home to make a living. It is transformative.

A great comeback story is Belvidere, Illinois, home to an auto plant for nearly 60 years. Before I came to office, the plant was on its way to shutting down. Thousands of workers feared for their livelihoods. Hope was fading.

Then, I was elected to office, and we raised Belvidere repeatedly with the auto company, knowing unions would make all the difference. The UAW worked like hell to keep the plant open and get these jobs back, and together, we succeeded.

Instead of an auto factory shutting down, an auto factory is reopening, and a new state-of-the-art battery factory is being built to power those cars. To the folks in Belvidere, I say: Instead of your town being left behind, your community is moving forward again because instead of watching auto jobs in the future go overseas, 4,000 union jobs with higher wages are building the future in Belvidere, right here in America.

Here tonight is UAW president Shawn Fain, a great friend and great labor leader.

Shawn, where are you? Shawn, stand up.

And Dawn Simms, a third-generation UAW worker at Belvidere—Shawn, I was proud to be the first President to stand on the picket line.

Today, Dawn has a good job in her hometown, providing stability for her family and pride and dignity as well, showing once again Wall Street didn't build America. They are not bad guys. They didn't build it, though. The middle class built the country, and unions built the middle class.

I say to the American people, when America gets knocked down, we get back up. We keep going. That is America. That is you, the American people. It is because of you America is coming back. It is because of you our future is brighter. It is because of you that tonight we can proudly say the state of our Union is strong and getting stronger.

Tonight, I want to talk about the future of possibilities that we can build together, a future where the days of trickle-down economics are over and the wealthy and biggest corporations no longer get all the tax breaks.

By the way, I understand corporations. I come from a State that has more corporations invested than every one of your States in the United States combined, and I represented them for 36 years. I am not anticorporation, but I grew up in a home where trickle-down economics didn't put much on my dad's kitchen table.

That is why I am determined to turn things around, so the middle class does well. When they do well, the poor have a way up, and the wealthy still do very well. We all do well.

There is more to do to make sure you are feeling the benefits of all we are doing.

Americans pay more for prescription drugs than anywhere in the world. It is wrong, and I am ending it. With a law that I proposed and signed—not one of you Republican buddies voted for it—we finally beat Big Pharma. Instead of paying \$400 a month or thereabouts for insulin, seniors with diabetes—and it only costs \$10 to make—they only have to pay \$35 a month now. And they will still make a healthy profit.

And what to do next? I want to cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for every American who needs it—everyone.

For years, people have talked about it, but finally, we got it done and gave Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices on prescription drugs, just like the VA is able to do for veterans.

That is not just saving seniors money. It is saving taxpayers money.

We cut the Federal deficit by \$160 billion because Medicare will no longer have to pay those exorbitant prices to Big Pharma.

This year, Medicare is negotiating lower prices for some of the costliest drugs on the market that treat everything from heart disease to arthritis.

It is now time to go further and give Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices for 500 different drugs over the next decade.

They are making a lot of money, guys, and they will still be extremely profitable.

That will not only save lives, it will save taxpayers another \$200 billion.

Starting next year, the same law caps total prescription drug costs for seniors on Medicare at \$2,000 a year, even for expensive cancer drugs that cost \$10,000, \$12,000, \$15,000. Now, I want to cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 a year for everyone.

Folks, I am going to get in trouble for saying it, but if you want to get in Air Force One with me and fly to Toronto, Berlin, Moscow—I mean—excuse me—well, even Moscow, probably—and bring your prescription with you, I promise you, I will get it for you for 40 percent the cost you are paying now—same company, same drug, same place.

Folks, the Affordable Care Act, the old ObamaCare, is still a very big deal. Over 100 million of you can no longer be denied health insurance because of preexisting conditions, but my predecessor and many in this Chamber want to take those prescription drugs away by repealing the Affordable Care Act. I am not going to let that happen.

We stopped you 50 times before, and we will stop you again. In fact, I am not only protecting it, I am expanding it.

We enacted tax credits of \$800 per person per year to reduce healthcare

costs for millions of working families. That tax credit expires next year. I want to make that savings permanent.

To state the obvious, women are more than half our population, but research on women's health has always been underfunded. That is why we are launching the first-ever White House Initiative on Women's Health Research, led by Jill, doing an incredible job as First Lady.

So, pass my plan for \$12 billion to transform women's health research and benefit millions of lives all across America.

I know the cost of housing is so important to you. If inflation keeps coming down, mortgage rates will come down as well, and the Fed acknowledges that, but I am not waiting.

I want to provide an annual tax credit that will give Americans \$400 a month for the next 2 years as mortgage rates come down to put toward their mortgages when they buy their first home or trade up for a little more space—just for 2 years.

My administration is also eliminating title insurance on federally backed mortgages. When you refinance your home, you can save \$1,000 or more as a consequence.

For millions of renters, we are cracking down on big landlords who break antitrust laws by price-fixing and driving up rents.

We have cut red tape so more builders can get Federal financing, which is already helping build a record 1.7 million new housing units nationwide.

Now, pass my plan to build and renovate 2 million affordable homes and bring those rents down.

To remain the strongest economy in the world, we need to have the best education system in the world. I, like I suspect all of you, want to give a child—every child—a good start by providing access to preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds.

I think I pointed out last year that children coming from broken homes where there are no books, they are not read to, not spoken to very often, and start school, kindergarten, or first grade having heard a million fewer words spoken.

Studies show that children who go to preschool are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish school and go on to earn a 2- or 4-year degree, no matter what their background is.

I met, a year and a half ago, with the leaders of the Business Roundtable. They were mad. They were angry. Well, they were discussing why I wanted to spend money on education. I pointed out to them, as Vice President, I met with over—I think it was 182 of those folks. Don't hold me to the exact number. And I asked them what they need most as CEOs, and you have had the same experience on both sides of the aisle. They say a better educated workforce, right? So, I looked at them, and I say: I come from Delaware. DuPont used to be the eighth largest corporation in the world. And every new enterprise they bought, they educated the

workforce to that enterprise, but none of you do that anymore. Why are you angry with me for providing you the opportunity for the best educated workforce in the world?

They all looked at me and said: I think you are right.

I want to expand high-quality tutoring and summer learning to see that every child learns to read by third grade.

I am also connecting local businesses and high schools so students get hands-on experience and a path to good-paying jobs, whether or not they go to college.

I want to make sure that college is more affordable. Let's continue increasing the Pell grants to working and middle-class families and increase record investments in HBCUs and minority-serving institutions, including Hispanic institutions.

When I was told I couldn't universally just change the way in which you dealt with student loans, I fixed two student loan programs that already existed to reduce the burden of student debt for nearly 4 million Americans, including nurses, firefighters, and others in public service like Keenan Jones, a public school educator from Minnesota who is here with us tonight.

Keenan, where are you? Keenan, thank you.

He has educated hundreds of students so they can go to college. Now, he is able to help, after debt forgiveness, to get his own daughter to college.

Folks, look, such relief is good for the economy because folks are now able to buy a home, start a business, start a family.

While we are at it, I want to give public school teachers a raise.

By the way, the first couple years, we cut the deficit.

Now, let me speak to the question of fundamental fairness for all Americans. I have been delivering real results in fiscally responsible ways. We have already cut the Federal deficit over a trillion dollars. I signed a bipartisan deal to cut another trillion dollars in the next decade.

It is my goal to cut the Federal deficit another \$3 trillion by making big corporations and the very wealthy finally begin to pay their fair share.

Look, I am a capitalist. If you want to make or can make millions and millions of bucks, that is great. Just pay your fair share in taxes.

A fair tax code is how we invest in things that make this country great: healthcare, education, defense, and so much more, but here is the deal. The last administration enacted a \$2 trillion tax cut that overwhelmingly benefited the top 1 percent, the very wealthy, the biggest corporations, and exploded the Federal deficit.

They added more to the national debt than in any other Presidential term in American history. Check the numbers.

For folks at home, does anybody really think the tax code is fair? Do you really think the wealthy and big

corporations need another \$2 trillion in tax breaks?

I sure don't. I am going to keep fighting like hell to make it fair. Under my plan, nobody earning less than \$400,000 will pay an additional penny in taxes. Nobody. Not one penny. And they haven't yet.

In fact, the child tax credit I passed during the pandemic cut taxes for millions of working families and cut child poverty in half. Restore that child tax credit. No child should go hungry in this country.

The way to make the tax code fair is to make big corporations and the very wealthy begin to pay their fair share.

Remember in 2020, 55 of the biggest companies in America made \$40 billion and paid zero in Federal income taxes—zero.

Not anymore.

Thanks to the law I wrote and signed, big companies have to pay a minimum of 15 percent. But that is still less than working people pay in Federal taxes. It is time to raise the corporate minimum tax to at least 21 percent so every big corporation finally begins to pay their fair share.

I also want to end tax breaks for Big Pharma, Big Oil, private jets, and massive executive pay when it is only supposed to be a million dollars that can be deducted. They can pay them 20 million if they want but deduct a million. End it now.

You know, there are 1,000 billionaires in America. Do you know what the average Federal tax is for those billionaires? No? They are making great sacrifices—8.2 percent. That is far less than the vast majority of Americans pay.

No billionaire should pay a lower Federal tax rate than a teacher, a sanitation worker, or a nurse.

I propose the minimum tax for billionaires of 25 percent—just 25 percent. Do you know what that would raise? That would raise \$500 billion over the next 10 years.

And imagine what that could do for America. Imagine a future with affordable childcare so millions of families can get the care they need to go to work to help grow the economy.

Imagine a future with paid leave because no one should have to choose between working and taking care of their sick family member.

Imagine a future with home care and elder care and people living with disabilities so they can stay in their homes and family caregivers can finally get the pay they deserve.

Tonight, let's all agree once again to stand up for seniors.

Many of my friends on the other side of the aisle want to put Social Security on the chopping block. If anyone here tries to cut Social Security and Medicare or raise the retirement age, I will stop you.

The working people who built this country pay more into Social Security than millionaires and billionaires do. It is not fair.

We have two ways to go. Republicans can cut Social Security and give more tax breaks to the wealthy—that is the proposal.

Oh, no? You guys don't want another \$2 trillion tax cut? I kind of thought that is what your plan was. Well, that is good to hear. You are not going to cut another \$2 trillion for the super wealthy? That is good to hear.

I will protect and strengthen Social Security and make the wealthy pay their fair share.

Look, too many corporations raise prices to pad their profits, charging more and more for less and less. That is why we are cracking down on corporations engaging in price gouging and deceptive pricing from food to healthcare to housing.

In fact, the snack companies think you won't notice if they change the size of the bag and put a hell of a lot fewer—same size bag, put fewer chips in it. No, I am not joking. It is called shrinkflation. Pass BOBBY CASEY's bill and stop this. I really mean it.

You probably all saw that commercial on Snickers bars, and you get charged the same amount, and you got about—I don't know—10 percent fewer Snickers in it.

Look, I am also getting rid of junk fees, those hidden fees at the end of your bills that are there without your knowledge. My administration announced we are cutting credit card late fees from \$32 to \$8.

The banks and credit card companies are allowed to charge what it costs them to instigate the collection, and that is a hell of a lot more like \$8 than 30-something dollars. They don't like it. The credit card companies don't like it, but I am saving American families \$20 billion a year with all the junk fees I am eliminating.

Folks at home, that is why the banks are so mad. It is \$20 billion in profit.

I am not stopping there. My administration has proposed rules to make cable, travel, utilities, and online ticket sellers tell you the total price up front so there are no surprises.

It matters. It matters. And so does this.

In November, my team began serious negotiations with a bipartisan group of Senators. The result was a bipartisan bill with the toughest set of border security reforms we have ever seen.

Oh, you don't think so? Oh, you don't like that bill, huh, that conservatives got together and said it was a good bill? I will be darned. That is amazing.

That bipartisan bill would hire 1,500 more security agents and officers, 100 more immigration judges to help tackle the backlog of 2 million cases, 4,300 more asylum officers and new policies so they can resolve cases in 6 months instead of 6 years now.

What do you get? 100 more high-tech drug detection machines to significantly increase the ability to screen and stop vehicles smuggling fentanyl into America that is killing thousands of children.

This bill would save lives and bring order to the border. It would also give me and any new President new emergency authority to temporarily shut down the border when the number of migrants at the border is overwhelming.

The Border Patrol union has endorsed this bill. The Federal Chamber of Commerce—yeah, yeah, you are saying no. Look at the facts. I know you know how to read.

I believe that given the opportunity a majority of the House and Senate would endorse the bill, as well—the majority right now. But, unfortunately, politics has derailed this bill so far.

I am told my predecessor called Members of Congress and the Senate to demand they block the bill. He feels it would be a political win for me and a political loss for him.

It is not about him. It is not about me.

It would be a winner.

Laken Riley, an innocent young woman who was killed by an illegal—that is right—but how many thousands of people are being killed by legals? To her parents I say, my heart goes out to you, having lost children myself. I understand.

But, look, if we change the dynamic at the border—people pay these smugglers 8,000 bucks to get across the border because they know if they get by—if they get by and let into the country it is 6 to 8 years before they have a hearing, and it is worth taking the chance for \$8,000. But if it is only 6 weeks, the idea is it is highly unlikely that people will pay that money and come all that way knowing that they will be able to be kicked out quickly.

Folks, I would respectfully suggest to my Republican friends, you owe it to the American people. Get this bill done. We need to act now.

If my predecessor is watching, instead of playing politics and pressuring Members of Congress to block the bill, join me in telling Congress to pass it.

We can do it together.

Here is what I will not do: I will not demonize immigrants by saying they poison the blood of our country. I will not separate families. I will not ban people because of their faith.

Unlike my predecessor, on my first day in office, I introduced a comprehensive bill to fix our immigration system. Take a look at it. It has all these and more: Secure the border, provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and so much more.

Unlike my predecessor, I know who we are as Americans. We are the only Nation in the world with a heart and soul that draws from old and new; home to Native Americans whose ancestors have been here for thousands of years; home to people from every place on Earth.

Some came freely; some came in chains; some came when famine struck, like my ancestral family from Ireland; some to flee persecution; some to chase

dreams that are impossible anywhere but here in America. That is America. We all come from somewhere, but we are all Americans.

Folks, we have a simple choice. We can fight about fixing the border or we can fix it. I am ready to fix it. Send me the border bill now.

A transformational moment in history happened 59 years ago today in Selma, Alabama. Hundreds of foot soldiers for justice marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, named after the grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, to claim their fundamental right to vote. They were beaten. They were bloodied and left for dead. Our late friend and former colleague John Lewis was on that march. We miss him.

Joining us tonight are other marchers, both on the gallery and on the floor, including Bettie Mae Fikes, known as the Voice of Selma. The daughter of gospel singers and preachers, she sang songs of prayer and protest on that Bloody Sunday to help shake the Nation's conscience. Five months later, the Voting Rights Act passed and was signed into law.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Fifty-nine years later, there are forces taking us back in time: Voter suppression, election subversion, unlimited dark money, extreme gerrymandering.

John Lewis was a great friend to many of us here, but if you truly want to honor him and all the heroes that marched with him, then it is time to do more than talk. Pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Stop the denying another core value of America: our diversity across American life.

Banning books, it is wrong. Instead of erasing history, let's make history.

I want to protect fundamental rights. Pass the Equality Act. My message to transgender Americans: I have your back.

Pass the PRO Act for workers' rights. Raise the Federal minimum wage, because every worker has a right to a decent living, more than 7 bucks an hour.

We are also making history by confronting the climate crisis, not denying it. I don't think any of you think there is no longer a climate crisis. At least I hope you don't.

I am taking the most significant action ever on climate in the history of the world. I am cutting our carbon emissions in half by 2030; creating tens of thousands of clean energy jobs, like the IBEW workers building and installing 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations; conserving 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030; and taking action on environmental justice for fenceline communities smothered by the legacy of pollution.

And patterned after the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps, I launched the Climate Corps to put 20,000 young people to work at the forefront of our clean energy future. I will triple that number in a decade.

To state the obvious, all Americans deserve the freedom to be safe, and America is safer today than when I took office.

The year before I took office, murder rates went up 30 percent. Thirty percent they went up, the biggest increase in history. That was then.

Now, through my American Rescue Plan, which every Republican voted against, I might add, we made the largest investment in public safety ever.

Last year, the murder rate saw the sharpest decrease in history, and violent crime fell to one of its lowest levels in more than 50 years.

But we have more to do. Help cities invest in more community police officers, more mental health workers, and more community violence intervention. Give communities the tools to crack down on gun crime, retail crime, and carjacking.

Keep building public trust, as I have been doing by taking executive action on police reform and calling for it to be the law of the land, directing my Cabinet to review the Federal classification of marijuana and expunging thousands of convictions for mere possession, because no one should be jailed for simply using or have it on their record.

To take on crimes of domestic violence, I am ramping up the Federal enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act that I proudly wrote when I was a Senator, so we can finally end the scourge against women in America.

There are other kinds of violence I want to stop. With us tonight is Jasmine, whose 9-year-old sister Jackie was murdered with 21 classmates and teachers in an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

Very soon after that happened, Jill and I went to Uvalde for a couple days. We spent hours and hours with each of the families. We heard their message so everyone in this room, in this Chamber, could hear the same message, the constant refrain. I was there for hours meeting with every family. They said: Do something. Do something.

Well, I did do something by establishing the first-ever Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the White House with the Vice President leading the charge.

Thank you for doing that.

Meanwhile, my predecessor told the NRA he is proud he did nothing on guns when he was President.

After another school shooting in Iowa recently, when asked what to do about it, he said just "get over it." There is his quote, just "get over it."

I say: Stop it, stop it, stop it, stop it.

I am proud we beat the NRA when I signed the most significant gun safety law in nearly 30 years because of this Congress. We now must beat the NRA again.

I am demanding a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Pass universal background checks.

I taught the Second Amendment for 12 years, and none of this violates the Second Amendment or vilifies responsible gun owners.

As we manage challenges at home, we are also managing crises abroad, including the Middle East. I know the last 5 months have been gut-wrenching for so many people, for the Israeli people, the Palestinian people, and so many here in America.

This crisis began on October 7 with a massacre by the terrorist group called Hamas, as you all know. 1,200 innocent people, women and girls, men and boys, slaughtered, many after enduring sexual violence. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust, and 250 hostages taken.

Here in this Chamber tonight are families whose loved ones are still being held by Hamas. I pledge to all the families that we will not rest until we bring every one of your loved ones home.

We will also work around the clock to bring home Evan and Paul, Americans being unjustly detained by the Russians and others around the world.

Israel has a right to go after Hamas. Hamas could end this conflict by releasing hostages. Laying down arms could end it, releasing the hostages, laying down arms, and surrendering those responsible for October 7.

Israel has an added burden because Hamas hides and operates among the civilian population like cowards—under hospitals, daycare centers, and all the like. Israel also has a fundamental responsibility, though, to protect innocent civilians in Gaza.

This war has taken a greater toll on innocent civilians than all previous wars in Gaza combined. More than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed, most of whom are not Hamas. Thousands and thousands are innocent women and children—girls and boys also orphaned.

Nearly 2 million more Palestinians are under bombardment or displacement—homes destroyed, neighbors in rubble, cities in ruin. Families are without food, water, medicine. It is heartbreaking.

I have been working nonstop to establish an immediate cease-fire that would last for 6 weeks to get all the prisoners released, all the hostages released, to get the hostages home and ease the intolerable and humanitarian crisis and build toward something more enduring.

The United States is leading international efforts to get more humanitarian assistance into Gaza. Tonight, I am directing the U.S. military to lead an emergency mission to establish a temporary pier in the Mediterranean on the coast of Gaza that can receive large shipments carrying food, water, medicine, and temporary shelters.

No U.S. boots will be on the ground.

A temporary pier will enable a massive increase in the amount of humanitarian assistance getting into Gaza every day, and Israel must do its part. Israel must allow more aid into Gaza and ensure humanitarian workers aren't caught in the crossfire. They are announcing they are going to have a crossing in northern Gaza.

To the leadership of Israel, I say this: Humanitarian assistance cannot be a secondary consideration or a bargaining chip. Protecting and saving innocent lives has to be a priority.

As we look to the future, the only real solution to the situation is a two-state solution over time.

I say this as a lifelong supporter of Israel my entire career. No one has a stronger record with Israel than I do. I challenge any of you here. I am the only American President to visit Israel in wartime.

There is no other path that guarantees Israel's security and democracy. There is no other path that guarantees that Palestinians can live with peace and dignity. And there is no other path that guarantees peace between Israel and all of its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia, with whom I am talking.

Creating stability in the Middle East also means containing the threat posed by Iran. That is why I built a coalition of more than a dozen countries to defend international shipping and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

I have ordered strikes to degrade the Houthi capabilities and defend U.S. forces in the region.

As Commander in Chief, I will not hesitate to direct further measures to protect our people and our military personnel.

For years, I have heard many of my Republican and Democratic friends say that China is on the rise and America is falling behind. They have got it backward. I have been saying it for over 4 years, even when I wasn't President: America is rising. We have the best economy in the world. Since I have come to office, our GDP is up, and our trade deficit with China is down to the lowest point in over a decade.

We are standing up against China's unfair economic practices. We are standing up for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. I have revitalized our partnership and alliance in the Pacific: India, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Pacific Islands.

I have made sure that the most advanced American technologies can't be used in China, not allowing to trade them there.

Frankly, for all his tough talk on China, it never occurred to my predecessor to do any of that.

I want competition with China, not conflict, and we are in a stronger position to win the competition for the 21st century against China or anyone else, for that matter—than at any time as well.

Here at home, I have signed over 400 bipartisan bills, but there is more to do to pass my Unity Agenda.

Strengthen penalties on fentanyl trafficking—you don't want to do that?

Pass bipartisan privacy legislation to protect our children online; harness the promise of AI and protect us from its peril; ban AI voice impersonations and more; and keep our one truly sacred obligation, to train and equip those we send into harm's way and care

for them and their families when they come home and when they don't.

That is why, with the strong support and help of Denis and the VA, I signed the PACT Act, one of the most significant laws ever, helping millions of veterans exposed to toxins who now are battling more than 100 different cancers.

Many of them don't come home, but we owe them and their families support.

We owe it to ourselves to keep supporting our new health research agency called ARPA-H and remind us that we can do big things like end cancer as we know it—and we will.

Let me close with this—I know you don't want to hear any more, Lindsey, but I have to say a few more things.

I know it may not look like it, but I have been around a while. When you get to be my age, certain things become clearer than ever. I know the American story. Again and again, I have seen the contest between competing forces and the battle for the soul of our Nation, between those who want to pull America back to the past and those who want to move America into the future.

My lifetime has taught me to embrace freedom and democracy, a future based on core values that defined America—honesty, decency, dignity, equality, to respect everyone, to give everyone a fair shot, to give hate no safe harbor.

Now, other people my age see it differently—the American story of resentment, revenge, and retribution. That is not me.

I was born amid World War II when America stood for freedom in the world. I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Claymont, Delaware, among working-class people who built this country.

I watched in horror as two of my heroes, like many of you did, Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy, were assassinated, and their legacies inspired me to pursue a career in service.

I left a law firm and became a public defender because my city of Wilmington was the only city in America occupied by the National Guard after Dr. King was assassinated because of the riots, and I became a county councilman, almost by accident.

I got elected to the United States Senate, when I had no intention of running, at age 29, then Vice President to our first Black President, now President to the first woman Vice President.

In my career, I have been told I was too young. By the way, they didn't let me on the Senate elevators for votes sometimes—not a joke. And I have been told I am too old.

Whether young or old, I have always known what endures. Our North Star.

The very idea of America, that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives, we have never fully lived up to that idea, but we have never walked away from it either. And I won't walk away from it now.



I am optimistic. I really am. I am optimistic, Nancy.

My fellow Americans, the issue facing our Nation isn't how old we are. It is how old are our ideas? Hate, anger, revenge, retribution are the oldest of ideas, but you can't lead America with ancient ideas that only take us back. To lead America, the land of possibilities, you need a vision for the future and what can and should be done.

Tonight, you have heard mine. I see a future where we defend democracy. You don't diminish it.

I see a future where we restore the right to choose and protect other freedoms, not take them away.

I see a future where the middle class finally has a fair shot, and the wealthy have to pay their fair share in taxes.

I see a future where we save the planet from the climate crisis and our country from gun violence.

Above all, I see a future for all Americans. I see a country for all Americans. And I will always be President for all Americans because I believe in America. I believe in you, the American people.

You are the reason I have never been more optimistic about our future than I am now, so let's build the future together.

Let's remember who we are. We are the United States of America, and there is nothing—nothing beyond our capacity when we act together.

God bless you all, and may God protect our troops.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.  
(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 10 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court;

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT SESSION DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

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.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 8, 2024, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-3323. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY23 Guidelines for Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grant [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-12] received February 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3324. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-12] received February 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3325. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY23 Guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-09] received February 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3326. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY23 Guidelines for Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-08] received February 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3327. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY23 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants (Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes) [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-06] received February 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3328. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Grant Program [EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-23-02] received February 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3329. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for application — FY24 Guidelines for Technical Assistance to Existing and Potential Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Recipients [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-24-01] received February 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3330. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY24 Guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-23-15] received February 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3331. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY24 Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Grants (Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes) [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-23-14] received February 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3332. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — FY24 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-23-08] received February 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6316. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an expiration date of certain committee resolutions with respect to leases or projects, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-413). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 6277. A bill to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to improve such Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-414). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Concurrent Resolution 83. Resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (Rept. 118-415). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2925. A bill to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-416). 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. VAN ORDEN (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 7576. A bill to amend section 6323 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the rate at which military leave accrues for members of the Reserve and the National Guard from 15 days to 30 days per year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 7577. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat energy efficient kegs as efficient commercial building property for purposes of the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 7578. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of technologies available to increase the security and resiliency of the communications networks of Taiwan, including through the development of redundancies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 7579. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to establish goals for the use of diverse investment advisers, brokers, and dealers in investment management agreements related to the Board of Governors unusual and exigent circumstances authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 7580. A bill to provide for the effective use of immigration detainers to enhance public safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COSTA, Ms. FOX, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 7581. A bill to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 7582. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from granting a work authorization to an alien found to have been unlawfully present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROSS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 7583. A bill to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in manufacturing positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. MACE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NORMAN, Ms.

GREENE of Georgia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 7584. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide cost estimates for legislation reported by the Committee on Appropriations of each House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 7585. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require the promulgation of cybersecurity and digital service regulations relating to the use of EBT cards under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MILLS (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 7586. A bill to establish a Department of State Domestic Protection Mission relating to unmanned aircraft system and unmanned aircraft; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 7587. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking with respect to categorical exclusions of the Maritime Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 7588. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, to reassess certain food ingredients used in the preparation of meat, poultry, and egg products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.J. Res. 118. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to temporarily fill vacancies in the House of Representatives to further the continuity of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the recognition of March 10, 2024, as "Abortion Provider Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H. Res. 1065. A resolution denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H. Res. 1066. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Mahmood Habibi, a

United States citizen, who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of United States citizens by the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-89. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 90, affirming this chamber's commitment to supporting an extension of the Affordable Connectivity Program, recognizing that this program provide Michigan citizens state wide with access to affordable broadband services; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## 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. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7576.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 14  
Article I, Section 8, clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend section 6323 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the rate at which military leave accrues for members of the Reserve and the National Guard from 15 days to 30 days per year, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 7577.

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

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes . . ."

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would amend the tax code to treat energy efficient kegs and keg property as efficient commercial building property for purposes of the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 7578.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and information to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of technologies available to increase the security and resiliency of the communications networks of Taiwan, including through the development of redundancies, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 7579.

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. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H.R. 7580.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:



H.R. 7378: Mr. NORCROSS.  
 H.R. 7382: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
 H.R. 7397: Ms. LEE of California.  
 H.R. 7398: Mr. TRONE and Mr. SOTO.  
 H.R. 7448: Ms. PORTER.  
 H.R. 7450: Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
 H.R. 7471: Mr. BENTZ.  
 H.R. 7488: Mr. LEVIN.  
 H.R. 7504: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
 H.R. 7505: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 7511: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BARR, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. JAMES, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. CLINE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 7513: Mr. MANN and Mr. LATURNER.  
 H.R. 7514: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 7529: Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
 H.R. 7546: Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 7551: Mr. PERRY.  
 H.R. 7558: Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
 H.R. 7568: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.  
 H.R. 7574: Mr. JAMES.  
 H.J. Res. 111: Ms. FOXX.  
 H. Con. Res. 13: Mrs. CAMMACK and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
 H. Con. Res. 36: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.  
 H. Con. Res. 82: Mr. COSTA, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. PORTER, Mr. PANETTA, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H. Res. 99: Mr. BOWMAN.  
 H. Res. 146: Mr. HUDSON.  
 H. Res. 152: Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H. Res. 160: Mr. BOWMAN.

H. Res. 219: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
 H. Res. 709: Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H. Res. 904: Mr. BOWMAN.  
 H. Res. 929: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
 H. Res. 1063: Mr. PHILLIPS.

---

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 431: Mrs. STEEL.  
 H.R. 6542: Mr. BABIN.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

No. 41

## 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Tony Setley, Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, from Morgantown, WV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

I invite you to pray with me.

Creator God, from the beginning, You have brought order from chaos, and in Your wise compassion, You order society by calling people into vocations—masks of God, which through others Your work is done.

We pray Your blessing upon our Senate this day and especially upon the many You have called to live out their vocation within and around this Chamber: for our Senators and their staffs, for civil servants and political appointees, for facility workers and security personnel, for lobbyists and support service workers, for press members, for pages and interns, and for all others. Provide them each daily moments to remember the source and importance of their calling so that they may well and faithfully exercise their vocation, here in this place, for both God and country.

For this, we pray in Your most Holy 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, March 7, 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 CALENDER

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 Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tonight, the President of the United States comes before Congress to deliver his State of the Union address to the American people. It is a chance for the Commander in Chief to tell the story of where our country stands today, to hear about the sacrifices we have made as a country, about the challenges we have overcome, and about the kind of future we can achieve if we work together.

America has suffered immense challenge in recent years. When President Biden took office, over 3,000 Americans were dying of COVID a day; over 18 million Americans were on unemployment; our democracy was wounded, damaged, and battered after January 6; and inflation climbed to suffocating heights.

But today, President Biden will make clear that after so much adversity, America's economy is growing, inflation is slowing, and Democrats' agenda is delivering. Our economy has added a record 15 million new jobs—15 million new jobs—since President Biden took office, the greatest turnaround of any President. Last year alone, the economy created more jobs than in any year of the Trump administration.

Less than 2 years ago, inflation was at a crushing 9 percent. But today, it has cooled to the lowest level since the start of the pandemic; and that means that over the last year, the prices of things like milk, eggs, appliances, car rentals, and airfare have all come down.

Across the country, manufacturing and job creation is surging. Communities that have been long overlooked, especially in places like Upstate New York, are getting a second chance. It didn't happen on its own. It is the result of the Democratic agenda; a result of legislation like the American Rescue Plan, Infrastructure, CHIPS and

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2249

Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which I was happy to champion in a Democratic Senate as I was majority leader.

But statistics and data tell only part of the story. Today, I am honored to welcome five inspiring New Yorkers and one brave Ukrainian soldier as my guests for the State of the Union. These six individuals show better than any statistic how America is made stronger by the policies of the Biden administration and a Democratic Senate.

You can look at the example of Andrii Chevozorov, a 25-year-old Ukrainian soldier who has risked his life and limb on the battlefield. After losing his leg in a mine explosion, he came to New York in January for prosthetics and rehabilitation treatment at Staten Island University Hospital.

It is an honor to welcome Andrii, and the Senate thanks him for his sacrifice. He reminds us all about the stakes of the war in Ukraine, of the importance of passing the supplemental. And I will continue working as hard as I can to make sure we get it done. It is a historic moment for America. We cannot turn our back on Ukraine and our other allies and the menaces that we face in the world.

You can also get a look at what is at stake through the story of Kate Farley of Hudson Valley, who is expecting her second child through in vitro fertilization. Without IVF, Kate could have never gotten pregnant. And it is both heartbreaking and enraging that extreme Republicans have made people like Kate worry this vital service will be curtailed. I am honored to welcome her today.

I am also honored to invite my friend Kevin McCaffrey of Suffolk County, the proud president of Teamsters Local 707, as well as Deborah Hartman, a retired UFCW member who used to work at Tops supermarket.

Kevin, of course, is the Republican leader of the Suffolk County legislature, but it didn't stop him and I to work to deal with the pensions that members of his local, Local 707, might have lost. Like many Americans, both Kevin and Deborah and their fellow workers faced the unthinkable prospect of their pensions drying up just a few years ago. Some workers had pensions cut by as much as two-thirds. People who put in money every 2 weeks, hoping, knowing, relying on the fact that their retirement would be secure—it wouldn't make them rich, but would make them secure—saw the rug pulled out from under them. And with Kevin from one end of my State and Deborah from the other, we were able to save those pensions. Republicans refused to offer relief. Democrats had to do it on its own.

Thanks to the reforms in the American Rescue Plan, millions of our union brothers and sisters across New York and America have seen that critical pension relief. These workers who have saved their whole lives to retire with

dignity have seen their dignity restored, something all Americans can be very proud of.

I am also proud of New Yorkers like Van Robinson, who I have known for decades and have partnered with to combat gun violence, increase affordable housing, and reduce lead poisoning for underserved communities. Van has been one of the leading voices reconnecting communities divided by highways and for tearing down I-81 in Syracuse; and thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure law that I led in Congress, we are getting it done.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Kim Spica, an equipment Engineer Technician at GlobalFoundries. Kim's story shows what the future can look like for so many New Yorkers. She got her job after finishing a registered apprenticeship program at Hudson Valley Community College.

Recently, GlobalFoundries received the largest preliminary award from the CHIPS and Science Act to date: over \$1.5 billion, which will help them build a second chip fab for New York's capital region and create thousands of good-paying jobs like Kim's.

I was proud to lead the way on CHIPS and Science because I knew what it would mean for New Yorkers like Kim in the form of new jobs, greater opportunity, and a more decent life.

So if you want to see how far we have come as a country, these New Yorkers are a good illustration. These guests are the reason our Democratic majority fought so hard to pass the American Rescue Plan, pass infrastructure, pass CHIPS and Science, and pass the Inflation Reduction Act. I knew it would make an enormous difference for New Yorkers like the people who are joining me tonight.

Democrats' agenda, of course, is paying off in other ways. Americans are paying less for insulin. Prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare have been capped. Student loan borrowers have seen hundreds of millions of debt forgiveness.

So, tonight, the difference between the parties will be as clear as night and day. Democrats are focused on lowering costs, creating jobs, and putting money in people's pockets, but the hard right, which too often runs the Republican Party in the House and now increasingly in the Senate, is consumed by chaos, bullying, and attacking things like women's freedom of choice.

The Republican front runner for President has made it abundantly clear that he is not running to make people's lives better but, rather, on airing his personal political grievances. Donald Trump's cynical power grab even destroyed the best change at border security that Congress has seen in decades—a bill that even a Wall Street Journal poll from this morning shows that Americans clearly supported. Americans wanted bipartisan border security. Congress had bipartisan security ready to go, and Donald Trump

and his MAGA Republican followers are at fault for killing it in its tracks. That is shameful cynicism that once again hurts Americans.

Ideologues cannot run the show here. We have to fight these things.

So I thank President Biden for his leadership. The road hasn't been easy. The work is not yet done. But we have come far. We have overcome so much. And there is still so much on the line for American families, American values, and America's future. It is imperative we stay the course and finish the job we began 3 years ago.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on the appropriations bill, well, last night, the House passed the six appropriations bills with an overwhelming bipartisan vote—339 to 85.

Last night, the Senate took the first step to advance the appropriations bill via voice vote, which I hope portends more bipartisan cooperation moving forward. The watchwords for the Senate will be "cooperation" and "speed" as we work to pass these appropriations bills before tomorrow night's deadline.

It is noteworthy that a majority of both parties in the House—a majority of even the Republicans—supported this legislation.

Of course, the process is never easy in divided government, but with hard work, cooperation, and persistence, good things can happen if we put working together before other extraneous and often destructive issues.

The Senate will continue our work on these appropriations bills today so we can finish the package before tomorrow night's deadline. We are close to the finish line, but it will take bipartisan cooperation to get us there.

#### FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, finally, on the FAA, last night, the Senate, I am glad to say, unanimously approved a temporary extension of FAA funding until May 10. This extension will give Chair CANTWELL and the Commerce Committee the time they need to resolve the differences between FAA legislation in the House and the Senate. I am committed to moving an FAA reauthorization bill passed and signed into law as soon as we can so we can keep the United States one of the safest nations in the world for air travel.

Getting FAA reauthorization done will mean more safety inspectors at manufacturing plants, more traffic controllers, better customer service, and mandatory refunds for flight disruptions.

I am glad the Senate also preserves the 1,500-hour rule, which I have insisted—aided by the families in Buffalo—I have insisted it cannot and must not and will not be weakened.

Thank you to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for continuing work on the FAA, and I look forward to bringing FAA reauthorization to the floor and sending it to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

#### STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, well, tonight, President Biden will deliver the last State of the Union Address of his term. For the past 3 years, these speeches have served as mile markers but not of any meaningful progress toward a more perfect Union. Instead, each year, the American people tuned in to see just how far the President's own version of his record is from the reality of their lives.

For 3 years, the President, who campaigned as a moderate, has governed like an activist from the furthest fringe of the Democratic Party.

The Biden administration's agenda has meant pain at home and weakness abroad. It didn't have to be this way. President Biden took office amid strong tailwinds—from an economic recovery that was already restoring the record-setting prosperity we saw before the pandemic to a historic modernization of our military that was well underway. He inherited everything he needed to point our Nation toward further security and prosperity, but he chose weakness and invited danger instead.

Today, nearly two-thirds of voters say our economy is worse than it was 4 years ago. Not even one in four thinks our country is on the right track. Barely a quarter of the country expects our economy to improve in the coming year. But that hasn't stopped President Biden from trying to convince working Americans to take his word for it and ignore their own shrinking paychecks. He has literally taken a victory tour to tout his disastrous economic record. His administration has declared Bidenomics "the word of the year."

Meanwhile, American consumers are shelling out a bigger portion of their income on groceries than at any point in the last 30 years. A food pantry in Northern Kentucky is reporting "more and more demand for . . . enough food to make people's income stretch." Across the board, consumer prices are nearly 18 percent higher today than they were when President Biden took office. This is what "Bidenomics in action" really means?

At kitchen tables tonight, working families will probably wonder whether the President has any regrets, whether he wishes he hadn't ignored his party's top economists and rammed through trillions of dollars in leftwing spending, which brought on the worst inflation in 40 years, or whether he wishes

he hadn't declared total war on our most affordable sources of domestic energy, along with the jobs these American industries support. On President Biden's watch, overall energy prices are up nearly a third.

Time after time, when given the choice to lead or to outsource his work to leftwing activists, President Biden has chosen the latter. He has handed his base a blank check for a wish list of social engineering and left the American people to foot the bill.

Meanwhile, he has poured gasoline on the fire of leftwing, pro-criminal, anti-police rhetoric across the country. The Biden administration has packed its Justice Department full of leftwing activists working overtime to tear serious crimes right out of the Criminal Code.

A couple years back, a district attorney in Massachusetts declared she wouldn't prosecute crimes like breaking and entering or drug possession with intent to distribute. President Biden rewarded this behavior by making Rachael Rollins one of his first U.S. attorneys. Across the country, on this President's watch, leftwing prosecutors have turned repeated offenders into the streets—repeatedly. In President Biden's America, violent criminals have learned that they won't face serious consequences, and, of course, they are acting accordingly.

At the same time, leftwing activists bent on attacking the Federal judiciary have found an ally in the Biden White House. The President has tried to give life tenure to a judicial nominee who identified himself as a "wild-eyed leftist," another with a history of supporting terrorist sympathizers, and even one who had worked to undermine a teenage girl's claim of sexual assault. President Biden hasn't just tried putting the wrong people in our Nation's institutions, he spent 3 years undermining the institutions themselves. His Attorney General slow-walked urgent security measures to protect the Supreme Court Justices and their families from angry mobs, and his administration even stood up a commission to explore Court packing—a terrible idea that hasn't gotten any less terrible since it was killed back in the 1930s.

So the rule of law is less stable on President Biden's watch. The streets of our major cities are less safe. And, of course, our borders are less secure.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, 3 years ago, illegal immigrants arrived at our southern border in shirts wearing his campaign logo insisting, as one put it, that "Biden promised us that everything is going to change"—that everything is going to change.

Well, they were absolutely right. Since President Biden took office, nearly 10 million people crossed our southern border illegally. His administration has abandoned CBP and ICE to contend with the highest daily, monthly, and yearly totals of illegal arrivals on record.

As soon as he took office, the President tore up commonsense authorities he could have used to maintain the secure border. Instead, he spent years pretending that functionally open borders didn't amount to a crisis.

The only campaign promise President Biden appears to have kept is the one he made on the campaign trail to people hoping to cross our borders illegally: "We immediately surge to the border, all those people who are seeking asylum."

By contrast, it is difficult to think of a pledge the President abandoned more completely than his campaign promise to restore respect for America on the world stage. Today, the credibility of our commitments is in serious doubt. The West is confronting the most dangerous moment since the fall of the Berlin wall, and our Commander in Chief's first instincts appear to be hesitation and self-deterrence. President Biden's failures pose embarrassing questions for America and our allies and partners.

Are we safer after his disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan? Do allies still take our word? Did the President's self-proclaimed fear of escalation force Putin to back down from his own brutal escalation in Ukraine, or did it give the Ukrainians the critical weapons they needed when they needed it most? Does America's closest ally in the Middle East feel like they can count on America's total support in its existential fight against genocidal terrorists? Did the world's most active state-sponsor of terror think twice before targeting Americans like the Georgia guardsmen killed, the Kentucky soldiers injured in the Tower 22 attack in Jordan? Does Iran hesitate to sic its proxies on Israel or threaten commercial shipping? Did the Biden administration's climate diplomacy with Beijing close any meaningful gaps in strategic competition with our top adversary? Did it reassure our allies and partners in the region that we understood the importance of hard power?

The answer to all these questions is a resounding "no."

President Biden's 3 years in office have left American leadership a weaker brand and our resolve a less fearsome asset, and we will be dealing with the consequences of his failures for years to come.

Around the Biden administration's 100-day mark, I warned the President that it wasn't too late to change course and start governing as the moderate he promised he would be. Needless to say, he certainly didn't take my advice.

And he didn't take the American people's sterner counsel either when they demanded change at the ballot box the following year. Well, this fall, the voters have a chance to issue a further course correction, one with a bit more finality.

Tonight, we will hear from a President who has failed in the most basic responsibility of government. He will come to the Capitol with record historic inflation, surging crime, open



borders, and weakness on the world stage.

Then, of course, the American people will witness historic contrast. They will hear our colleague Senator BRITT tell her story and offer a very different assessment of this moment in American history, one that embraces what makes our Nation great. I am glad for the Nation to hear directly from the youngest Republican woman ever elected to the Senate and one of our conferences brightest stars.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Republican whip.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tonight President Biden will come to Congress to deliver his State of the Union Address. It is a natural time to look at a President's legacy. And if one thing is certain, it is that the Biden Presidency hasn't done much for the state of our union.

Yesterday, I came down to the floor to talk about the national security crisis we are facing at our southern border. It is a crisis we have been facing almost since the day the President took office.

The President marked his inauguration by taking measures that weakened our Nation's border security, including halting construction of the border wall, rescinding the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border, and pausing deportations except under certain conditions. The effect was to declare to the world that the U.S. borders were effectively open, and the number of migrant encounters at our southern border ticked up accordingly.

And the surge has never stopped. President Biden has presided over 3 recordbreaking years of illegal immigration at our southern border. And if we continue on our current track, he will likely be presiding over a fourth. The first 4 months of fiscal year 2024 saw nearly 1 million migrant encounters at our southern border—1 million in just 4 months. These kinds of numbers not only represent a logistical and humanitarian crisis, they represent a gaping hole in our national security.

There is no question that the kind of numbers we are seeing smooth the way for dangerous individuals to enter our country. Last year, 169 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist were apprehended attempting to cross our southern border, and we are on track to exceed that number this year.

And those numbers only reflect individuals who were actually apprehended. With around 1.8 million known "got-aways" since President Biden took office and an untold number of

unknown "got-aways," I think we can safely assume that there are plenty of dangerous people making their way into our country without being stopped.

And President Biden's border crisis is not the only way in which he has jeopardized our national security. His disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan weakened our standing with our allies, and his failure to prioritize ensuring our military is equipped to meet and defeat current and future threats sends a dangerous signal to bad actors around the world.

Then, of course, there is the fact that the President is setting us up for a future energy crisis that will jeopardize our Nation's security by jeopardizing our energy security, not to mention jeopardizing American's pocketbooks. The President's hostility to conventional energy production and his determination to push us into a Green New Deal regime that our current energy system simply cannot cope with is setting us up for long-term instability in our Nation's energy supply.

That threatens our national security, which depends on stable access to energy; and it threatens America's financial security as an unstable supply will almost unquestionably result in higher prices. The steep rise in energy prices so far under the Biden administration could look small compared to the energy prices Americans could see under the Green New Deal regime President Biden envisions for the future.

Speaking of higher prices, perhaps the defining feature of the Biden administration is the inflation crisis the President helped create when he signed the so-called American Rescue Plan Act and flooded the economy with unnecessary government spending. Three years in, inflation is still well above the Federal Reserve's target rate.

Americans continue to suffer. Today, it costs the 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.

Grocery prices are up 21 percent under President Biden, and 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.

Then there is the 31 percent increase in energy costs, as I alluded to earlier, the 19 percent increase in housing costs, the 27 percent increase in the cost of car repairs, and the list goes on.

The President likes to talk about giving American families breathing room. Well, President Biden has eliminated the breathing room for a lot of American families. Along with higher prices—much higher prices—on everything from groceries to gas, Americans are also dealing with the high interest rates the Federal Reserve has had to impose to deal with President Biden's inflation crisis.

Those interest rates have helped to drive up mortgage rates and credit card rates, compounding hardship for a lot of Americans.

It is no wonder that, in a recent poll, just one in three voters said the economy was on the right track, or that 57 percent of respondents in another recent poll rated the economy as "fairly bad" or "very bad." Sixty-six percent of respondents in that same poll said that things in America are going "somewhat" or "very" badly.

The inflation crisis, the national security crisis at our southern border, and the potential energy crisis—it is no wonder that Americans aren't feeling very optimistic about the state of our Nation. It would be nice if the President spoke to their concerns tonight, but I expect that his speech tonight will involve more blame shifting than solutions to the crises that he has helped create, along with, of course, a host of election-year handouts designed to attract voters. If Americans are looking for relief, they are not going to find it from President Biden in his speech tonight on the state of the Union.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### I-27 NUMBERING ACT OF 2023

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to pass the I-27 Numbering Act, bipartisan legislation to officially designate the route between Laredo, TX, and Raton, NM, as the future Interstate 27.

I will say I am particularly gratified that the Senator from New Mexico is presiding because this is legislation that he and I offered together. It is bipartisan legislation that is supported by the State of Texas and the State of New Mexico.

This bill is the next step to advance major highway infrastructure in Texas and New Mexico that will support trade and commerce and jobs and economic development.

What is so important about a future interstate number?

By officially designating the highways between Laredo and Raton as future Interstate 27, this bill is a clear signal to the communities and businesses across Texas and New Mexico that Congress supports their work to develop the current highways to become part of the Interstate System.

Communities across this route need better infrastructure because of the increasing demands to move goods and people. Last year, Mexico was the top U.S. trade partner, with \$798 billion of trade between our nations. That is higher than the trade with our second and third biggest trading partners, Canada and China.

Even better, the port of entry in Laredo, TX, was the top trade gateway in the United States, outperforming the Port of Los Angeles—Laredo, TX. This is fantastic news for Texas. It means more jobs and economic development in Texas to move those goods. It is also part of a broader trend of a flourishing freight business in Texas.

Last year, I was proud to pass bipartisan, bicameral legislation to streamline the Presidential permit application process for bridges across the Rio Grande River in South Texas—four bridges: two in Laredo, one in Brownsville, one in Eagle Pass. And two of them are along the future I-27 route, the World Trade Bridge in Laredo, currently with 8 lanes—the proposal is to expand that to 18 lanes—and the Puer to Verde Bridge in Maverick County.

Passing the I-27 Numbering Act would support the increased trade we are expecting to come across those new bridges and those new lanes of traffic.

We have received letters of support for the I-27 Numbering Act from the Texas and New Mexico Departments of Transportation, the agencies tasked with building infrastructure along this route. We also have strong support from the Ports-to-Plains Alliance, which has worked so hard to bring the ports-to-plains route to reality. We have strong support from cities up and down the future Interstate 27.

Notably, the Texas Department of Transportation is working to improve infrastructure all along the future I-27. TxDOT currently has \$5.5 billion in active projects along the route related to planning, engineering, and construction, including \$481 million from the Texas Transportation Commission to upgrade parts of the route to a four-lane divided highway.

I want to thank Senator LUJÁN, who is presiding right now; Senator CORNYN, my colleague from Texas; and Senator HEINRICH, your colleague from New Mexico, for working hand in hand with me on this bill. It is notable that all four Senators representing Texas and New Mexico are standing in unison with this bill because it is good for Texas, it is good for New Mexico, and it is good for the country.

There should be no objection to this bill. The Senate previously passed this bill unanimously in July of last year. It then passed the House, which made some very small technical changes in December of last year. And there were no substantive changes to the bill, which means there should be no objections here now. The Senate should pass the I-27 Numbering Act today.

Before I proceed, I want to yield to my colleague from Texas, Senator CORNYN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator CRUZ for his leadership on this legislation, which I am, of course, proud to cosponsor. We represent a booming State. We represent in excess of 30 million people, and because of geopolitical shifts of manufacturing from China back to near shore or places like Mexico, thanks to the USMCA—the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement—we are mutually dependent with Mexico and Canada for trade, which creates millions of jobs right here in America, and principally in Texas.

The first time I went to Lubbock, TX, when I ran for statewide office, a former Congressman, Randy Neugebauer, before he was a Member of Congress, said: There are three things you need to remember about Lubbock, TX: cotton, Texas Tech University, and ports to plains. It was that important back then, and it is even more important today.

So the ports-to-plains system, as Senator CRUZ pointed out, is a 963-mile transportation corridor. And building on the success we had in passing a bill to designate the Ports-to-Plains Corridor in Texas and New Mexico as an interstate, this I-27 Numbering Act does exactly that.

I look forward to seeing the Ports-to-Plains Corridor fuel more trade, more jobs, more energy security, and agricultural production for years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 992.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following message from the House, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 992) entitled "An Act to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27, and for other purposes." do pass with an amendment.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. CRUZ. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRUZ. I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### TEXAS WILDFIRES

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, on Monday of this week, I visited the towns of Fritch and Borger in the Panhandle of Texas.

Fritch is a town of roughly 1,800 residents. They are no strangers to hard times. In 1992, a tornado a mile wide ripped through the town and destroyed over 1,300 homes. Ten years ago, in 2014, a wildfire in Fritch destroyed over 100 homes. In the past week and a half, Fritch and the rest of the Texas Panhandle, and the Oklahoma Panhandle as well, have been dealing with devastating wildfires.

When I was there on Monday, 242 homes had been lost. I met with local officials, county judges, mayors, the police chiefs, fire chiefs, volunteers at churches, and charities. I met with

families who have been devastated and lost everything.

I saw homes that had been burned beyond recognition. At one home I saw, outside was parked a truck that had been utterly burned and charred. The heat was so intense that the windshield glass had melted, and there were just pools of glass on the hood. I also saw, in front of a house, a motorcycle—I think it was a Harley—that had been utterly incinerated. The tires were burned and gone. I saw a boat—I think it was a bass boat, a fishing boat—again, utterly incinerated, nothing but fiberglass just melted on the ground.

One of the officials I met with was Volunteer Fire Chief Zeb Smith. I met with Chief Smith on Monday. Less than 24 hours after, Chief Smith passed away fighting that wildfire, running into a home that was on fire, trying to stop the blaze. He had been fighting fires for 9 days straight when he entered that home first thing Tuesday morning.

On Monday, I asked Chief Smith: Have any firefighters been injured yet? He said: "Thankfully, no."

Neither he nor I knew when we were having that conversation that, 24 hours later, he would be first, and he would give his life to save his community.

These wildfires have been raging for a week and a half, and they devastated communities like Fritch all the way from Lake Meredith to Canadian. One of the fires, the Smokehouse Creek fire, is the largest wildfire in Texas history and the second largest in our Nation's history. The scar from these fires can be seen from space, and they currently cover more acreage than the entire State of Rhode Island.

These fires have had a devastating impact on farmers and ranchers in Texas. More than 500 structures have been lost, and 10,000 miles' worth of barbed wire has been destroyed. It is still unclear exactly how many cattle have perished, but we know it is thousands upon thousands of cattle that have been taken by the fire.

I texted a good friend of mine who lives in Canadian. I told her I was thinking of her and just asked how she was doing and how she was doing with the fires. I didn't expect her response.

She responded: Well, not too well. My home burned down, so did my barn, and I lost half my cattle.

But then she responded: Do you know what? I am actually feeling pretty lucky because the ranchers on both sides of me lost all their cattle.

I have to say I prayed for my friend. I prayed for all the men and women in the panhandle. But that response also embodies the frontier spirit. These are tough Texans.

The destruction we are seeing is enormous. Throughout all of this, to date, there have been only three deaths attributed to the wildfires. That is extraordinary given the magnitude of this disaster as there could easily have been scores and scores of deaths. That is a testament to the firefighters and

the first responders in the panhandle who have been tirelessly working to get people out of harm's way and to contain the fires. At times, the fires have been traveling more than 200 yards per second. That is how fast these fires have been moving.

Right now, as this disaster is unfolding in Texas, the first priority is to contain these fires, to put them out. Texans are working to stop their spread. The weather has been a big factor. A few days ago, fortunately, there was some cold. There was some wet weather with snow and ice. That slowed the fires some, but then the weather got drier and windier, which are ideal conditions for spreading fire. So, right now, there are firefighters heroically battling massive fires, risking their lives.

When I was there, I was told that over 60 fire departments from across Texas and across the country have sent firefighters to battle the blaze. Monday night, I was at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and I saw the Houston fire chief. He told me Houston had sent firefighters all the way up to the panhandle to help battle the blaze.

To anyone in the panhandle who sees this, I want to ask you: Please listen very, very carefully to your local officials. Listen to emergency responders. If they give you an evacuation order, treat it seriously. Keep your families safe. At the end of the day, it is tragic when someone loses a home, but a home can be replaced. Your family members cannot.

This fire is dangerous, and our first priority needs to be preserving life and getting people out of harm's way. The second step is to shift to relief and rebuilding, and rebuilding is a process that is going to take years. In the short term, there are charities that have stepped up and are engaged, including the Salvation Army and the Red Cross and their local churches.

You know, I want to say something. I have been in the Senate for 12 years. Texas is a big State, and as a big State, we have our share of natural disasters—from hurricanes ravaging the gulf coast, to tornadoes doing enormous devastation, to this wildfire raging in the panhandle right now. As Texas's Senator, it is my responsibility to stand with those communities in a time of crisis and in the aftermath rebuilding.

Every time we have had a natural disaster in Texas, it is heartbreaking when you see the loss of life and the suffering, but, consistently, it is also inspiring. It is inspiring because of the reaction of Texans in a time of crisis. They come together, Texans helping Texans, holding on to each other, supporting each other.

When Hurricane Harvey hit the gulf coast and home after home was flooded, I remember Texans would go and rescue their neighbors. They were jumping on bass boats because the streets were flooded, and they would go from house to house, pulling people out

of harm's way. Rednecks in bass boats is what I called them, and it was the spirit of Texas. The beauty in that time is there are no partisan divisions. There are no Republicans and Democrats. People don't care about race or ethnicity or religion. It is just Texans helping Texans. That is what I saw in Fritch and Borger, that same spirit of Texans helping Texans.

I will tell you, in a time of crisis, the church steps up, and the church should. The church should show love.

When I was in the panhandle, I stopped at multiple churches and relief centers. I thanked the volunteers who were there. They were giving out food. They were giving out water. They were giving out diapers. They were giving out supplies for people who had lost everything, and I thanked them.

I visited with one woman whose home had burned down, and her daughter's home had burned down. Yet, I will tell you, she was smiling and was in good spirits.

She said: Do you know what? My family is alive and safe.

I mentioned that, in Fritch, 242 homes had burned down. The county judge told me, though, there were only half a dozen people in the local shelter they had stood up because everyone else whose home had burned down was presumably staying with friends or family or loved ones. It was other Texans who said: Hey, you lost your home; come stay with me. That is inspiring. It is powerful. That is what Texans do.

There are also things we can and should do at the Federal level to help the panhandle. With every local official, I assured: Do you have the Federal resources you need? Do you have the assistance right now in crisis?

Then, going forward, my office has been working hand in hand with State officials and local officials and is beginning to coordinate Federal resources to fight the fires. Indeed, I have already filed an amendment to the minibudget the Senate is considering right now to increase the funding for wildfire relief to help the people impacted by this. I will continue working on measures to provide disaster relief for Texans in harm's way—from the people who have lost their homes to our ranchers who have suffered the devastating loss of livestock. We need to stand with the panhandle and help recover from this historic disaster.

There is an old panhandle saying up there that people have "Panhandle Spirit"—a spirit of humility; a spirit of companionship; a spirit that when a neighbor needs help, by God, you help him. The whole country has seen that spirit in the past few days. Thousands of bales of hay and cattle feed have been trucked up daily from ranchers wanting to help out fellow ranchers. Hundreds of pallets of water and food and clothes have been donated to help people in need.

That same spirit that built Texas is the same spirit that makes the Lone Star State so unique. That is the spirit

that keeps our firefighters fighting the blazes, that keeps our ranchers rebuilding the fences and people picking up the pieces and rerooting in the land they love.

Together, with that same spirit and that same determination that people in the Panhandle Plains have had for generations, we will rebuild. We will come back even stronger than ever.

God bless our firefighters, and God bless our first responders. God bless all the Texans who have lost their homes in the past few days and those Texans who have lost loved ones. We are praying for you, and we will help you rebuild.

I would like to close by again talking about Chief Smith.

The loss of Zeb Smith has left a huge hole in the community. On social media, the Fritch Volunteer Fire Department wrote:

Just know that right now we are not OK. We love our chief, our brother, our friend. Please be patient with us.

The Hutchinson County Office of Emergency Management team stated about Chief Smith:

His exemplary leadership was evident in his tireless efforts over the past week, where he worked diligently to protect and safeguard his community and fellow citizens.

Chief Smith was a hero. His name will not be forgotten. In his honor, I had a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol to recognize his heroic service. Chief Smith gave his life on Tuesday of this week so that his fellow Texans could live.

To the family and friends and loved ones of Chief Smith, we are mourning with you, and we are celebrating a life well lived.

May God bless the people of Texas. We will defeat these wildfires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

#### RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, nearly 80 years ago, in Central New Mexico's Tularosa Basin, at a place we now call the Trinity Site, the world as we knew it changed.

The Trinity test was the first detonation of a nuclear weapon in human history, and the families who lived downwind from the Trinity explosion have lived the consequences of that day for every moment of their lives. These families were never told that the white dust falling around them that day would contaminate their bodies, would contaminate the bodies of the children they had yet to bear, that it would contaminate the crops and the water and the livestock that they had built their communities around. They were never told about the kinds of cancers they would get, the conditions they would suffer through, or the loved ones they would lose.

These families still to this day have not received the recognition or the compensation for what they endured so that our Nation could be victorious in the Second World War. Nearly a century later, 80 years now, these folks deserve better. They deserve justice.

It is long overdue for Congress to finally, finally amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA, to include the Trinity downwinders, to include all Americans who were directly impacted from our nuclear tests and program, and to include the uranium workers who were exposed to radiation in service to our national defense. That is what we are voting on this week in the U.S. Senate. Today, we have a chance to finally deliver justice for the Trinity downwinders and for all Americans who were exposed to radioactive nuclear materials.

I want to thank especially the Presiding Officer as it has been one of the honors of my career to fight alongside him for this expansion of RECA for our entire congressional careers.

I want to urge all of our colleagues to stand with us on the right side of history today and to support this legislation.

#### AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, I rise now as the chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. For the better part of 9 months, I have been negotiating a bipartisan agricultural appropriations bill. My singular goal was delivering a bill that invests in rural communities, supports our farmers, and delivers for America's children. That is what our agricultural appropriations bill does. I am proud to have gotten us here, alongside Ranking Member JOHN HOEVEN and his great staff and with the immeasurable leadership of Chairwoman PATTY MURRAY.

Our bill will help farmers produce healthy food. It will support economic development in rural communities and help working families put food on the table.

As we went through the negotiations, I had to stand particularly firm to protect the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children—what most of us know as WIC. I can't think of a more important program and a more important constituency in our country than one that delivers food to babies and toddlers.

My constituents in New Mexico agree. Dr. Laurence Shandler is a pediatrician back home. As he put it in a letter to my office, the impact of delivering this support goes way beyond the food itself. Dr. Shandler shared how "children who receive WIC have improved birth outcomes, increased immunization rates, better access to healthcare, reduced healthcare costs, and better referrals to social services for families." He said:

Now is not the time to scale back on WIC.

I couldn't agree more.

I am proud to say that despite House Republicans' best efforts—and, believe me, they tried—we have fully funded WIC.

This is a major win for families across the country. We are ensuring that none of the 7 million women and

children who depend on this nutrition will be put on a waiting list or denied assistance outright.

I am also proud that we have fully funded SNAP—a program that helps 42 million Americans put food on the table each month. In doing that, we also blocked House Republicans' attempt to impose new redtape and ineffective restrictions on eligibility for Americans who count on SNAP, because what working families need right now is a government that will fight for them, not one that will make their lives more difficult.

Our bill fully funds Child Nutrition Programs—like the School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, and the summer EBT program—to ensure that children don't go hungry.

Our kids should be able to focus on learning in the classroom, on growing, and on making new friends, not worrying about where their next meal will come from.

We also are maintaining our strong support for the agricultural producers who grow our food. I know how much that means to the Presiding Officer. That includes maintaining support for vital agricultural research and our Nation's next generation of researchers through funding for both the Agricultural Research Service and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

These funds support scientific discovery at land-grant universities and research centers all across our country, including New Mexico State University in my home State.

Our bill also delivers investments to help our Nation's farmers and producers make their operations more resilient to an ever-changing climate. Farmers in New Mexico are grappling with dryer conditions, dwindling water supplies. And they are not alone. I know that farmers and producers are eager to improve the long-term health of their working landscapes. They just need effective tools to improve soil health, conserve water, conserve energy, and manage their natural hazard risks.

Speaking of managing risks and improving safety, our bill also supports the Food and Drug Administration's critical mission to protect the safety and the security of our Nation's supply chains for food and for medicine.

Our bill will also deliver important economic development investments to revitalize rural communities all across America. That includes support for the Rental Assistance Program at USDA that ensures Americans living in rural areas have access to safe and affordable housing.

We also delivered vital investments in public safety for our rural communities. I was very proud to secure millions of dollars of Federal funding that will help communities all across New Mexico. From Taos County to Anthony and Portales to San Juan County, we were able to fund fire engines and ambulances and build new emergency response facilities.

Finally, at a time of mounting international conflict and global food insecurity, we are reaffirming America's moral leadership in fighting hunger worldwide. Maintaining our support for international food aid programs not only demonstrates our Nation's commitment in the fight against hunger, but it helps us build new markets for our agricultural exports.

As we drafted this bill and steered it through negotiations with the House, we had to make some very difficult decisions on how to best invest taxpayer dollars. We had to stay within the very thin margins for topline funding levels that were agreed to last year by President Biden and House Republican leadership. But I am very proud of where we landed in this comprehensive, bipartisan legislation.

I especially want to thank the staff on the subcommittee for all the work they did to land this bill. I would just urge all of our colleagues to support these investments that will make a real difference for working families, for farmers who produce our food, and for rural economies.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MANCHIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 506, Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 74 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Graham	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—2

Britt Sanders

(Mr. KING assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of S. 3853, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today in the hours before President Biden's State of the Union address to discuss the reality of the past 3 years and the current circumstances of our

Nation. Together, my colleagues and I are here to speak on behalf of the American people who have been forgotten and left behind by President Biden, those who know the true consequences of his administration's policies and who are really feeling the pain by the continued failures that have defined President Biden's time in the White House.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have been guided by my eternal optimism. I feel like I can see beyond the gloom and push toward a brighter future. However, it is clear that this is not the perspective that is felt in communities across our country, as Americans realize that the state of our Nation is not as strong as it should and could be. They continue to battle economic challenges that are making the American dream unaffordable.

There is a continued assault on American energy, which started by canceling the Keystone XL pipeline and now, just several weeks ago, the disastrous halting of the construction of the LNG export terminals.

They see the unmitigated flow of illegal crossings at our southern border, and they face the threat of rising crime, and they see the weakened state of Americans standing on the global stage.

President Biden remains the common denominator across each of these issues, and he continues to prove—and this is harsh—that he is just not up to the task of leading our country in a time when it is needed most.

Perhaps the most consistent issue that has defined President Biden's tenure in the White House—and one that I hear constantly about back home—is the state of our economy and the persistence of high interest rates and inflation. Despite President Biden's claims, inflation has not cooled and price hikes have worn down consumers over the past 3 years, making necessities like food and housing nearly unaffordable. The price of food at the grocery store—anybody who is listening to this that has been to the grocery store knows this better than anybody. The price of food at grocery stores and in our restaurants increased 2.6 percent just in the last year, but this is on top of the staggering 10 percent that food prices rose over the last year. So what used to be \$100 worth of groceries in 2019 now costs \$125. And just last week, it was revealed that food costs, compared to income, have hit a 33-year high with American consumers spending over 11 percent of their disposal income on food. That means that the last time Americans paid this much for food "Terminator 2" was in the movies, Michael Jordan had just won his second MVP award, and HP had introduced the first color scanner. That is how long ago this was.

Adding to this, U.S. home prices are at an alltime high. Housing costs have now become unaffordable for a record number of U.S. renters, and that is according to a recent Harvard study.

Make no mistake, this is the economy that President Biden campaigned on, and it is the economy that his policies of reckless spending and high taxes were destined to create.

The President has gone even as far as establishing a strike force—I don't know if we are going to hear about it tonight—a strike force on unfair and illegal pricing, which is nothing more than a cover so he can blame others for the effects of his policies.

Another issue that will forever define President Biden's tenure is the historic crisis we have seen at the southern border—something we have all addressed on the floor repeatedly—and the devastating consequences it has created. The most recent data shows over 176,000 crossings along the southern border this past January. This marks the worst January on record and the sixth consecutive month where a record was being set. That brings us to a total of 9 million—9 million—illegal border crossings under President Biden's watch. Additionally, there were another 7,000-plus migrant encounters at the southern border on Monday, marking the fourth day in a row of over 7,000 encounters.

While the White House remains committed to their message of no Executive action can alleviate this crisis, they fail to mention the Executive actions that they took literally hours after President Biden was sworn in. These Executive Orders on day one of Biden's administration dismantled the effective immigration policies of President Trump.

The truth is, President Biden can take basic steps and end this chaos, but in some situations—and far too many of them—it may already be too late. The barbaric murder of Laken Riley is a national tragedy and was completely avoidable.

The catch-and-release policies of President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have allowed the catastrophe at our southern border to impact every community in our country and every State.

Crime is all too familiar to this administration, especially right here in the President's backyard. While the administration is touting a drop in crime across other cities, violent crime right here in Washington, DC, is up a staggering 39 percent. Multiple members of Congress have been recent victims of crime in this city, as have multiple members of my own staff.

We must remember that President Biden owns this issue more than he would like to admit. Last May, he vetoed bipartisan legislation to overturn police reforms right here in Washington, DC.

Speaking of ownership, another issue that President Biden owns is the recent weakness that America has displayed on the international stage. We are living in a time where our Nation faces the most dangerous global threats that we have seen in decades. Yet President Biden has proven to be a President of

weakness, while our adversaries are watching how the United States reacts to the challenges of our time. This display of weakness started with the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, which signaled unreliability to our allies and weakness to those who want to do us harm. Then President Biden did not establish a strong deterrent for Putin, suggesting that NATO and the United States might not take any action if Russia undertook a minor incursion. Next, the Biden administration engaged with Iran on fruitless nuclear talks while the regime built up their nuclear capabilities and their militias attacked our own U.S. troops. Now there have been over 170 attacks on servicemembers with minimal responses taken. This has also culminated most recently in the loss of three of our Army Reserve soldiers.

During the State of the Union tonight, President Biden will draw a proverbial line in the sand and will ask the American people: Which side are you on? I encourage my fellow Americans not to fall for this attempt to separate us or label us as enemies of one another; but rather, we should join together in realizing that it doesn't have to be this way and that the American people truly deserve better.

This leads to, perhaps, the biggest broken promise from the President; that was his pledge to unite our Nation. We are fractured; there is no doubt about it. In this administration, anyone who disagrees with their policies is an extremist and a threat to our freedoms.

I know the people of our country deserve better from the White House, and the state of our union has become weaker over the past 3 years. So I hope the President addresses these issues tonight in a meaningful way that doesn't finger point, doesn't blame, but that takes the issues and unites the country and finds solutions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as my colleague from West Virginia has noted, and as the Nation knows—the world knows—President Biden will deliver his third, perhaps final, State of the Union address tonight.

Obviously, the border is a major issue confronting the Nation, and I have to say that, coming from Texas with the 1,200 mile common border with Mexico, Washington has just recently acknowledged—the President has just recently acknowledged something that we have known has been a problem for a long, long time without really any help to deal with this flood of humanity and drugs across our southwestern border.

I expect that President Biden will do as he always does—blame somebody else for this problem, even though he has had the same tools that President Trump has had with which to deal with it from the day he stepped into the Oval Office.

The American people are pretty smart and they are pretty perceptive and they understand that the crisis at our border is a man-made crisis, and that man is President Biden. He has opted, rather than secure the border, to issue dozens of Executive orders dismantling piece by piece the border security protections that President Trump had put in place, things like the “Remain in Mexico” policy where people who would otherwise be released into the interior of the United States would have to remain in Mexico while their asylum claims have been determined.

Under President Biden, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has encountered nearly 7 million migrants. I have heard numbers as high as 9 million. The truth is we don't really have an accurate number because it is virtually uncontrolled, but we know that it is more than the past two administrations combined. In 3 years, President Biden has allowed more illegal migrant encounters across the border than in 12 years of President Obama's term and President Trump's.

Well, you would think, with President Biden knowing he has a huge political liability, that he would seek advice from the experts. But former U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz said that President Biden and Vice President HARRIS never even spoke to him during his time in office. This is the man, the expert, who is in charge of the border for the U.S. Government, and the President and the Vice President didn't even speak to him.

Well, because of the welcome mat that has been laid out by the Biden administration, border officials are preparing for yet another spike in the record levels of migration.

The Biden administration is under fire for reports that it flew 320,000 migrants from foreign countries directly into the United States without vetting them first.

Words fail to describe the unprecedented nature of this crisis. It is so bad, I keep asking myself: What is it going to take before the President wakes up? Mr. President, 7 to 9 million illegal entries into the country; 300,000 children placed with sponsors in the interior of the country and, as the New York Times noted, many of them forced into involuntary labor. And then when wellness checks were made to see where these children are after they are placed with these sponsors, in the case of the New York Times, they said that “85,000 of those sponsors didn't even answer the phone or the door.” So we don't know what happened to those children, those 300,000 children.

And then there are the drugs that flow across the border when the Border Patrol is overwhelmed with mass numbers of migrants.

Well, here is another problem. Those who are old enough to remember September 11, 2001, when 19 Saudi nationals flew two planes into the World Trade Center and crashed another one

at the Pentagon—19. Four nationals killed 3,000 Americans that day.

So far this year, the Border Patrol has apprehended—apprehended—169 individuals who were on the Terror Watchlist. So far this fiscal year, they have apprehended 49. But here is what should keep all of us awake at night: approximately 1.7 million “got-aways.”

In other words, a large number of these migrants turn themselves in knowing they are going to be released, and that is the easiest way to make it into the United States and probably end up staying for the rest of your life. But 1.7 million people who came across the border evaded law enforcement. They call those “got-aways,” people caught on cameras or some sensor.

How many more people on the Terror Watchlist were among those 1.7 million “got-aways”? It should alarm all of us to think about those who made it into this country who have not yet been caught.

Then there are the drugs. Last year, 108,000 Americans died of drug overdoses, 71,000 of those from fentanyl poisoning. Last week, the Border Patrol seized 2,800 pounds of meth, fentanyl, and heroin. That is great, but how many more of those drugs have made their way into the United States undetected? That is \$12 million worth of narcotics in just 1 week.

Of course, who is reaping the benefits of the current border policies? It is the drug cartels. It is the smuggling networks. They continue to get richer and richer and more powerful.

Over the weekend, Border Patrol arrested six sexual predators who were illegally crossing the border. Again, we don't know how many more were among the “got-aways” I mentioned earlier. This follows a nationwide law enforcement effort last month where U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement apprehended 275 known sex offenders who had entered the country illegally.

All this while the country continues to mourn the death of 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley. As we all know by now, she was killed while jogging in broad daylight on the campus of the University of Georgia. Jose Antonio Ibarra, a 26-year-old Venezuela national who entered the United States illegally and was released by the Biden administration, has been charged with her murder.

This week, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre was asked if President Biden plans to address Laken's death during his State of the Union speech. She said she had nothing to share on that topic.

If the Biden administration had not abused the parole system—that means the catch-and-release by which individuals like Mr. Ibarra were simply released into the interior of the United States—Laken's death might have been prevented. But President Biden has no plans to even acknowledge her death, let alone take responsibility for it.

In the last 3 years, I have spoken on the floor of the Senate about these



issues more times than I can count because Texas is on the frontline but with precious little assistance from the Federal Government. That is why Governor Greg Abbott has used the National Guard and the Department of Public Safety to do what the Federal Government should have already been doing, and that is to provide security for our border.

This is one of the most urgent catastrophes of our time, and it is a huge political liability for the President and his party because they have been watching this catastrophe get worse and worse and worse and done next to nothing about it.

We reached a breaking point a long time ago, and now every State is paying the price for President Biden's failed policies, from Texas all the way to New York.

As long as the President refuses to do his job and enforce the laws already on the books, deadly drugs will continue to flow into our communities, dangerous criminals will threaten our citizenry, and many more lives will be lost.

I hope the President accepts responsibility for what has happened the last 3 years, and I hope his remarks reflect the urgency of this crisis that he created, but the truth is, I won't be holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleagues and their comments, and I know that Senator HYDE-SMITH is also going to speak on this issue.

As we have heard, the President later today is going to talk about his record, and he is going to try to sell that record to the American people.

As we have heard, many of his policies are failures. This record is a broken record, and much of it, just as my colleague from Texas was saying, is a record that has failed the people of our States.

For 3 years, the American people have truly suffered immensely during this record of failure and broken promises. Some of the actions that President Biden has taken beginning on day one is he issued Executive order after Executive order.

Let's talk about day one as we set the framework for what he will talk about tonight as his 3-year record.

On day one, President Biden took actions pertaining to the border and illegal immigration, and here is what he did: He paused deportations—paused them. That means he put up a “halt” sign and said: You cannot deport people who have illegally entered the country. He limited which illegal aliens could be arrested. Now, that was an action that he took. He said: Well, you can't go arrest certain groups of illegal aliens—even though they have broken the law coming into this country. So he put those protections in place for people who had broken the

law entering the country illegally. He halted construction of the border wall, and he ended the “Remain in Mexico” policy.

Now, during his first 100 days, he took a total of 94 Executive actions that made the border less secure and weakened legal immigration and encouraged illegal immigration and tried to make illegal immigration legal. Because of that, since he took the oath of office, 9 million—9 million—illegal immigrants have entered this country. That is more than the population of 38 States.

Those are the actions he has taken.

In addition to the 9 million illegal immigrants, you have known and unknown “got-aways.” These unknown “got-aways” are untold numbers of drug traffickers, human traffickers, smugglers. That is what is coming into our country because of this porous border—in addition, tens of thousands of people from countries of interest; in addition, terrorists who have been apprehended at our southern border trying to enter illegally. Those are the ones we know about.

Americans are indeed—Tennesseans certainly are—enduring the consequences of this open border agenda. Over the past few weeks, we have seen countless illegal aliens who should have never been allowed to set foot in this country be arrested for sexual assault, rape, and murder.

One of the victims, Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student in Georgia, was allegedly killed by an illegal immigrant who was paroled into this country by the Biden administration.

Now, paroling someone into the country grants special privileges. They can get a work permit. They can get benefits. If you look at President Obama's record, he paroled about 5,600 people a year into the country and the same for President Trump. But President Biden has gone more than 200 times this every year. In 2022, he paroled 800,000 people into the country, and in 2023, 1.2 million people. One of these parolees is the alleged killer of Laken Riley. There are others who have committed rape against children, who have bludgeoned our citizens. President Biden's policies are directly responsible for these crimes.

Now, there is also a bucket of economic failures that I want to touch on. We all know that when President Biden came into office, inflation was 1.4 percent. Since then, we have seen inflation skyrocket, and we have seen Federal spending skyrocket. We know that trillions of dollars have been added to the debt. Much of this comes because of his agenda. A lot of it is his attack on energy and his push for the Green New Deal.

Now, President Biden had claimed that his agenda would—and I am going to quote him—that it would “grow the economy from the middle out and the bottom up.” Instead, what it has done is caused the worst inflation in four decades.

Since Inauguration Day for Joe Biden, prices have been on the uptick. When you talk to Tennesseans, they can tell you how much the cost of food is up. It is up at least about 20 percent; rent, housing is up over 20 percent; and then you look at the cost of energy, whether you are filling up the tank or whether you are paying the electric bill or the gas bill for heating and cooling the house. That is what this economy has done.

As we look at the issues, we know that the economy—we know that this has such a negative impact on the amount of money that people have in their pockets each month. In Tennessee, this means that in 2023 alone, an average family had to spend over \$10,000 more just to tread water, just to stay even.

So as we look at this, as we know the President is going to stand and insist that the state of the Nation is strong, we know that there are going to be millions of Americans who say: No. It is frayed. It is fractious. It is hurting.

People are broke. Our border is broken. Crime is up in our communities. All of this is directly related to the policies of President Biden and his agenda.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I also rise to discuss the Biden administration's failure to contain the crisis at our southern border and how that is having extreme consequences and endangering our very own citizens.

Time and time again, Republicans have warned about the damage being done to our country by open border policies launched on President Biden's first day in office.

For more than 3 years, we have witnessed this President and his administration tell us over and over that there is not a border crisis and that the border is secure. I, like most Americans, know that is absolutely not true.

President Biden will deliver his State of the Union Address tonight, and I hope the American people will listen with some level of skepticism should he discuss his recent election-year plans to address illegal crossings at the border. The American people deserve for him to be forthcoming about the border crisis, a crisis that is manifesting itself more and more in serious and violent crimes committed by illegal migrants allowed to stay in our country.

The American people deserve to know why or how Executive action would be better than simply enforcing the law—the laws that are currently already on the books. Yes, Executive orders have the force of law, but they are based on existing statutes. Simply put, this administration needs to enforce the law. Americans are taking the brunt of Joe Biden's policies as crime runs rampant at the hands of illegal immigrants.

Last year, Border Patrol agents encountered thousands of illegal aliens



with prior criminal convictions, including assault, rape, and murder. Make no mistake, it is thanks to Joe Biden's policies and his refusal to enforce the law that has allowed such criminals into our country, and now Americans are becoming victims of their crimes all across the country. Over just 2 weeks this January, law enforcement arrested more than 100 illegal immigrants in 25 different U.S. cities. Over half of the illegal aliens arrested had convictions or pending charges for assault against children, including sexual assault against children.

A month ago, just outside of Minneapolis, a man who was previously detained, dressed as a delivery driver, snuck into a home and murdered three people while two small children witnessed this crime.

Just a few weeks ago in New York, several migrants were arrested for assaulting a pair of police officers. Of course, they were almost immediately released when the Manhattan District Attorney's Office did not seek bail. They were seen smirking and using obscene gestures for the media, showing no remorse for their actions. From the same mob assault, one of the migrants allegedly involved was arrested again just days later—this time, for robbing a Macy's in Queens.

Now, just the other week, a University of Georgia nursing student, with her whole future ahead of her, went running on a popular trail in broad daylight only to be brutally murdered. The man charged with her murder entered our country illegally.

These crimes, combined with the liberal district attorneys and mayors across the country—those who advocate for sanctuary cities and other soft-on-crime policies—have created a nightmare for everyone who wants to live peacefully and safely in their homes and communities without violence.

Where is President Biden's compassion for American families and communities experiencing these horrible acts? During his brief and sanitized visit to Brownsville last week, why did the President dodge questions about the murder of 22-year-old Laken Riley at UGA? Why is his administration reluctant to prioritize their safety?

I pray that the perpetrators receive justice, and I pray the families of these victims receive God's comfort.

Sadly, my home State of Mississippi has also felt the consequences of Joe Biden's policies with the many instances of human trafficking.

Last year, four illegal immigrants were discovered with a 7-year-old migrant child after being pulled over and detained for driving without a license. After Homeland Security Investigations was contacted, the driver attempted to flee on foot and was captured. HSI determined the child was not related to anyone in the vehicle.

In another situation, a Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper identified an

illegal migrant driving on I-10, in Jackson County, with no ID. A passenger—also an illegal immigrant—revealed that they were on their way to Houston, TX, to pick up another man or woman and three or four children. After a legal search of the vehicle, items consistent with human trafficking were discovered in the vehicle.

Instances like these are, unfortunately, happening across the country, and our communities are in danger. If you think this isn't happening in your backyard, then think again. Because of the state of our country, there is growing concern and fear among Americans, who are wondering if they or someone they love will be the next target.

In fiscal year 2023, there were over 15,000 criminal noncitizen arrests. There were over 2,000 criminal illegal drug possessions and trafficking convictions. Additionally, there were almost 9,000 driving under the influence convictions. There have been nearly 200 murders committed by illegal immigrants since Joe Biden took office—200 lives lost under President Biden's watch. This is not how the greatest country in the world should operate.

Robberies, sexual assault, crimes against children, human trafficking, and murder are just some examples of the crimes these illegal migrants are willing to commit in our country. We have to stand against this.

President Biden claims he needs more authority to get control of the border. This is blatantly false. The previous administration successfully enforced border laws to get crossings to record lows. The Biden administration repeatedly refuses to acknowledge the border crisis for what it is—a crisis. He opened the border, and he can close it.

As the President prepares his State of the Union speech, I call on the Biden administration and the Democrats, who simply need to enforce the law. Let's just start with that. We must make this a priority. Americans deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

#### SPENDING AND INFLATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues to discuss the Biden administration's failed policies and their impact not only on my State of North Dakota but on all Americans.

As we prepare to listen to the President give his State of the Union Address, I want to share my perspective about the past 3 years and where we are today. But it is not just my perspective; it is what my constituents are seeing on a day-to-day basis. They see a country that is less secure, a dollar that doesn't stretch as far as it used to, and policies from this administration that are making things worse.

The reckless tax-and-spend policies of this administration have led to increases in inflation levels that we haven't seen in decades. To this day, inflation remains persistently high,

and the deficit spending continues as our debt now totals more than \$34 trillion. Last month, the Congressional Budget Office published its 10-year Budget and Economic Outlook, which revealed that, this year, the interest payments on our national debt will exceed the spending on national defense.

In addition to rising interest payments that will crowd out our ability to fund our priorities in the future, this deficit spending has led to inflation that has made everything more expensive for all Americans. The Biden administration's tax, spend, and regulate policies have led to this inflation. In my State of North Dakota, according to the Consumer Price Index data, families have experienced a cumulative price increase of about 18 percent—18 percent—since President Biden took office. That means paying more for everything from groceries to housing to transportation and energy.

North Dakota is actually among the youngest States in the Nation, with the median age of just over 35 years of age. Many of our young North Dakotans are looking to buy homes and start families, but this administration's failed economic policies have caused the inflation that has simply put homeownership out of reach. According to Freddie Mac, a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage continues to hover at about 7 percent. Before Biden took office, it was less than 4 percent.

The bottom line is that the policies of this administration that the President calls Bidenomics gets you less—not more for less but less for more.

Mr. President, at the same time, President Biden is putting his Green New Deal agenda over our economic and national security interests.

The average price for a gallon of gas was about \$2.40 on January 20, 2021, when President Biden took office. This week, gasoline prices are 42 percent higher—\$1 higher. So, instead, of \$2.40, now you pay on average \$3.40 for every gallon. It is simple economics—energy prices remain high because demand exceeds supply. Because the cost of energy is built into every good and service that we consume, we need to increase the supply of energy to help bring down inflation. Yet instead of unleashing—unleashing—the full potential of our Nation's vast energy reserves, the Biden administration's regulatory onslaught will only favor foreign adversaries at the expense of our own domestic energy industry.

The Biden administration is imposing new costs and regulatory burdens on Federal energy leases, for example, while reducing what is available for new leasing. Maximizing access to new leasing today is directly tied to growing production and supply for the long term.

Further, the Biden administration unilaterally has now banned U.S. LNG export approvals, forcing our allies in Europe and Asia to increase their reliance on imports from Russia, Iran, and Qatar. According to the U.S. Energy

Information Administration, global energy demand is expected to grow across all sectors of the economy through 2050.

Our Nation is fortunate to have abundant energy reserves and the capacity to ramp up production and counter adversarial foreign producers from countries like Russia, Iran, and Venezuela, but the Biden administration continues to handcuff our producers with burdensome regulation after regulation. That is why President Biden needs to take the handcuffs off our energy producers and work with us to boost American energy independence instead of passing regulation after regulation that shuts our energy industry down.

Producing more energy here at home is the ultimate solution to not only lowering energy costs but to strengthening our national security and our geopolitical standing in the world.

Mr. President, in addition to those issues in regard to Bidenomics, I want to talk about his failure on the border.

The year 2023 was a record year for President Biden's border policy. It was recordbreaking. By the end of the year 2023, the United States saw the most ever annual encounters at the southern border—almost 2.5 million. It is mind-boggling—2.5 million in 2023. President Biden's border policies broke records again as over 300,000 illegal encounters took place in December—just in December, 1 month—300,000 in 1 month in December 2023, which is the most encounters in any single month during his administration.

The cause of this crisis is clear: President Biden's failure to secure the border—simply put, his failure to enforce the law. The duty of a President is to enforce the law. He is not doing it.

The American people suffer the consequences because the Biden administration refuses to enforce policies that protect our southern border, including reinstating the migrant protection protocols or the "Remain in Mexico" policy, enforcing Safe Third Country agreements, and resuming the construction of the border wall. The President's failed border policies have led to increased instances of human and drug trafficking at the southern border. It is not just human trafficking; it is the fentanyl. It is all of the problems that go with an open border.

The Biden administration must address the border crisis. The Biden administration must enforce the laws that kept monthly encounters to vastly, vastly lower numbers under the Trump administration, and they need to do it now because border security truly is national security.

In conclusion, we can reverse all of these metrics, but it is going to take the President embracing the realities facing American families. Given his track record these past 3 years, I am not optimistic that we will hear him signal a reversal of these policies tonight, but he needs to for the good of the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, President Abraham Lincoln once said that "no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can . . . seriously injure the Government in the short space of [only] four years." That statement might need to be revised if Lincoln had witnessed the first 3 years of President Joe Biden.

Our country has been through a prolonged period of failure and crisis brought on by a weak leader who bows to his far-left base and pursues policies that hurt the very people he claims to help.

There is no better example of this than at the southern border, where President Biden has presided over the worst border crisis in U.S. history—millions of illegal crossings, hundreds of individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist, tens of thousands of pounds of deadly fentanyl, nearly 2 million known "got-aways," and millions more unknown "got-aways," including terrorists, human traffickers, and other bad actors.

The crisis at the border is a crisis of President Biden's own making. Starting on his very first day in office, President Biden has unleashed dozens of Executive actions that telegraphed that his administration was no longer interested in enforcing the law when it comes to illegal immigration. Here are some of the most devastating examples:

He halted construction of the border wall, leaving the physical defense of our Nation's border to scattered areas of old, rusty barbed wire. I have seen it with my own eyes.

He ended the "Remain in Mexico" policy that ensured that illegal aliens were turned back before they even arrived at the doorstep of our country. The result? Well, not only are untold millions being encountered right at the border, but when they are caught, the Biden administration releases about 75 percent of them into the interior of the United States, some with taxpayer-funded escorts and travel.

The Biden administration also halted deportation of those who illegally entered our country. In fact, just last year, Immigration and Customs Enforcement only deported 5 percent of the millions they encountered at the border.

Taken together, what is the message this President has sent to a would-be illegal immigrant? Well, for one, the United States won't construct physical barriers to stop you. We won't even lock the door to our own house, it seems. If you are caught, the United States will release you and resettle you with money out of our own taxpayers' pockets. And don't worry—per the Biden administration, the United States will never deport you.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out why this crisis persists, but it doesn't have to be this way. Just 4

years ago, illegal immigration was at a record low. Make no mistake, President Biden already has the power to fix this. It was his Executive actions that on day one caused this mess, and he can clean it up by undoing those very same orders on day 1,142—today.

We are witnessing in real time a national decline, but the good news is, that decline is a choice, and our time for choosing is coming. It is not too late. Despite all of the things that are broken right now, we can still be a strong nation as long as we have a leader with the strength and the willingness to get the job done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### REMEMBERING PAT O'TOOLE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of an agricultural icon, Pat O'Toole. I am here in a bipartisan way with both Senators from Wyoming and both Senators from Colorado to talk about this remarkable man, who is a true cowboy and a dear friend.

Pat passed away from complications following his stroke, on February 25. He was surrounded by his family, including his loving wife Sharon.

Pat and Sharon met when they were students together at Colorado State University. They have three wonderful children and six grandchildren. We are honored to be joined today in the Senate Gallery by Pat's wife Sharon, along with their daughter, Bridget, and their granddaughter, Siobhan.

Pat and Sharon own and operate Ladder Ranch. It is located outside Savery, WY, along the Little Snake River. The ranch straddles the State lines of Wyoming and Colorado, which is why all four Senators are here today on the floor to pay honor, tribute, and recognition to this remarkable man. It is a large-scale cattle and sheep operation. It has been in Sharon's family since 1881. That is 9 years before Wyoming became a State. We are talking about a long history.

Pat and Sharon liked to tell people—they did when they came to Washington, and Pat would when he testified here on Capitol Hill—that they raised "cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, and children." They did it and do it very well.

I deeply admire Pat for his passionate work on conservation, on water, and on agriculture. I saw the difference that he made, that Pat personally made, by partnering with others regardless of whether they were Republicans or Democrats. Pat didn't care at all about party affiliations. He was famous for working with anyone, anywhere who was genuinely interested in making life better for our Western agriculture communities.

Pat also served Wyoming in the State legislature for 6 years—three full terms.

In 2005, Pat was elected president of the Family Farm Alliance. He brought this experience and expertise right here

to Congress. He testified many times before the committees in the U.S. House and Senate, and here is a point when he was testifying in a committee in which I was involved. Members in both Chambers quickly learned a valuable lesson. The lesson was this: Pat O'Toole was as reliable in a committee's witness seat as he was in a horse's saddle.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and former chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I had the privilege of calling on Pat to testify numerous times before the Senate in both committees.

Most recently, he testified at an Energy Committee hearing on extreme drought and on wildfires in the West. Pat's firsthand experience with active forest management as a tool to prevent wildfires provided the committee with a very much needed western perspective, as well as offering solutions.

Pat O'Toole leaves behind a legacy driven by his passion for conservation and his love of the land, especially in the Little Snake River Valley.

It was such a privilege to help induct Pat and Sharon both into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2002, recognized statewide for their long history of service to the people in the State of Wyoming.

Pat truly represented the best of Wyoming and the best of western interests, and he did it with dedication and distinction. It was a great joy to know him and a great joy to work with him.

I would like now to yield the floor to my colleague from Wyoming, Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, today, I rise also to pay tribute to a Cowboy State giant, colleague, and friend, Pat O'Toole.

Pat was not born in Wyoming, but you never would have guessed that. There was no one more dedicated to Carbon County or the Cowboy State than Pat.

When Pat met his wife Sharon, he fell in love not just with her but, as Senator BARRASSO said, his adopted home of Wyoming. Together, they raised cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, and children. My own daughter, Annaliese, was born the same month that Eamon O'Toole was born. Sharon and I enjoyed the fact that our children would get to grow up together. He often joked that he was raising a menagerie with Sharon.

His commitment to ranching stretched far beyond his property, as he would ultimately dedicate his life to serving the agriculture and conservation communities.

I had the privilege of meeting Pat when we served together in the Wyoming Legislature. His stories and infectious smile loomed large. He quickly earned a reputation for finding common ground with anyone. We always looked forward to hearing his stories

about nearly getting arrested in Tierra del Fuego, being accosted by a machine-gun-wielding police officer in Argentina during a revolution, or hitchhiking from Maine to Florida with a buddy in college. Pat O'Toole lived a very interesting and large life.

He was also larger than life in the best way, and he cared deeply for the people he served. Following his service in the Wyoming Legislature, Pat was appointed by President Clinton to the Western Water Policy Commission, and he focused on the future of water in the West. He was instrumental in providing very carefully thought-out testimony regarding the future of the Colorado River. We all benefit now, as Senator HICKENLOOPER, Senator BENNET, and I continue to work on Colorado River issues together.

The position he held on the Western Water Policy Commission deepened his love for conservation efforts and led him to serve on many advocacy groups to fight for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities until he died.

As much as Pat dedicated his life to protecting western landscapes, he would be the first to tell you that his family was his greatest achievement.

Please join me in keeping his family in your prayers as we come together to celebrate his life and the indelible impact he had on his beloved Wyoming.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I want to say what a great privilege it is to be out here today with my colleagues from Wyoming and my colleague Senator HICKENLOOPER from Colorado to celebrate Pat O'Toole's life.

Pat O'Toole was a rancher, as you have heard, a conservationist whose family's six-generation operation, the Ladder Ranch, straddles the Colorado and Wyoming border, as my colleague from Wyoming said.

The proud son of Irish immigrants, Pat was born in Pittsburgh, but like many of us, he felt a calling to the West. He attended Colorado State University, where he met his beloved wife Sharon, who is here today.

After graduation, they were both accepted into law school, but instead they pooled their savings to buy some old ewes and take over Sharon's family ranch. For 8 years, they lived in a cabin on Ladder Ranch without electricity or running water. That might sound like a hardship to a lot of people here, but knowing the two of them, I bet it wasn't. And they were in one of the most beautiful places on this planet. In the summer, they camped while herding sheep, and bit by bit, they built their herd.

Pat was a fervent advocate for the West. He cared deeply about all the wildlife in the West, the Colorado River, and protecting American agriculture.

Pat lived a life of service. He served as president, as you have heard, of the Family Farm Alliance for nearly 20

years. He sat on the boards of the Intermountain West Joint Ventures and Solutions from the Land and was, with Senator LUMMIS, a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives.

When I came to the Senate in 2009, Pat was kind enough to recognize my failings and my lack of background and lack of experience in the things he cared most about, and he was kind enough to bring me up to speed on Colorado and western agriculture. I am still trying to catch up.

This is a photo I wanted to bring today. This is a photo of Pat telling me what I need to know about western agriculture on his ranch. You can tell I am listening more intently than I often do, certainly on this floor, but there was not a word you wanted to miss from Pat. There was nobody better to be the guide of people in this place so far from the ranch where he and Sharon raised their family. And we needed to listen because ranching touches every major western issue: water, immigration, Tribal rights, conservation, and even access to healthcare. Pat cared about all those things.

Those who were lucky enough to know Pat know he had a lot of big ideas and he had the drive to get those big ideas done. He was a doer. And he also had an amazing Rolodex.

Most recently, Pat brought together a broad coalition with the goal of restoring the stressed landscapes of the Routt and Medicine Bow National Forests and the contiguous Yampa and Little Snake watershed. My staff and I were honored to be included in that coalition.

I should say that was one of the amazing things about Pat. He could not have cared less what your title was or whether you were a Senator or not. His interactions with the staff were just as significant, I think, and just as meaningful for getting something done as they were with elected officials.

And I hope and believe that that coalition will work to carry on Pat's legacy of conservation and tireless work to improve watershed health.

In 2018, I had the pleasure to visit Pat's ranch, nestled in the Little Snake River Valley, and saw firsthand the conservation practices that he and Sharon have put in place to restore fish habitat and improve the resilience of the operation. There are a lot of people who could learn from what they have done.

After touring the ranch, Pat brought together people from all over the West, Republicans and Democrats—as Senator BARRASSO said, it didn't matter; he never talked about what party anybody was in—to join us on their porch for a big cookout while we talked about the new generation of ranchers in the West and how we can leave our kids and our grandkids a better future.

He actually knew that while the State line between Colorado and Wyoming technically divided the ranch, that a political boundary like that was not the important boundary. What he

would tell you is that the watershed is what actually matters, and that is why it is not surprising that he brought together people—a rare occasion, really, for an elected official from Colorado to meet with people from the Wyoming Legislature who were there that day to hear what Pat had to say.

And we covered topics on that day that ranged from conservation throughout the West to how we could work together to protect our water and leave a viable future for the next generation of farmers and ranchers. There were always young people around Pat; there were that day and when he brought people to Washington as well.

And even though, as I mentioned, Pat and Sharon's house was in Wyoming, they made sure my staff and I had the farmhouse across the street on the Colorado side of the road where we could spend the night under our own stars, in our own State.

The next morning, at the end of our visit, Pat showed me around the barns and shared with me a branding iron from the Ladder Ranch, which I still have in my office in Denver; although, come to think of it, it could be of more use here in Washington, DC.

Anyone who knew Pat knew about his love for his family, and he proudly brought his children and grandchildren into every aspect of the ranch. It is an amazing testament, I think, to the way he approached that world and that business and that enterprise because each of us today is reminding people here today that he cherished the idea that their ranch raised “cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, and children.” I am sure not in that order. And he managed the ranch with these kids and these grandkids in mind.

I want to recognize Pat's wife Sharon, daughter Bridget, and granddaughter Siobhan, who are here in the Gallery. They are carrying on Pat's legacy and the legacy of Ladder Ranch.

When I was flying back last weekend from Ukraine, that is when I got a message that said that Pat had had a stroke and was in Grand Junction at the hospital. And I landed at the airport in Ireland—I suppose there is something in that—and was able to have a conversation with Sharon. And the first thing she wanted to tell me—she was by Pat's side in Grand Junction. The first thing she wanted to tell me was that Siobhan was coming back here to carry on Pat's legacy, to advocate as part of the Intermountain Joint Venture fly-in. Pat was on the board of that.

And they are all here today, and I want to thank them for traveling here to be here today. Our thoughts are with you and the entire Pat O'Toole family, but, really, they are for all of us in the West who have lost his presence but not his example.

Pat's life is evidence that division is not the way to make progress in our country and it is not the way to make progress in American agriculture when it comes to water. Pat showed us what

it takes to make headway on some of the thorniest issues that we confront. We would do well to remember that example every day.

He demonstrated the importance of finding common ground to build, little by little, toward something greater for the next generation. At least with me, he showed infinite patience. I hope that is something that we can all carry on in his absence. He was larger than life, and we will miss him dearly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, I am not sure I can add too much more beyond what has already been said.

I come to the floor today to remember and add to the remembrances of the incredible life and the impactful legacy of Pat O'Toole. Senators BARRASSO and LUMMIS and my fellow Colorado Senator Mr. BENNET have been very eloquent. But I think sometimes, really, it has to be said by everyone if everything has already been said.

As was mentioned, he lived in the Little Snake River Valley that winds back and forth along the border of Colorado and Wyoming, and he did make a very big impression on both States. He may have legally resided in Wyoming, but both States claim him.

More than anything else, he was a westerner and, in many ways, a consummate westerner. Pat understood western water and agriculture. He understood conservation. And just as the West was built by barn raisings more than shootouts, he harnessed the power of collaboration to really get to the heart of the complex discussions on managing our water and our natural resources.

He was not only a graduate of Colorado State University; he was a longtime supporter. Obviously, he fell in love, met his wife, defined his future at CSU before he went off to South America for a little touring. He went on to serve as the longtime president of Family Farm Alliance, which stood up for irrigators all over the West and recognized the importance of food to the future of the country.

And he touched many different groups at that intersection between agriculture and the environment. His public service and engagement spanned decades, including service as a State legislator in Wyoming and as an appointee on President Clinton's Western Water Policy Commission.

But Pat's impact wasn't just limited to the West. He was well-known here on Capitol Hill. As each of the other Senators have said, he testified many times—more than 20 times—here in Congress. And this was not because he liked doing it or he enjoyed it, but he recognized he had a responsibility to share his expertise and to engage on legislation. He did it not because he found coming to Washington pleasurable but because he believed in the West and in his responsibility to make sure that decisions affecting the West

were made wisely. And he really pushed to make sure that we had advancements in western water management. As Western States continue to wrestle with the extreme droughts caused by climate change, Pat's wisdom is going to direct us to good solutions, and his attention to process is going to inform us.

I think it is important to remember that, no matter how many hats he wore, he was always a rancher at heart, raising “cattle, sheep, dogs, and children” on his family ranch. He was deeply committed to preserving the farming and ranching character that is so essential to the West, and he recognized the importance of conservation in protecting and maintaining that heritage. Pat's enduring love of the land was an example to all of us.

I understand and recognize the great loss to the family and appreciate that Sharon and Bridget and Siobhan are here. But, really, it is all of our loss, and he will be sorely missed by our entire country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled vote: Senator PETERS for up to 5 minutes, Senator LUJÁN for up to 5 minutes, Senator SCHMITT for up to 5 minutes, and Senator HAWLEY for up to 15 minutes.

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

#### NOMINATION OF ADRIENNE JENNINGS NOTI

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise now in support of Adrienne Noti's nomination to be an associate judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The DC Superior Court is the local trial court here in the Nation's Capital. It handles some of the highest case-loads in the entire country. It decides matters that impact the freedom, the livelihood, and the safety of families all across the District of Columbia.

Unfortunately, the superior court has struggled with high judicial vacancy rates in recent years. Mr. President, 12 of the 62 seats on the court are now vacant, and two more will open up in the coming months. This places serious burdens on current judges and delays resolutions for the parties before the court.

The District of Columbia deserves to have these seats filled by dedicated, qualified judges. Adrienne Noti is more than up for the job. She has spent the last 10 years as a magistrate judge on the DC Superior Court, and in that role she has worked across every division, from domestic violence to family law to landlord-tenant issues to criminal cases. She has proven herself to be fair and effective and has shown a deep commitment to the local community here in the District of Columbia.

Before she joined the DC Superior Court, Judge Noti spent a decade in family law, representing underserved

clients and teaching as a clinical law professor. She has spent her career fighting for equal justice and teaching others in the legal community how to do the same.

Judge Noti is highly qualified to serve as an associate judge on the DC Superior Court, and it is past time that we confirm her nomination.

While I am glad we will soon fill one vacancy on the superior court, we must take additional action to confirm the six other nominees that my committee has advanced this Congress, many with strong, strong bipartisan support.

These are not controversial nominations. And I hope that my colleagues will join me in working together to quickly confirm the other nominees and ease the vacancy crisis facing the superior court.

Today's vote is a critical step in that work. And I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Judge Adrienne Noti to be an associate judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from New Mexico.

S. 3853

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam President, 78 years ago, 4-year-old Anastacio was living in Tularosa, NM, a city 40 miles away from the Trinity test detonation site.

Now, little Anastacio didn't know it at the time—none of the families there did—but the world they were living in was contaminated in radioactive particles from the first nuclear test.

And Anastacio grew to be a big family man, hunting and growing on the land enriched by a ditch system, an acequia system, that provided ample water and nourishment—great-grandparents, grandparents, mom and dads, children, and babies all eating and drinking contaminated food and water sources.

Later in life, Anastacio Cordova developed prostate cancer and tongue cancer. The cancer metastasized to his neck and throat before becoming inoperable and consuming his body.

His daughter Tina recalls him being only 125 pounds at the time of his death in 2013.

Today, March 7—11 years ago on this day—Anastacio left us. For Anastacio's family, this was just one heartbreak from a long list of family members who have died or became seriously ill from radiation exposure.

Tina Cordova—Anastacio's daughter—made it her life's mission to fight for justice and compensation for her family and the thousands of victims of our Nation's nuclear weapons program.

This is Tina. Rosalie is holding her. Tina is with us today. Bernice Gutierrez is here with us as well. This is Henry Herrera, from Tularosa, NM, and Beatrice Gutierrez and her friends at a very young age.

Now, Tina will be my guest tonight at this year's State of the Union, and I am honored to have her by my side in this cause.

Let me change that. I am honored that she allowed me on this journey with her to help other people.

Now, she was with me in Belen, NM, when the President of the United States, Joe Biden, was visiting to talk about some of the incredible opportunities that have been created for economic growth. When I was speaking before the President, I saw Tina in the audience. And I spoke momentarily about the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and about her, only to be surprised that when the President of the United States followed me, he looked at Tina and looked at everyone in the room and the cameras and said: You have my support to get this done.

Yesterday, the President of the United States issued a statement, a SAP, showing support for the passage of this legislation—the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act amendments—in addition to language that Senator JOSH HAWLEY has included in bringing attention to families who need help and need to be seen and heard and deserve compensation based on storage flaws and exposure to each and every one of them.

This is truly a bipartisan piece of legislation, an effort reaching out to colleagues in both Chambers, every one of our friends, asking them to take a hard look at this. Please give us a chance. Let us earn your support.

Not long ago, when Senator HAWLEY had an amendment with this language in it, "Oppenheimer" was hitting theaters across America, and everyone was talking about it, a film that was made in New Mexico.

Some people may recognize this from that film. Sixty-two U.S. Senators that day stood up and raised their hand and said: Yes, the United States needs to move forward, take responsibility, give recognition to all of these families across America. Unfortunately, it was not included in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Well, on Sunday, there is something happening in America called the Oscars. And there are a lot of incredible actors and actresses who will be recognized because of the story they told with "Oppenheimer." That story left out an important part, the families we are fighting for today.

While many of them will receive Oscars, no doubt, I hope that none of those actors and actresses who are up giving their remarks when they receive an Oscar for telling the story of Dr. Oppenheimer forget about these families, that they think about them. And the same advocacy that I have heard from many of these incredible artists, I hope one of them is willing to say something. But if not, I hope they reflect on it.

Now, I will close by saying this. This particular legislation is not just about New Mexico or Missouri. This legislation will help our brothers and sisters in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, across New Mexico, Utah, and Guam. It will provide more support to

uranium miners in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, North Dakota, and South Dakota, reaching out to our brothers and sisters in Missouri and Tennessee and Alaska and in Kentucky. We have to get this done.

Now, I want to add that since this bill has been scheduled for a vote, I have heard from more colleagues about their communities that have been harmed by our Nation's complicated nuclear legacy. Specifically, people in Pike and Scioto out in Ohio; Armstrong County, PA; and communities near the Hanford site in Washington have been exposed to radiation, and they deserve justice too.

Senator BROWN, Senator CASEY, Senator MURRAY, and Senator CANTWELL, you have my commitment that as this effort moves through the legislative process, I will work with you to also deliver justice for your constituents so we can work as a family.

As I close, I ask all my colleagues to please—please—take a look at this. Please reflect. Sixty-two votes on the first vote. I hope we can send a message to all of those advocates and families across America that they are heard and seen and that we will see a stronger showing this afternoon.

Generations of families wiped out by lung, stomach, prostate, thyroid, skin, breast, and tongue cancer didn't get the glossy Hollywood treatment. And the U.S. Congress has not made any significant progress in correcting these injustices since 2000. Shame on us.

A lot of us have been praying about this and reflecting on it. And I certainly hope that we have a resounding vote in just a few short minutes to show our American brothers and sisters that we love them too.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, in March of 1865, President Lincoln said this:

Let us strive on to finish the work . . . to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.

That is why we are here today. We are here today to continue to work, to finish the work, to honor the lives of those who have borne this Nation's battles, who have rallied to this Nation's flag in every hour of danger, the people who won World War II, who won the Cold War, who helped rebuild Europe and Japan and our allies, the people who have built this country and are now waiting for us to help them. That is what we are about today.

There is a reason that we succeeded over the last half century. It is because of the working people of this country in Missouri and in New Mexico and in Nevada and Colorado and Idaho and Texas and Wyoming and everywhere else from coast to coast. It is because the working people of this country went to the uranium mines for our nuclear program, went to the processing

sites to make our weapons, volunteered for our Army, went overseas to fight, or just raised their families with dignity and honor.

That is why we have a United States of America. That is why we are the United States of America. But we have not done right by those good people. We have turned our back on them because so many of them were poisoned by their own government, by nuclear waste and radiation, by nuclear tests that were done without their knowledge, by the nuclear material and the mines that they weren't told about. The government exposed them over a period of decades to nuclear radiation waste and, in almost every case, did nothing about it. In many cases, they lied to them about it. This isn't right. This isn't just.

That is why we are here today. It is the pride of this Nation that when we won the Second World War, when we won the Cold War, we rebuilt the land of our former enemies. I am as proud of that as I ever have been.

But now it is time to rebuild these communities. It is time to finish the work in the United States of America. It is time to turn to the men and women who have borne the brunt of the battle, the men and women who gave their health and, in many cases, their lives for their Nation.

That is what we are here for today on the floor. This isn't about a handout. This isn't about some kind of welfare program. This is about doing basic justice for the working people of this Nation whom their own government has poisoned.

This is the day when we break the cycle of lies from the government; when we break the cycle of passing the buck and irresponsibility from the government; when we say to the people of America: We will honor you; when we say to the working people of this country: We are here for you; when we acknowledge to these Americans: You built this country. We will honor you. That is why we are here today.

The Senate has a chance today to make right what has been wrong, to right 50 years of wrongs, 50 and 60 years of Americans ignored, exploited, and lied to. Today, we can begin to right those wrongs. That is why we are here.

I want to recognize now my friend, my colleague from the great State of Missouri, a man who grew up in the St. Louis region right by one of these nuclear processing facilities and the landfill where the government dumped the waste and then lied about it, a man I am proud to have in this fight, Senator ERIC SCHMITT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. I rise today with my friends from New Mexico and my colleague who has shown great leadership in this to defend and support the people who have been impacted—who, quite literally, have been poisoned by their own government.

As was mentioned, I grew up in Bridgeton, MO. Bridgeton is ground

zero, the epicenter of some of the waste that was dumped—the hazardous, the toxic, the radioactive waste that was dumped there.

Just to take a step back. After World War II, St. Louis, the city itself, was the main population center. St. Louis County, which lies to the west of St. Louis City, had a lot of open land, a lot of opportunity. And the folks coming back from World War II who wanted to start a better life found that American dream in St. Louis County, where I grew up.

As they traveled west to places like Bridgeton and other ZIP Codes that are now included in this bill, something else was following them. Something else was headed west, and it was this radioactive waste that they had no idea was in their water, below their feet, affecting them, poisoning them, and killing them.

I just think back—my parents still live there, by the way. I think back to those friends and those neighbors I had, and, as Senator HAWLEY mentioned, these are folks—these are the waitresses; these are the truck drivers; these are the hairstylists—these are people who go to work every single day, and they just want a better life for their kids. They might teach in that local school. They were creating these communities that were new.

But, again, their government had dumped toxic materials that were poisoning them. What they wanted, again, was to live the American dream. By no fault of their own, they happened to live in an area—whether they were downwind or whether it was in their water—that has impacted, not just their lives but their families and generations of their families.

This legislation won't make them whole, but it is some measure of compensation, some measure of justice.

I know some people have talked about costs. Look, we do a lot of things here. We spend a lot of money, and we can debate on whether or not that is worth it or not, or whether these are our priorities. But I think, if we took off the red jerseys and took off the blue jerseys and really focused on what we should really be doing here in a government that is supposed to have limited powers, one of the things that we should be doing is protecting our own citizens.

That is what this vote is about. It is living up to the promise that we made to the people when we got elected, which was that we were going to fight for them. And this is an opportunity to go do that. It is the ability, in a number of ZIP Codes and in States across this country, for people who worked there who helped—Senator HAWLEY mentioned—who helped build America back up or were working to save civilization, in many ways, in the middle of the last century. It is for us to make sure we are doing everything we can to see that some measure of justice is served.

I would just ask my fellow colleagues to look within their hearts or imagine

looking in the eyes of some of the people who are here today who have been impacted, because these folks don't have powerful lobbyists. The people who come to our offices asking about something that is in some bill—the people who have been affected—they don't have those powerful forces in play.

This is something that bubbled up in a bipartisan way, again, to support the people we represent who have been impacted. I am proudly a supporter of this and will do everything I can to help get this passed so these folks get the justice that they deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. When I have come to this floor in weeks and months past to talk about this cause—because it is more than an issue. It is a cause. It is a cause of justice. It is a cause of doing right by other fellow Americans. When I have come in weeks past, I have often shown the pictures and told the stories of people who have given their health or given their lives for their country. Today, I don't have any pictures with me because today, in the Gallery, we have Missourians themselves and New Mexicans themselves and Arizonans themselves and members of the Navajo Nation themselves. They are here right now, sitting right there, traveling great distances, and I just want to call out a few of their names.

Mary Dickson is here from Utah. Sherrie Hanna is here from Arizona. Laura Greenwood is here from Texas. Phil Harrison is here, and Leslie Begay and Rose Harrison and Tina Cordova, all from New Mexico. And Linda Perez has come all the way from Guam—all the way from Guam. Tona Henderson has come from Idaho and Paula Terry also. And from the great State of Missouri, Dawn Chapman, who will be my guest tonight at the State of the Union. And Karen Nickel and Ashley and Christen and Chantelle and Tricia Byrnes are all here. And from the Navajo Nation, Justin and Kyle. And there are more in the Gallery, as well, from all over this country, representing every segment of this country, representing the great heritage of this country, representing the great communities of this country.

I think of the Navajo Nation. Fifty percent of the uranium that was mined in this country for our nuclear program—half of it—came from the Navajo Nation—workers from the Navajo Nation who, if I am not mistaken, also volunteered for this Nation's armed services at a percentage higher than any other community in America.

These folks represent here today the best of our Nation. They are America. They are here. They are here for us to honor them.

You know, as Americans, we make a commitment to each other. It is what it means to be an American. We promise that we will live by the ideals that we hold together and by the things



that we love together, and we promise to stand by one another. This is about standing by one another. This is about seeking that justice that President Lincoln spoke about so many Marches ago. And now, on this March day in the year 2024, the U.S. Senate has the opportunity to do its part—its small part—to continue to make this Nation what it could be, what we promised it will be, and to put right things that have been wrong.

I will end with this, Madam President. As we speak, the government is testing under the homes in St. Louis—under people’s basements in St. Louis—for radioactive contamination. After saying for decades there was no contamination to be concerned about, there was nothing we should worry about, now they are testing in our homes. They have already shut down schools. The water in the creeks is contaminated. Landfills are contaminated. The soil has been contaminated. Today, we say: Enough. Today, we turn the page. Today, we begin something new.

For those folks who are watching now from Missouri, whether from their living rooms while their homes are being tested or high schools while hoping for something better, let’s see the U.S. Senate at work. Let’s see what we can do to keep the promises we have made to each other as Americans.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON S. 3853

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for 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. HAWLEY. 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. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 75 Leg.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hagerty	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hassan	Peters
Booker	Hawley	Reed
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Braun	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Butler	Kaine	Rubio
Cantwell	Kelly	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Casey	Klobuchar	Schmitt
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Markey	Shaheen
Cotton	Marshall	Sinema
Crapo	McConnell	Smith
Cruz	Menendez	Stabenow
Daines	Merkley	Sullivan
Duckworth	Moran	Tester
Durbin	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murphy	Vance

Warner	Warren	Whitehouse
Warnock	Welch	Wyden

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Carper	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Manchin	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). On this vote, the yeas are 69, the nays are 30.

Under the previous order, the 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (S. 3853) was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

VOTE ON NOTI NOMINATION

All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Noti nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Casey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Collins	Menendez
Cotton	Coons	Merkley
Crapo	Cortez Masto	Murkowski
Cruz	Duckworth	Murphy
Daines	Durbin	Murray
Duckworth	Fetterman	Ossoff
Durbin	Hassan	Padilla
Fetterman		

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Capito	Crapo
Blackburn	Cassidy	Cruz
Booker	Moran	Daines
Braun	Cotton	Ernst
Budd	Cramer	Fischer

Graham	Lummis	Schmitt
Grassley	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	Moran	Scott (SC)
Hawley	Mullin	Sullivan
Hoeven	Paul	Thune
Hyde-Smith	Ricketts	Tillis
Johnson	Risch	Tuberville
Kennedy	Romney	Vance
Lankford	Rounds	Wicker
Lee	Rubio	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	Marshall
Gillibrand	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). 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.

The Senator from Florida.

(The remarks of Mr. SCOTT of Florida pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 580 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NOMINATION OF ADEEL A. MANGI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have an extraordinary responsibility as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee—important legislation and, probably more important, the filling of vacancies in our Federal judiciary.

Under article III of our Constitution, we create judges, and there are approximately 890 of these Federal judges across the United States. As vacancies occur, as they often do, the Senate Judiciary Committee, working with the White House and Members of the Senate, has to do background checks on these individuals, submit them to the FBI for further background checks, do our own due diligence, consider them in an open hearing before the committee, and ultimately vote in committee before they come to the floor for advice and consent.

So far this year—I should say in this term—under President Biden, we have had 181 Federal judges who have gone through this process—been cleared on the floor, reported out of the Senate—and are now serving their Nation in this capacity.

I can tell you that it is not an easy process. Lengthy questionnaires are given to each nominee to identify so many details of their lives, I find it hard to believe they kept track and record of it, but they did. Then, of course, Agencies call to verify the contents and answers in those questionnaires. Then they go through close scrutiny by the staff of the Judiciary Committee on both sides, Democrats and Republicans. Then comes the day of reckoning when they have their hearing in a public setting. Many of these nominees are questioned extensively by members of the committee. I will tell you, politics ain’t beanbag, and when it comes to the questions asked of judicial nominees, it is a serious process.



We have gone through more than 200 under the Biden administration in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Some of them have had a tough time of it, many of them had an easy time of it, but they all go through the same process.

One of the most important accomplishments of this administration has been the confirmation of highly qualified, I believe evenhanded judges to the Federal bench.

As I mentioned, to date, we have confirmed 181 lifetime judges, including a number of firsts—the first Black woman and public defender on the Supreme Court of the United States, the first Muslim-American judge on a district court, the first Asian-American judge on the Seventh Circuit. We should add another first to that list—Adeel Mangi to the Third Circuit.

Mr. Mangi is a highly qualified nominee with incredible credentials and more than two decades of litigation experience. He would be the first Muslim American to ever serve on a Federal appellate court.

Nevertheless, he is going through scrutiny unlike anything I have ever seen. He has been criticized and questioned in a way that I have never seen before in the committee. Unfortunately, many of the questions that have been raised about Mr. Mangi and his background have created suspicions in people's minds that his religion is the reason for the questioning.

Treatment of this highly qualified nominee has sometimes reached an all-time low. At the hearing in December, committee Republicans subjected Mr. Mangi to combative lines of questioning about the Israel-Hamas war. This is a man who is seeking to serve on a Federal bench in appellate court. The questions that are asked of him were more appropriately asked of the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense.

At one point, a Republican Senator asked this Muslim American the following question: Do you celebrate the anniversary of 9/11 in your home? Think about that for a second. Because he is Muslim, this Senator thought it was appropriate to ask him whether he celebrated 9/11 in his home. He, of course, said no. He was a resident of New York and thought it was a tragedy that occurred in our Nation, and he had friends and family who were affected by that tragedy.

During his hearing, under oath, Mr. Mangi unequivocally condemned anti-Semitism in all forms and condemned any acts of terrorism no fewer than 10 times. Think of that. Because he is a Muslim American, he was asked 10 different times whether he was anti-Semitic. He, of course, said no on each occasion. He also repeatedly denounced any form of hatred or bigotry in his answers to written questions.

Any insinuation that Mr. Mangi is anti-Semitic is rooted in prejudice that has no place in our country, and claims that were made are false. As he ex-

plained, "I have [] worked extensively to advance religious liberty, which I consider to be a fundamental American value, and to combat religious bigotry against any religious group. I have been proud to represent a unique and massive coalition that I built over many years involving major Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and other religious groups on matters of common interest."

Mr. Mangi has also been unfairly attacked for his nominal affiliation with the Alliance of Families for Justice. Critics have falsely claimed that because of his minimal involvement with this organization, he has somehow associated himself with violent criminals and supports "cop killers." That charge was made on the floor of the Senate against Mr. Mangi.

Nothing could be further from the truth. As a longtime corporate lawyer, Mr. Mangi has never said or written anything—anything—that suggests he supports individuals who have murdered members of law enforcement. He has never—never—represented or otherwise provided legal counsel to anyone accused of killing a police officer.

During the Trump administration, Republicans voted unanimously to confirm two judges who had personally represented individuals who had killed police officers.

Let me add quickly that everyone in America has the right to counsel. The crimes they may be charged with could be horrendous, but they still have the right to legal representation.

But to think that they would accuse Mr. Mangi of somehow supporting cop killers when he has never been involved with a client charged with that crime—the treatment of Mr. Mangi by some Republicans puts their hypocrisy on full display. There cannot be one standard for Republican appointees and another for Democratic appointees.

Mr. Mangi is eminently qualified. He is a graduate of Oxford and Harvard Law School. He spent more than two decades in private practice at a pre-eminent law firm, focusing on complex commercial litigation. He has served as counsel of record in more than 30 matters before Federal appellate courts, as well as eight amicus briefs submitted to the Supreme Court.

Throughout his career, Mr. Mangi has also demonstrated a deep commitment to pro bono work. In fact, he has devoted more than 4,000 hours to representing clients in religious discrimination, employment discrimination, and asylum cases.

Given Mr. Mangi's record, he has earned the support of a wide range of organizations, including organizations representing more than 1 million Jewish Americans.

Listen to what the National Council of Jewish Women had to say about Mr. Mangi:

He is highly qualified to serve on this court, bringing a wealth of professional and personal experience in addition to extraordinary legal qualifications.

Yet some of the Republican Senators on the committee suggested he was anti-Semitic, prejudiced against Jewish people. This endorsement by the National Council of Jewish Women clearly says otherwise.

Following Mr. Mangi's hearing, the Anti-Defamation League, an organization which is dedicated to rooting out prejudice against Jewish people, sent a statement to the committee, unsolicited by me, in which they said:

Berating the first American Muslim federal appellate judicial nominee with endless questions that appear to have been motivated by bias towards his religion is profoundly wrong.

Mr. Mangi also has the support of a number of law enforcement organizations, from the New Jersey chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives to the Hispanic American Law Enforcement Association.

Mr. Mangi stated:

I am ready and prepared to be held accountable for any statement that I have ever made, any word that I have ever written, or any action that I have ever taken.

He went on to say:

I am not and should not be held accountable for statements made by people I do not know at events that I was not involved in.

Mr. Mangi is right. He should be judged based on his record, not on dishonest, bad-faith insinuations.

I urge my colleagues to dismiss the smear campaign against Mr. Mangi and support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I just want to associate myself with the remarks of the chair of the Judiciary Committee about the nominee. Everything he said is true. I share his horror at the vilification of him, which I do believe is based on his faith, and he would be an outstanding member of the Federal court.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your defense on behalf of an excellent nominee.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. President, I am here to talk about the post office and the frustration we are having in Vermont with the management of the post office, starting with Mr. DeJoy, our Postmaster General, and his total disregard for what is happening to our postal service in Vermont.

Let me start by saying what the specific incident is that is just baffling to Senator SANDERS, to Congressman BALINT, to Governor Scott, and to me. We had a flood in July. The postal building in Montpelier was flooded and damaged, and it is not going to be opened for years. We have to get another location for our post office. That was July. It is March now. We have no new postal service, no new postal building.

The workers, whom we are absolutely indebted to, the postal workers—they

are fantastic throughout the State of Vermont. They work under very difficult circumstances. They are understaffed, overworked, and they do everything they can to get the mail delivered.

So they are doing what they can, but they don't have a place for postal boxes. They don't have a place where they can sort the mail. They don't have a place—actually, Montpelier residences and businesses don't have a Postal Service they can come to, to pick up their mail. And it is going on and on and on. And despite the efforts of Governor Scott, who has made suggestions on where we could put a replacement location, despite the entreaties of Senator SANDERS and Congresswoman BALINT and me, we get literally no response, and that is the part that is so astonishing to me.

We try to get a meeting with Postmaster General DeJoy. We send letters, we make phone calls, and there is no response.

Montpelier, right now, has the distinction of being the only capital city in the country that doesn't have a post office. We don't have a McDonald's either. We are OK with that. But we are not OK with not having a post office where people can pick up their medications, their Social Security checks, where businesses can drop off their mail going out to customers.

And what is so aggravating to all of us is there is no response from the management. That is their job. They just blow us off.

And can you imagine what it is like if you are a citizen and you are trying to get some response on the basic right that you have to get your mail on time, the basic right and the confidence you should have that you will get your prescription medication on time, when, not only do they get ignored when they are making a reasonable request—hey, where is our post office?—the Members of Congress don't even get a response.

And, you know, for a while I thought: Maybe DeJoy doesn't like me. He doesn't like SANDERS. He doesn't like BALINT. Maybe he doesn't like our government.

But do you know what? That isn't what it is about. I wish it was personal. But what I am finding out from talking to my colleagues is that this problem of postal mismanagement and disregard—and disregard—for the legitimate concerns of our citizens is widespread.

So, for instance, in Tennessee, my colleague—my former colleague in the House, TIM BURCHETT, is trying to figure out how to get stuff delivered. His folks need medications. They need the checks—the Social Security checks. He tried to get the Postal Service to respond. I am talking, again, about the management, because Tim, like me, is really admiring of the work of the postal workers. They were concerned that he couldn't get a meeting.

Finally, the Postal Service sent some people a couple hundred miles to his

district. They sat there for 15 minutes and made no response whatsoever to the entreaties of the people who had asked for that meeting. And then they vanished—no response, no action.

My colleague Senator SMITH is in Minnesota. There is a rural post office there where people have been told to prioritize the delivery of Amazon packages—that is a private company having the Postal Service doing the last bit of work to get that package to the home—but to prioritize that for Amazon over the delivery of everyday mail for people who are citizens of that small town.

And then, in Colorado, small ski towns in Colorado are waiting weeks or months at a time to get their mail. The Wall Street Journal did a story about this, and I want to quote it.

A citizen there said: "Christmas cards began arriving in February. But what's not funny at all"—he was kind of philosophical about it—"is [that] driver's licenses, disability payments, election ballots, [and] prescriptions" were not arriving for months as well.

I mean, this is the United States of America. The Postal Service is older than the Constitution itself. The original infrastructure that we began building were roads to connect one postal service to another. That is what it was about, and it is getting wrecked.

And the wreckage by Postmaster General DeJoy is reflected in his unresponsive attitude toward everyday Americans in every district of this country, and it has got to end.

There is independence with the Postal Service. That is to avoid Congressional meddling. But do you know what? Is it Congressional meddling when we are sticking up for the businesses in our communities, for the senior citizens in our communities, for the kids who, in fact, do like getting cards from their grandfather and their grandmother? No. I don't think that is meddling. That is demanding service.

What is unacceptable is a postal management service that won't even pick up the phone and meet with Members of Congress on behalf of their citizens or, more importantly, get the job done on behalf of all of the people we represent.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss with my colleagues the fact that Agencies of the Federal Government aren't very insightful to make sure that taxpayers' money is spent properly and also to say how they are not cooperating with the constitutional responsibility of Congress to make sure the money is spent in a legal way.

In this case, I am here to talk about the Environmental Protection Agency.

On April 13, I began an investigation into an EPA program called the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement

Program. Now that is quite a name, isn't it?

On February 22 of this year, I issued a preliminary report on my investigation. That EPA program dishes out millions of taxpayer dollars to left-leaning nonprofits. The funding is from President Biden's American Rescue Plan, which was opposed by Senate Republicans.

According to the EPA, the purpose of this environmental justice program is to address environmental and public health issues in underserved communities.

As part of that program, the EPA sent 34 individual nonprofits a combined \$4.3 million, with each receiving up to \$200,000.

I think the money was meant to be spent for the purpose of improving the environment—and I don't have any trouble with that—but I think you will see that the grantees didn't use the money for what it was intended for.

Now, I wrote to all 34 grantees because I wanted to know how they spent that taxpayer money. I wrote to the EPA because I wanted to know how it was conducting oversight of that spending. You see, it isn't only Congress that has a responsibility to see that the money is spent responsibly and according to Congress's will, but it is also up to these Agencies to make sure that they spend the money accordingly.

It is a pretty simple request. I want EPA to show their work, how the taxpayers' money is being spent. Well, this EPA, apparently, to them that question is just too much for them to handle.

So guess what happened after I sent the oversight letters. The EPA interfered and told these 34 grantees that they—meaning the EPA—would handle the Grassley request. This led many grantees to refuse compliance with any congressional oversight request and also obstruct my efforts of getting answers for the taxpayers.

Some grantees were so emboldened by EPA's obstructive conduct that they sent my staff emails. And this is just one example of the emails:

We report to EPA and they're responding on our behalf. You can make your request to them. We won't be responding further. Don't contact us any further.

That is how they treat this Senator doing his constitutional responsibilities, and, obviously, you can tell by that quote that this is very much obstruction.

What the Biden EPA has done is to obstruct a core constitutional requirement of the Congress; that is, knowing how appropriated taxpayer money is being used by the executive branch. Moreover, the EPA couldn't even respond on behalf of grantees, and it is pretty simple because the EPA doesn't even possess the records that I was requesting from the nonprofits. That is a whole different problem for the EPA.

Specifically I asked grantees—and this is a quote from my letter:

Provide all records showing how the taxpayer money your organization received was spent. In your production, please provide a financial summary showing what the taxpayer money was spent on.

Amazingly, the EPA can't fulfill this request for grantees because, at this point in the life cycle of the grant, it doesn't possess the records that show how taxpayer money has been spent.

Accordingly, except for my asking these questions, the EPA wouldn't have possessed these records at this point in the grant program. The EPA only has financial records showing how much money the grantees had drawn down from the overall grant.

The EPA emailed my staff this:

At the current stage in the grant process, this is the only document detailing financial progress that grantees are required to submit to the Agency.

For context, the "only document" referred to by the EPA doesn't show how, and on what, taxpayer money was being spent by each grantee.

Now, that is beyond embarrassing. It is a disgrace and a slap in the face to the taxpayers who worked so hard for their money that the EPA has failed to track their money. The EPA is throwing taxpayers' money around without a care in the world.

My preliminary oversight report also found that some of the projects didn't even pass the smell test. For example, grantees that did respond to us reported projects like empathetic listening training, tree walk-and-talks, making musical presentations to their communities, and buying clothing. And it turns out the lion's share of the money, so far, is being used for more salaries of the people who are on the nonprofit payroll and also other employee benefits.

Many of the 34 grantees were unable to provide records showing how much money their projects could cost. Some were able to provide those records I asked for. Then why didn't all of the grantees? Well, I think, going back to what I previously said, the EPA said you didn't have to answer.

I think the taxpayers have a right to know these financial details. With America suffering from record inflation and being forced to make difficult financial decisions, the EPA's obstructive conduct toward the Congress and the EPA's weak and incompetent oversight all are insults to the American taxpayer.

To make it worse, the EPA program I have talked about is just getting started. The EPA plans to spend tens of millions of dollars more in coming years on similar programs and has spent, according to what I have been able to assess at this point—that means for more salaries and benefits probably for the employees of the organizations as opposed to helping solve our environmental problems.

I imagine one would be hard-pressed to find any American taxpayer who would be satisfied with the EPA's conduct in how this money is being spent.

It is time for the EPA to do real oversight of how all this money is spent.

The American taxpayers deserve better from its government, so, as usual, the Grassley oversight will continue.

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.

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

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

#### ANTITRUST APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator KLOBUCHAR on the floor today. Senator KLOBUCHAR is the chair of the Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. I chair the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee, and we are here to do a colloquy about the work of the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and its funding.

First of all, I would like to thank my friend from Minnesota for her tireless work to strengthen competition policy and protect consumers. In particular, I want to commend her for her leadership on the Merger Fee Modernization Act, her bipartisan bill that was signed into law at the end of 2022. That bill modernized the merger fee filing structure for the first time in decades, resulting in more funding for the antitrust enforcers at the Justice Department.

Today, we are considering fiscal year 2024 funding for the CJS bill as part of the six-bill minibus that is before the Senate. I can state with certainty that as a direct result of Senator KLOBUCHAR's leadership, the bipartisan, bicameral appropriations package that the Senate is considering provides the highest ever appropriation for the Antitrust Division in the Agency's 121-year history.

The Antitrust Division plays a vital role in promoting competition and cracking down on monopolistic practices that hurt U.S. consumers. That is why despite the extremely tight fiscal constraints for this year's budget, we fought off the House Republicans' attempts to gut funding for the Division and to impede its vital work. I am proud that we managed to secure increased funding for the Division in extremely tough bipartisan negotiations. And I want to thank the staff of the Commerce, Science and Justice Appropriations Subcommittee for their good work.

House Republicans wanted to cut antitrust by \$32 million or 14 percent. We ended up providing antitrust with a 3.6 percent increase compared to last year. It is one of the only Agencies within the bill to receive an increase, and we fought for this increase because the Antitrust mission is as critical as ever.

Decades of consolidation have left Americans with less choice and less innovation, and the effects of that consolidation can be felt in all facets of American life. So this funding will further the Agency's critical mission to promote competition and level the playing field for the American people.

Now, the Antitrust Division is funded primarily through fees that are paid by companies seeking to merge. My colleague's legislation increases fees that are paid by large corporations and big mergers and decreases those on small businesses and smaller mergers. And for the first time, it adjusts the filing fee amounts each year based on changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Hopefully, I got that right, Senator KLOBUCHAR.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you, Senator SHAHEEN. I am pleased to be here with my colleague from New Hampshire.

Mr. President, as I said when I came to the floor earlier this week, I appreciate the tough negotiations that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, including Senator SHAHEEN with her very important subcommittee, had to go through in crafting this bill. There are many good things in it; and, crucially, it keeps the Federal Government open and working for the American people.

However, as I noted last week, the technical language released by the Appropriations Committee on Sunday restricts the Antitrust Division from using funds generated from merger filing fees that exceed the appropriated amount collected in fiscal year 2024 to enforce our competition laws without a separate act of Congress.

So the reason this has become a major deal for many of us that are simply interested in allowing the Department of Justice to do its work on some very important cases, which are well-publicized that are pending now, is that it conflicts with the intent of Senator GRASSLEY's and my bill that passed last Congress by an 88-to-3 vote. This law provides enforcers with the resources necessary to take on the anticompetitive practices by the biggest companies the world has ever known, an acknowledgment that the world has changed.

Prior to Sunday, appropriators had, for decades, allowed the Antitrust Division to retain and use all merger filing fees it collected without limit. This makes sense. If the fees collected are high, that means the mergers are rampant; and if mergers are rampant, the Antitrust Division needs additional funding to review and challenge anticompetitive mergers when they are anticompetitive, while simultaneously maintaining its non-fee-generating work of prosecuting price-fixing conspiracies and opposing monopolistic behavior.

Unfortunately, the language in the current appropriations bill could divert fees away from the Antitrust Division in fiscal year 2024 if those fees exceeded

\$233 million, potentially eroding the intent of the bill that Senator GRASSLEY and I passed, along with Senator LEE, with overwhelming bipartisan support a little over a year ago.

Yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY and I, along with a bipartisan group that led the bill in the House, made clear that the bill's unambiguous intent was to allow the Antitrust Division to retain and use all fees generated from the new fee structure.

Just to clarify with my friend from the great State of New Hampshire, I ask her if she shares the understanding that it is the intent of the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act to provide additional resources to the Antitrust Division by increasing merger filing fees.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. As someone who voted for that bill and who thinks it was a good bill, I certainly do agree with that; and I hope that, in fact, going forward, we will see the Antitrust Division produce more fees so that we can get over the amount in the future as we look at putting together the appropriations bill for 2025.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Well, thank you, Senator SHAHEEN.

I also understand that this year's appropriations bill, as I noted, was a product of negotiations in especially difficult circumstances. Given this situation, I thank you and Senator MURRAY for successfully fighting to secure an increase in funds compared to last year for the Antitrust Division.

But as we have noted, this year's compromise would restrict the Antitrust Division's access to merger filing fees in years when those filing fees exceed the appropriated amount should not and cannot set a precedent for future appropriations bills. This language is limited to this bill and this bill only. Moving forward, we must include language that allows the Antitrust Division to retain and use the additional fees it collects under our bill—the bill that was passed with 88 votes in this Chamber, signed into law by the President, and, of course, passed by the House, and was consistent with decades of precedent to empower the Antitrust Division to enforce our competition laws.

One last question of the Senator from New Hampshire, and that is: Will you commit to prioritizing and doing everything in your power to include language that will allow the Antitrust Division to retain and use all the fees it collects above the appropriated amount in future budgets consistent with the law's intent?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Absolutely, and I hope in 2025, we are able to convince our Republican colleagues in the House that this is something that the original legislation that you and Senator GRASSLEY passed intended, and that they will support that. And if we start from now, hopefully, we can engage Senator GRASSLEY and Senator LEE to help us do that with the House Republicans.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Senator SHAHEEN. And as we know, there are major, major investigations—some suits already have been filed. Actually, from the prior administration going forward into this administration, they have been bipartisan in that way, as well as ongoing investigations.

So I do thank you for your commitment and look forward to working closely with you and the Democratic and Republican Members of the Appropriations Committee on the fiscal year 2025 budget process to uphold this commitment.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you, Senator KLOBUCHAR. As we know, we are about to start the 2025 appropriations process. So we will begin very soon, and I look forward to you and your staff working closely with us as we try to provide the desired outcome intended by the legislation.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you, Senator SHAHEEN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

#### STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, later this evening, we are going to hear the President of the United States tout the successes of his administration over the last year. He will say that our country is in a better place because of his leadership.

Are you ready?

Are you looking forward to hearing how grocery costs, energy costs, and the gas prices have all gone down over the last year? Maybe you are eager to hear about Joe Biden's solution to the historic border crisis—one which he created, by the way—that has crushed our rural hospitals, our schools, and other public resources.

So let me save you some time. Here is how President Biden's speech is going to go. The economy has never, ever been better.

This is a lie. Grocery prices are up 21 percent; gas prices are up 32 percent; inflation is up 18 percent; credit card debt for the average American is at an all-time high. Do those numbers sound like the economy is better than ever?

Well, I don't think so.

He will say America has never been safer.

This is a lie. Cities across the country are experiencing surges of homicides, muggings, and carjackings. New York City just deployed the National Guard to combat subway crime.

Let me read that one more time. New York City just deployed the National Guard to combat subway crime.

I never thought I would see it. This is obviously a Democratic city.

Washington, DC—right here, our Nation's Capital—saw, last year, its deadliest year in almost two decades.

That doesn't sound like this administration and its Democratic allies have prioritized the safety and security of Americans, which, by the way, is any—any—administration's top responsibility.

Joe Biden will turn to Ukraine next and say that, by continuing to send billions of dollars to secure their border, we will protect our country—billions more dollars. Yet that is another lie. We have already spent and sent over to Ukraine \$120 billion, only to watch their war descend into a yearslong stalemate, with hundreds of thousands of people killed and no end in sight.

We are \$34 trillion in debt and borrowing an additional \$80,000 per second. You heard me right. We are borrowing \$80,000 per second. That is \$4.6 million a minute. We are increasing the debt at a rate of \$2.5 trillion per year.

Our munitions are depleted because the President has continued to give it away to other countries. We are defenseless; we are broke; and we have little to show for it. Our streets should be made of gold. We should have fast trains across the country. Our airports should be immaculate. We have nothing to show for a \$34 trillion debt.

President Biden will also say the border crisis should have been solved with the Biden-Schumer border deal and complain that Republicans blocked the bill from moving forward. I was looking forward to this bill, but, surprisingly, this is another lie.

The Biden-Schumer border deal was a border giveaway. The bill did not stop the administration from paroling thousands of people per day into our country. To me, that was what a border bill was supposed to be about.

The bill did not authorize funding to complete the border wall. It is simple: Put up a wall. We just put one outside the Capitol here today to keep the mean people from coming to this speech tonight.

The bill will not stop funding sanctuary cities where criminal aliens are protected from deportations.

The President will claim he has done everything he can do to secure the border but that Republicans have tied his hands. That is what he will say. To clarify, the President of the United States will claim, at the end of the night, he cannot secure the Nation's border. How embarrassing. What a shameless dereliction of duty and a bold-faced lie. He thinks that Americans are either too stupid to see what is going on here or he might think they just don't care, but I think they do. He is wrong on both counts. Tuesday's primary race results proved just how wrong he is.

When I last spoke on the floor 1 week ago, I said I would be back the next time an American was killed by an illegal alien. Well, here I am, and it is far too soon.

This past weekend, 27-year-old Washington State Patrol Trooper Christopher Gadd was killed by an illegal alien. This is he right here. Raul Benitez Santana—a Mexican citizen, drunk and high behind the wheel—crashed his car into Trooper Gadd and killed him. Trooper Gadd was a husband, a father, a brother, and a son. Benitez Santana has been arrested

multiple times before since he has been in the United States illegally—illegally—over the last 10 years, and this man lay dead today because of that. He has been charged several times for driving with a suspended license in addition to possession of marijuana and domestic abuse.

He should have been deported long ago, but he wasn't. Now Trooper Gadd is dead. Does anybody care other than his family?

Sadly, Marysville, WA, where the crash occurred, is a sanctuary jurisdiction. I still haven't figured that out. You know, I have spoken about sanctuary jurisdictions before. They are cities, counties, and States where locally elected officials prohibit police from cooperating with Federal law enforcement officers to get criminal aliens out of our communities and into removal proceedings to be deported, but if you are in one of these sanctuary cities, that doesn't happen.

This tragic event is but one in a pattern of occurrences happening across our country in which the lives of U.S. citizens are put at risk because of Joe Biden's refusal—absolute refusal—to secure the border.

So, earlier today, the House of Representatives voted on the Laken Riley Act. We talked about her a couple of weeks ago here, right on this floor—a young lady who was killed by an illegal alien at the University of Georgia.

The Laken Riley Act would mandate the detention of illegal aliens charged with crimes as small as shoplifting. That is exactly what Laken Riley's killer had been arrested for previously. By the way, he had also been arrested for endangering a minor before he was charged with Laken Riley's murder. This bill today that was voted on in the House—170 Democrats voted against this bill.

The blame for the state of this country rests solely with President Biden. He is the boss; he is the leader—period.

Does he care about you? Does he care about you as a taxpayer and a citizen of this country? He doesn't show it.

Does he care about your family? Does he care about keeping them safe or is it just by luck that nothing happens to you? I don't think he does.

Will he protect you? I don't think so. He hasn't shown that. He didn't protect Laken Riley or Trooper Gadd here. I am sure he won't talk about Laken or Trooper Gadd in his speech tonight, but he should. Their names should come up. Their families are grieving. It is just unfortunate that he doesn't take the leadership role and the blame. These two Americans don't support his narrative of a successful Presidency.

He is going to say he has had a successful first 3 years and his last year was successful, but we have lost a lot of people because of the decisions that he has made at the border, and there have been many, not just these two. One is too many.

I don't know how many people will support this talk tonight. I am anxious

to hear it. I am anxious to hear what his writers got together and said about our country and what has happened over the last year and what he foresees in the future. It had to be hard.

Unless drastic changes are made to our Nation's leadership in the very near future, I think the American citizens are going to be on their own. It is just going to be by luck whether you are going to make it or not make it. I am not talking about just financially. I am talking about life or death, because we are losing people almost daily.

So, on that, I am looking forward to hearing President Biden's speech tonight. I hope the American people will listen in—listen in hard—on what is going on, because this is our country, and our country is in trouble. I hope to God that we make the right decisions come this November. God bless.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Hawaii.

#### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, women and families across the country are confronting impossible choices because of Republican extremism on abortion.

Do you risk your own health with a high-risk pregnancy or do you risk being thrown in jail for trying to get an abortion? Do you stay in a State that forces you to carry for months a nonviable pregnancy to term? Do you travel hundreds of miles in secret to get access to a legal abortion in some other jurisdiction?

If these choices sound awful, it is because they are.

The chaos and the suffering created by Republicans is not just limited to red States. These attacks affect everyone.

Take Hawaii, which legalized abortion over 50 years ago and has some of the strongest protections in the country. Yet there is a case before the Supreme Court right now trying to prevent people from accessing medication abortion by telehealth. That means, if you live on an island like Kauai and rely on telehealth to get reproductive care, you would have to take off work and get on a plane to access services.

So, if you are in a blue State, thinking "I am safe," you are not. Republicans are coming after all of it, and no one and nothing is off limits. Attacks on abortion threaten the entire system of reproductive care, including things like contraception, family planning programs, and early miscarriage care. Hospitals and doctors are terrified of providing care that will cost them their licenses or land them in jail.

For instance, if you are an OB/GYN in a State like Texas, you might be forced to delay or deny treatment to a patient with an ectopic pregnancy because there is enough gray area that the State can arbitrarily decide that you broke the law and punish you for providing lifesaving care. Doctors are not lawyers, and many in these States are understandably either retiring early or quitting or moving to a State

that doesn't make criminals out of them simply for doing their jobs.

I am joined here in the Gallery today by an OB/GYN resident from Hawaii, Dr. Olivia Manayan. Born and raised in Honolulu, Dr. Manayan is currently a chief resident at the University of Hawaii, and next year, she will begin her specialization in complex family planning—focusing on abortion training, complex contraception, and reproductive justice. We need more people like Dr. Manayan, not fewer—people who are passionate about providing accessible and equitable care to their communities. We ought to be celebrating their contributions, but, instead, Republicans are hard at work criminalizing the whole profession.

Republicans are coming after all of it, and they are not going to stop. They have said what they are going to do, and now they are doing it. I think the challenge for those of us on this side of the aisle is that what they are doing is so bananas; it is so offensive; it is so cruel; it is so unpopular that, when we describe it accurately, it sounds like we are being hyperpartisan and freaking out for no reason. That is what it sounds like—I grant you that—but it is literally what is happening: IVF, banned. Contraception, not sure. Ectopic pregnancy, you have got to carry that to term. A nonviable pregnancy, you have to carry that to term and prove that it is nonviable even if your doctor says it is nonviable.

The cruelty knows no end. So, if you are a person who thinks, "Hey, you know, I am kind of uncomfortable with abortion, and so maybe I think I am pro-life," I want you to understand what it means to be pro-life in the context of this 50-year fight to eliminate women's control over their own bodies. They are not stopping at Roe. They are not stopping at IVF. They are not stopping at contraception. They are not stopping. They want to control people's bodies.

Stopping all of this means fighting with as much coordination and passion as the anti-abortion movement has been doing for decades. And that includes men too. This can't solely be a women's issue. We don't get to sit this one out. These extreme policies affect everybody and everyone wishing to start a family or caring for someone who is pregnant, and so we all need to get involved.

When and if we have the House and the Senate and the Presidency, we should enshrine all of these reproductive freedoms in Federal statutory law.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote—how soon, unclear—but soon vote on an appropriations package which, among other bills, includes one from the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Subcommittee, which I chair. I want to take a moment to talk about what is in it and why it matters so much.

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented housing shortage.

Homes are increasingly out of reach for so many families and individuals, and homelessness continues to rise to record levels. There is no question that the Federal Government must act.

No appropriations bill—especially one negotiated under difficult spending caps demanded by House Republicans—is going to solve our decades-long housing problem. But what this bill does is provide funding for rental and homelessness assistance for millions of Americans.

It also provides \$100 million for the Yes in My Backyard Program, which will incentivize building housing and eliminating exclusionary zoning policies that have long kept housing supply down.

The bill also includes funding to modernize transportation and make it safer and more accessible. It fully funds the Federal Aviation Administration so that it can staff up and maintain a world-class air traffic control system.

Also included is the funding for the Federal Railroad Administration, which, in part, will help to improve rail safety in the wake of the East Palestine train derailment.

Crucially, the bill provides vital funding to improve Tribal housing and transportation infrastructure, including more than \$1.3 billion for the NAHASDA Native-American Housing Block Grant Program. That is a record increase for Tribal housing of more than \$300 million, which will help Tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians build affordable housing in their communities and address their unique and urgent housing needs.

As always, these bills are the product of a lot of hard work and patience, especially from our excellent staff. That has been particularly true this year. They have worked so hard—long, long hours. When we make a deal, the work begins. Whenever we decide that we have consummated our deal, they don't get to say: Look, I am in the middle of a kid's baseball game or I am at a doctor's appointment or I am on a run or I just woke up. They have to get to work and draft the legislation. So lots of them have spent a lot of sleepless nights. My staff, the Republican staff on the T-HUD Committee, our House counterparts, all of the people in leadership on both teams, everybody worked their butt off to make this possible. I just want to appreciate them.

I also want to take a moment to thank Ranking Member CINDY HYDE-SMITH, the subcommittee members, as well as our counterparts in the House—Representatives Cole and Quigley—who worked in good faith throughout the process to get us here.

There is a lot more that we need to do to invest in housing and transportation around the country, but this bill funds enormously important priorities and projects that so many Americans rely upon. It is essential that we pass it, along with the rest of the bills.

We have a deadline of tomorrow night at midnight. I am confident that

we will make that deadline, but we have got to run this thing across the finish line.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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

The majority leader.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 532, 533; that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, further, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following nominations en bloc: Calendars No. 360, 280, 361, 362, 363, 359, 258, 118, 119, 120, 531; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc, without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Douglas Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2024; Fara Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission. (New Position); Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2016; Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2023.

(Reappointment); Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2018; Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2022. (Reappointment); Loren E. Sweatt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2023; Loren E. Sweatt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2026. (Reappointment); Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2024. (Reappointment); Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2027. (Reappointment); Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2025. (Reappointment); Kelly Harrison Rankin, of Wyoming, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### UNITED STATES SENATE FELLOWSHIP REGULATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD updated United States Senate Fellowship Regulations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### U.S. SENATE STARS OF VALOR FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM REGULATIONS

##### ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON MARCH 5, 2024

1.0 Scope—Senate Resolution 442 (117th Congress) established the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Gold Star Family Fellowship and Senate Resolution 443 (117th Congress) established the McCain-Mansfield Fellowship. These programs create fellowship positions within the Senate that provide qualified military veterans and their family members with career transition and development opportunities. These regulations describe the administration, eligibility criteria, selection, and placement procedures of the programs.

2.0 Definitions—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified.

2.1 Disabled means a Veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater.



2.2 Family Member means a widow or widower (remarried or not); parent (mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parent who stands in loco parentis); child, stepchild, or adopted child; or brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister.

2.3 Fellow means an individual serving in the Stars of Valor Fellowships Program.

2.4 Participating Senate Office means the personal office of a Senator that chooses to employ a Fellow and for which a Fellow is available by operation of the priority system described in section 5.0 of these regulations.

2.5 Program means the Stars of Valor Fellowships Program.

2.6 Rules Committee means the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.7 SAA means the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

2.8 Stars of Valor Fellowships Program means the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Gold Star Family Fellowship established by Senate Resolution 442 (117th Congress) and the McCain-Mansfield Fellowship established by Senate Resolution 443 (117th Congress).

2.9 U.S. Armed Forces shall have the same meaning as set forth in 10 U.S.C. 101(a)(4).

2.10 Veteran shall have the same meaning as set forth in 38 U.S.C. 101(2).

2.11 Wounded shall have the same meaning as set forth in 10 U.S.C. 1129.

3.0 General Program Information—The SAA, in consultation with the Rules Committee, is responsible for the Program's administration.

3.1 Availability. The number of fellowships available is contingent on appropriations.

3.2 Duty Station. Fellows are detailed to a Participating Senate Office in the District of Columbia or a state. Fellows may request specific location assignments, but such requests are not guaranteed.

3.3 Duration. Fellowships are expected to last 24 months and are contingent upon employee conduct and performance, as well as the Senator's continued tenure.

3.3.1 If, for any reason, a Senator leaves office, a Fellow placed with that Participating Senate Office may, upon the determination of the SAA after consultation with the Rules Committee, be reassigned for the remainder of the 24 months to another Participating Senate Office or be terminated.

3.4 Appointment Selection. The SAA is responsible for advertising Program vacancies, forwarding qualified candidates to Participating Senate Offices for consideration and selection, submitting selected candidates for a background check by the U.S. Capitol Police, appointing Fellows, coordinating Fellow onboarding, and setting compensation of Fellows.

3.5 Senate Office Responsibility. Participating Senate Offices are required to sign a Statement of Understanding with the SAA. The Statement of Understanding shall memorialize the terms and conditions governing the SAA's placement of a Fellow to a Participating Senate Office. Official travel for any Fellow shall be at the sole expense of the Participating Senate Office pursuant to the United States Senate Travel Regulations and as memorialized in the Statement of Understanding.

3.6 Program Employment Policies. Program employment policies for Fellows shall be set forth in a Program handbook prepared by the SAA, in consultation with the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment. To the maximum extent possible, the Program handbook will establish that the policies set by the Participating Senate Office govern in matters concerning a Fellow's day-to-day employment. In matters where the Program handbook and the Participating Senate Office's policies conflict, the Program handbook will control.

3.7 Employment Exclusions. For purposes of the Program's administration only, all Fellows shall be considered employees of the SAA; however, no Fellow shall be included in the SAA's full-time employee count, and no Fellow's compensation shall be included in the determination of the aggregate gross compensation limit for employees of the SAA. The compensation paid to a Fellow serving in Participating Senate Office shall not be included in the determination of the aggregate gross compensation for employees employed by the Senator under section 105(d)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1968.

4.0 Program Eligibility Criteria—

4.1 SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Gold Star Family Fellowship candidates. The SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Gold Star Family Fellowship candidates must be a Family Member of a U.S. Armed Forces Servicemember who died in the line of duty or a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who died of service-connected injuries. To qualify for the SFC Sean Cooley and SPC Christopher Horton Gold Star Family Fellowship, a candidate must submit the following:

4.1.1 For eligibility through Servicemember's death in the line of duty: DD Form 1300, "Report of Casualty," or DD Form 2064, "Certificate of Death (Overseas)," and documentation of kinship with Servicemember, such as a marriage license or birth certificate.

4.1.2 For eligibility through Veteran's death due to service-connected injuries: Documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs and documentation of kinship with Servicemember, such as a marriage license or birth certificate.

4.2 McCain-Mansfield Fellowship candidates. McCain-Mansfield Fellowship candidates must be a Wounded or Disabled Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces. To qualify for the McCain-Mansfield Fellowship, a candidate must submit the following:

4.2.1 Submit DD Form 214 or other official documentation confirming an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

4.2.2 Have been released from active duty within the last five years;

4.2.3 Qualify as Wounded or Disabled, and provide official documentation thereof, which may include a DD Form 214 or other documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

4.2.4 Confirm a terminal pay grade at or below E-5 (Enlisted), CW-2 (Chief Warrant Officers), or O-3 (Officers).

4.2.4.1 Veterans promoted to the pay grades of E-6, W-3, or O-4 within six months of separation from active duty are eligible.

5.0 Priority Order for Fellow Assignments—The SAA shall assign fellowships to Senators in the following order and subject to available appropriations:

5.1 The SAA shall use Senatorial seniority to offer one Fellow to the senior Senator from each state.

5.2 The SAA shall then use Senatorial seniority to offer one Fellow to the junior Senator from each state.

5.3 If the SAA has offered Fellows to all Senators as detailed in sections 5.1 and 5.2, and still has fellowship candidates to place, then the SAA shall repeat the assignment process detailed in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

5.4 If a Senator declines to participate in the Program they are not eligible to be assigned a Fellow until the SAA has offered a Fellow to all other Senators through the assignment process detailed in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO EARLE THOMPSON

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, every single day, our veterans use the skills and discipline they learned in uniform to build up our country. Countless veterans pass on these lessons to others. Colonel Earle Thompson, from Lake Martin, is one such example.

Colonel Thompson began his military service by signing up for the U.S. Army after graduating from Carroll High School in Ozark. This was the start of an accomplished 36-year-military career. Earle went on to get his bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama. He balanced being a fulltime student while serving in the Alabama National Guard. After college, he transitioned to the Air Force, where he would serve 28 years across the globe, including combat sorties in Panama and Operation Desert Storm. He took full advantage of the training we have to offer right here in Alabama, particularly at Maxwell Air Force Base. There, he went through Squadron Officer's School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.

Since retirement, Earle has been doing his part to help students make the most of Alabama's resources for successful careers. For the last 13 years, he has been using his military experience to lead aviation training at Auburn University. He serves as the deputy director for Defense Research Programs, where he teaches air traffic control and aerodynamics. His work helps address the shortage of both commercial and military pilots in the U.S.

Additionally, Earle serves as the chair of the Auburn University Regional Airport Safety Committee. He is also actively involved in Opelika First Baptist Church, where he sings in the choir. Earle spent 36 years protecting our Nation, and now, he is raising up the next generation of pilots who will help Alabama soar to new heights. It is my honor to recognize Colonel Earle Thompson as the March Veteran of the Month. ●

## PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON MARCH 7, 2024—PM 41

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to lie on the table:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Good evening, Mr. Speaker, Madam Vice President, Members of Congress, My Fellow Americans.

In January 1941—President Franklin Roosevelt came to this chamber to speak to the Nation. He said—"I address you at a moment unprecedented



in the history of the Union". Hitler was on the march. War was raging in Europe. President Roosevelt's purpose was to wake up the Congress and alert the American people that this was no ordinary moment. Freedom and democracy were under assault in the world.

Tonight—I come to the same chamber to address the Nation. Now it is we who face an unprecedented moment in the history of the Union. And yes—my purpose tonight is to both wake up this Congress and alert the American people that this is no ordinary moment either.

Not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under assault here at home as they are today. What makes our moment rare is that freedom and democracy are under attack both at home and overseas at the very same time.

Overseas—Putin of Russia—is on the march. Invading Ukraine—and sowing chaos throughout Europe and beyond. If anybody in this room thinks Putin will stop at Ukraine—I assure you—he will not.

But Ukraine can stop Putin—if we stand with Ukraine. And provide the weapons it needs to defend itself. That is all Ukraine is asking. They are not asking for American soldiers. In fact—there are no American soldiers at war in Ukraine. And I am determined to keep it that way.

But now—assistance for Ukraine is being blocked by those who want us to walk away from our leadership in the world. It wasn't that long ago when a Republican President—Ronald Reagan—thundered—"Mr. Gorbachev—tear down this wall".

Now—my predecessor—a former Republican President—tells Putin—"Do whatever the hell you want." A former American President actually said that—bowing down—to a Russian leader. It's outrageous. It's dangerous. It's unacceptable.

America is a founding member of NATO—the military alliance of democratic nations—created after World War II to prevent war and keep the peace.

Today—I've made NATO stronger than ever. We welcomed Finland to the Alliance last year. And just this morning—Sweden officially joined NATO—and their Prime Minister—is here tonight.

Mr. Prime Minister—welcome to NATO—the strongest military alliance the world has ever known.

I say this to Congress—we must stand up to Putin. Send me the Bipartisan National Security Bill. History is watching. If the United States walks away now—it will put Ukraine at risk. Europe at risk. The free world at risk—emboldening others who wish to do us harm.

My message to President Putin is simple. We will not walk away. We will not bow down. I will not bow down. History is watching.

Just like history watched 3 years ago on January 6th. Insurrectionists

stormed this very Capitol and placed a dagger at the throat of American democracy. Many of you were here on that darkest of days. We all saw with our own eyes these insurrectionists were not patriots. They had come to stop the peaceful transfer of power and to overturn the will of the people.

January 6th—the lies about the 2020 election—and the plots to steal the election—posed the gravest threat to our democracy since the Civil War.

But they failed. America stood strong—and democracy prevailed. But we must be honest—the threat remains—and democracy must be defended.

My predecessor and some of you here—seek to bury the truth of January 6th. I will not do that. This is a moment—to speak the truth and bury the lies. And here's the simplest truth. You can't love your country—only when you win.

As I've done ever since being elected to office—I ask you all—without regard to party—to join together—and defend our democracy! Remember—your oath of office—to defend against all threats—foreign and domestic. Respect free and fair elections! Restore trust in our institutions! And make clear—political violence—has no place in America! History is watching.

And history is watching another assault on freedom. Joining us tonight—is Latorya Beasley—a social worker from Birmingham, Alabama. 14 months ago tonight—she and her husband welcomed a baby girl—thanks to the miracle of IVF. She scheduled treatments to have a second child. But the Alabama Supreme Court shut down IVF treatments across the State unleashed by the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade. She was told her dream would have to wait. What her family has gone through should never have happened. And unless the Congress acts—it could happen again.

So tonight—let's stand up for families like hers! To my friends across the aisle—don't keep families waiting any longer. Guarantee the right to IVF nationwide!

Like most Americans—I believe—Roe v. Wade got it right. And I thank Vice President HARRIS for being an incredible leader defending reproductive freedom and so much more.

But my predecessor—came to office determined to see Roe v. Wade overturned. He's the reason it was. In fact—he brags about it. Look at the chaos.

Joining us tonight is Kate Cox—a wife and mother from Dallas. When she became pregnant again the fetus had a fatal condition. Her doctors told Kate that her own life—and her ability to have children in the future—were at risk. Because Texas law banned abortion Kate and her husband had to leave the State to get the care she needed. What her family has gone through should never have happened as well.

But it is happening to so many others. There are State laws banning abortion—criminalizing doctors—and forc-

ing survivors of rape and incest to leave their States as well.

Many of you in this chamber—and my predecessor—are promising to pass a national ban on reproductive freedom. My God—what freedoms will you take next?

In its decision to overturn Roe v. Wade—the Supreme Court majority wrote—"Women are not without electoral or political power." No kidding. Clearly those bragging about overturning Roe v. Wade have no clue about the power of women in America.

They found out though—when reproductive freedom was on the ballot and won—in 2022—2023—and they will find out again—in 2024. If Americans send me a Congress that supports the right to choose—I promise you—I will restore Roe v. Wade—as the law of the land—again!

America—cannot go back. I am here tonight—to show the way forward. Because I know how far we've come. Four years ago next week—before I came to office—our country was hit by the worst pandemic and the worst economic crisis in a century. Remember the fear. Record job losses. A record spike in murder. A raging virus that would take more than 1 million American lives and leave millions of loved ones behind. A mental health crisis of isolation and loneliness. A President—my predecessor—who failed the most basic duty any President owes the American people—the duty to care. That is unforgivable.

I came to office determined to get us through one of the toughest periods in our Nation's history. And we have. It doesn't make the news—but in thousands of cities and towns—the American people are writing the greatest comeback story never told. So let's tell that story—here and now.

America's comeback is building a future of American possibilities—building an economy from the middle out and the bottom up—not the top down—investing in all of America—in all Americans—to make sure everyone has a fair shot and we leave no one behind!

The pandemic no longer controls our lives. The vaccines that saved us from COVID are now being used to help beat cancer. Turning setback into comeback. That's America!

I inherited an economy that was on the brink—now our economy is the envy of the world! 15 million new jobs in just 3 years—that's a record. Unemployment at 50-year lows. A record 16 million Americans are starting small businesses and each one is an act of hope. With historic job growth and small business growth for Black—Hispanic—and Asian-Americans.

800,000 new manufacturing jobs in America and counting. More people have health insurance than ever before. The racial wealth gap is the smallest it's been in 20 years. Wages keep going up and inflation keeps coming down! Inflation has dropped from 9 percent to 3 percent—the lowest in the world!

And now—instead of importing foreign products and exporting American

jobs—we're exporting American products and creating American jobs—right here in America. Where they belong! And the American people are beginning to feel it.

Buy American has been the law of the land since the 1930s. Past administrations—including my predecessor—failed to Buy American. Not. Any. More. On my watch—Federal projects like helping to build American roads—bridges—and highways will be made with American products—built by American workers—creating good-paying American jobs!

Thanks to my CHIPS and Science Act—the United States is investing more in research and development than ever before. During the pandemic—a shortage of semiconductor chips drove up prices for everything—from cell phones to automobiles. Well—instead of having to import semiconductor chips—which America invented I might add—private companies are now investing billions of dollars to build new chip factories here in America! Creating tens of thousands of jobs—many of them paying over \$100,000 a year and don't require a college degree.

In fact—my policies have attracted \$650 billion of private sector investments in clean energy and advanced manufacturing—creating tens of thousands of jobs here in America!

Thanks to our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—46,000 new projects have been announced across your communities modernizing our roads and bridges—ports and airports—and public transit systems. Removing poisonous lead pipes—so every child can drink clean water without risk of getting brain damage.

Providing affordable—high speed Internet for every American—no matter where you live. Urban—suburban—and rural communities—in red States and blue. Record investments in tribal communities.

Because of my investments—family farms are better able to stay in the family—and children and grandchildren won't have to leave home to make a living. It's transformative.

A great comeback story—is Belvidere, Illinois. Home to an auto plant for nearly 60 years. Before I came to office—the plant was on its way to shutting down. Thousands of workers feared for their livelihoods. Hope was fading. Then I was elected to office and we raised Belvidere repeatedly—with the auto company—knowing unions make all the difference.

The UAW worked like hell to keep the plant open and get those jobs back. And together—we succeeded! Instead of an auto factory shutting down an auto factory is re-opening—and a new state-of-the-art battery factory is being built to power those cars. Instead of a town being left behind—it's a community moving forward again! Because instead of watching auto jobs of the future go overseas—4,000 union workers—with higher wages—will be building that future—here in America!

Here tonight—is UAW President Shawn Fain—a great friend and a great labor leader. And Dawn Simms—a third generation UAW worker in Belvidere. Shawn—I was proud to be the first President in American history to walk a picket line. And today—Dawn has a job in her hometown providing stability for her family and pride and dignity. Showing once again Wall Street didn't build this country! The middle class built this country! And unions built the middle class!

When Americans get knocked down—we get back up! We keep going! That's America! That's you—the American people! It's because of you America is coming back! It's because of you our future is brighter! And it's because of you—That tonight—we can proudly say—the State of our Union is strong and getting stronger!

Tonight—I want to talk about the future of possibilities that we can build together. A future where the days of trickledown economics are over and the wealthy and biggest corporations no longer get all the breaks.

I grew up in a home where not a lot trickled down on my dad's kitchen table. That's why I'm determined to turn things around so the middle class does well—the poor have a way up and the wealthy still does well. We all do well. And there's more to do to make sure you're feeling the benefits of all we're doing.

Americans pay more for prescription drugs than anywhere else. It's wrong and I'm ending it. With a law I proposed and signed and not one Republican voted for—we finally beat Big Pharma!

Instead of paying \$400 a month for insulin—seniors with diabetes only have to pay \$35 a month! And now—I want to cap the cost of insulin at \$35 a month for every American who needs it!

For years—people have talked about it—but I finally got it done—and gave Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs—just like the VA does for our veterans. That's not just saving seniors money. It's saving taxpayers money—cutting the Federal deficit by \$160 billion—because Medicare will no longer have to pay exorbitant prices to Big Pharma.

This year—Medicare is negotiating lower prices for some of the costliest drugs on the market that treat everything from heart disease to arthritis. Now it's time to go further and give Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices for 500 drugs over the next decade. That will not only save lives—it will save taxpayers another \$200 billion!

Starting next year—that same law caps total prescription drug costs for seniors on Medicare at \$2,000 a year—even for expensive cancer drugs that can cost \$10,000—\$12,000—\$15,000 a year. Now—I want to cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 a year—for everyone!

Folks—the Affordable Care Act is still a very big deal. Over one hundred million of you can no longer be denied

health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. But my predecessor—and many in this chamber—want to take that protection away by repealing the Affordable Care Act. I won't let that happen! We stopped you 50 times before—and we will stop you again!

In fact—I am protecting it and expanding it. I enacted tax credits—that save \$800 per person—per year—reducing health care premiums for millions of working families. Those tax credits expire next year. I want to make those savings permanent!

Women are more than half of our population but research on women's health has always been underfunded. That's why we're launching the first-ever White House Initiative on Women's Health Research—led by Jill—who is doing an incredible job as First Lady. Pass my plan for \$12 billion—to transform women's health research and benefit millions of lives across America!

I know the cost of housing is so important to you. If inflation keeps coming down—mortgage rates—will come down as well. But I'm not waiting. I want to provide an annual tax credit that will give Americans \$400 a month—for the next 2 years—as mortgage rates come down—to put toward their mortgage when they buy a first home or trade up for a little more space.

My Administration is also eliminating title insurance fees for federally backed mortgages. When you refinance your home—this can save you \$1,000 or more. For millions of renters—we're cracking down on big landlords who break antitrust laws by price-fixing and driving up rents. I've cut red tape—so more builders can get Federal financing—which is already helping build a record 1.7 million housing units nationwide. Now pass my plan to build and renovate 2 million affordable homes—and bring those rents down!

To remain the strongest economy in the world—we need the best education system in the world. I want to give every child a good start by providing access to pre-school for 3- and 4-year-olds. Studies show that children who go to pre-school are nearly 50 percent more likely to finish high school and go on to earn a 2- or 4-year degree no matter their background. I want to expand high-quality tutoring and summer learning time and see to it that every child learns to read by third grade.

I'm also connecting local businesses and high schools so students get hands-on experience and a path to a good-paying job whether or not they go to college. And I want to make college more affordable. Let's continue increasing Pell Grants for working- and middle-class families and increase our record investments in HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions.

I fixed student loan programs—to reduce the burden of student debt for nearly 4 million Americans—including

nurses—firefighters—and others in public service—like Keenan Jones—a public-school educator in Minnesota—who's here with us tonight. He's educated hundreds of students so they can go to college—now he can help his own daughter pay for college. Such relief is good for the economy because folks are now able to buy a home—start a business—even start a family. While we're at it—I want to give public school teachers a raise!

Now—let me speak to a question of fundamental fairness for all Americans. I've been delivering real results in a fiscally responsible way. I've already cut the Federal deficit by over one trillion dollars. I signed a bipartisan budget deal that will cut another trillion dollars over the next decade.

And now—it's my goal to cut the Federal deficit \$3 trillion more by making big corporations and the very wealthy finally pay their fair share. Look—I'm a capitalist. If you want to make a million bucks—great! Just pay your fair share in taxes. A fair tax code is how we invest in the things that make a country great—health care—education—defense—and more.

But here's the deal. The last administration enacted a \$2 trillion tax cut that overwhelmingly benefits the very wealthy and the biggest corporations—and exploded the Federal deficit. They added more to the national debt than in any Presidential term in American history. For folks at home—does anybody really think the tax code is fair? Do you really think the wealthy and big corporations need another \$2 trillion in tax breaks? I sure don't. I'm going to keep fighting like hell to make it fair!

Under my plan—nobody earning less than \$400,000 will pay an additional penny in Federal taxes. Nobody. Not one penny. In fact—the Child Tax Credit I passed during the pandemic—cut taxes for millions of working families and cut child poverty in half. Restore the Child Tax Credit—because no child should go hungry in this country!

The way to make the tax code fair is to make big corporations and the very wealthy finally pay their share. In 2020—55 of the biggest companies in America made \$40 billion in profits and paid zero in Federal income taxes. Not anymore!

Thanks to the law I wrote and signed—big companies now have to pay a minimum of 15 percent. But that's still less than working people pay in Federal taxes.

It's time to raise the corporate minimum tax to at least 21 percent so every big corporation finally begins to pay their fair share. I also want to end the tax breaks for Big Pharma—Big Oil—private jets—and massive executive pay! End it now!

There are 1,000 billionaires in America. You know what the average Federal tax rate for these billionaires is? 8.2 percent! That's far less than the vast majority of Americans pay.

No billionaire should pay a lower tax rate than a teacher—a sanitation

worker—a nurse! That's why I've proposed a minimum tax of 25 percent for billionaires. Just 25 percent. That would raise \$500 billion over the next 10 years.

Imagine what that could do for America. Imagine a future with affordable child care—so millions of families can get the care they need and still go to work and help grow the economy.

Imagine a future with paid leave—because no one should have to choose between working and taking care of yourself or a sick family member.

Imagine a future with home care and elder care—so seniors and people living with disabilities can stay in their homes and family caregivers get paid what they deserve!

Tonight—let's all agree once again to stand up for seniors! Many of my Republican friends want to put Social Security on the chopping block. If anyone here tries to cut Social Security or Medicare—or raise the retirement age—I will stop them!

Working people who built this country pay more into Social Security than millionaires and billionaires do. It's not fair. We have two ways to go on Social Security. Republicans will cut Social Security and give more tax cuts to the wealthy. I will protect and strengthen Social Security—and make the wealthy pay their fair share!

Too many corporations raise their prices to pad their profits—charging you more and more for less and less. That's why we're cracking down on corporations that engage in price gouging or deceptive pricing from food to health care to housing.

In fact—snack companies think you won't notice when they charge you just as much for the same size bag—but with fewer chips in it. Pass Senator BOB CASEY's bill to put a stop to shrink-flation!

I'm also getting rid of junk fees—those hidden fees added at the end of your bills without your knowledge. My Administration just announced—we're cutting credit card late fees from \$32 to just \$8. The banks and credit card companies don't like it. Why? I'm saving American families \$20 billion a year with all of the junk fees I'm eliminating.

And I'm not stopping there. My Administration has proposed rules to make cable—travel—utilities—and online ticket sellers tell you the total price upfront—so there are no surprises. It matters. And so does this.

In November—my team began serious negotiations with a bipartisan group of Senators. The result was a bipartisan bill with the toughest set of border security reforms we've ever seen in this country.

That bipartisan deal would hire 1,500 more border security agents and officers. 100 more immigration judges to help tackle a backlog of 2 million cases. 4,300 more asylum officers—and new policies so they can resolve cases in 6 months instead of 6 years. 100 more high-tech drug detection machines to

significantly increase the ability to screen and stop vehicles from smuggling fentanyl into America.

This bill would save lives. And bring order to the border. It would also give me—as President—new emergency authority to temporarily shut down the border when the number of migrants at the border is overwhelming.

The Border Patrol Union endorsed the bill. The Chamber of Commerce endorsed the bill. I believe that given the opportunity—a majority of the House and Senate would endorse it as well.

But unfortunately—politics have derailed it so far. I'm told my predecessor called Republicans in Congress and demanded they block the bill. He feels it would be a political win for me—and a political loser for him.

It's not about him or me. It'd be a winner for America! My Republican friends—you owe it to the American people to get this bill done. We need to act. And if my predecessor is watching—instead of playing politics and pressuring Members of Congress to block this bill—join me in telling Congress to pass it!

We can do it together. But here's what I will not do. I will not demonize immigrants—saying they “poison the blood of our country”—as he said in his own words. I will not separate families. I will not ban people from America because of their faith.

Unlike my predecessor—on my first day in office I introduced a comprehensive plan to fix our immigration system—secure the border—and provide a pathway to citizenship for DREAMERS—and so much more. Because—unlike my predecessor—I know who we are as Americans.

We are the only Nation in the world with a heart and soul—that draws from old and new. Home to Native Americans whose ancestors have been here for thousands of years. Home to people from every place on Earth. Some came freely. Some chained by force. Some when famine struck—like my ancestral family in Ireland. Some to flee persecution. Some to chase dreams that are impossible anywhere but here in America.

That's America—where we all come from somewhere—but we are all Americans. We can fight about the border—or we can fix it. I'm ready to fix it. Send me the border bill now!

A transformational moment in our history happened 59 years ago today—in Selma, Alabama. Hundreds of foot soldiers for justice marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge—named after a Grand Dragon of the KKK—to claim their fundamental right to vote.

They were beaten—bloodied—and left for dead. Our late friend and former colleague John Lewis was at the march. We miss him. Joining us tonight are other marchers who were there—including Bettie Mae Fikes—known as the “Voice of Selma”. A daughter of gospel singers and preachers—she sang songs of prayer and protest on that Bloody Sunday to help

shake the Nation's conscience. Five months later—the Voting Rights Act was signed into law.

But 59 years later—there are forces taking us back in time. Voter suppression. Election subversion. Unlimited dark money. Extreme gerrymandering.

John Lewis was a great friend to many of us here. But if you truly want to honor him and all the heroes who marched with him—then it's time for more than just talk. Pass and send me the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act!

And stop denying another core value of America—our diversity—across American life. Banning books. It's wrong! Instead of erasing history—let's make history!

I want to protect other fundamental rights! Pass the Equality Act—and my message to transgender Americans—I have your back! Pass the PRO Act for workers' rights! And raise the Federal minimum wage—because every worker has the right to earn a decent living!

We are also making history by confronting the climate crisis—not denying it. I'm taking the most significant action on climate ever in the history of the world.

I am cutting our carbon emissions in half by 2030. Creating tens of thousands of clean-energy jobs—like the IBEW workers building and installing 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations. Conserving 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030. Taking historic action on environmental justice for fence-line communities smothered by the legacy of pollution.

And—patterned after the Peace Corps and Ameri Corps—I've launched a Climate Corps to put 20,000 young people to work at the forefront of our clean energy future. I'll triple that number this decade.

All Americans deserve the freedom to be safe. And America is safer today than when I took office. The year before I took office—murders went up 30 percent nationwide—the biggest increase in history.

That was then. Now—through my American Rescue Plan—which every Republican voted against—I've made the largest investment in public safety ever.

Last year—the murder rate saw the sharpest decrease in history. And violent crime fell to one of the lowest levels in more than 50 years.

But we have more to do. Help cities and towns invest in more community police officers—more mental health workers—and more community violence intervention. Give communities the tools to crack down on gun crime—retail crime—and carjacking. Keep building public trust—as I've been doing by taking executive action on police reform and calling for it to be the law of the land! Directing my Cabinet to review the Federal classification of marijuana and expunging thousands of convictions for mere possession—because no one should be jailed just for using or possessing marijuana!

To take on domestic violence—I am ramping up Federal enforcement of the Violence Against Women Act that I proudly wrote—so we can finally end the scourge of violence against women in America!

And there's another kind of violence I want to stop. With us tonight is Jazmin—whose 9-year-old sister Jackie was murdered with 21 classmates and teachers at her elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

Soon after it happened, Jill and I went to Uvalde and spent hours with the families. We heard their message—and so should everyone in this chamber—do something.

I did do something by establishing the first-ever Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the White House that Vice President HARRIS is leading. Meanwhile—my predecessor told the NRA he's proud he did nothing on guns when he was President. After another school shooting in Iowa—he said we should just “get over it.”

I say we must stop it. I'm proud we beat the NRA when I signed the most significant gun safety law in nearly 30 years! Now we must beat the NRA again! I'm demanding a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines! Pass universal background checks! None of this violates the Second Amendment—or vilifies responsible gun owners.

As we manage challenges at home—we're also managing crises abroad—including in the Middle East. I know the last 5 months have been gut-wrenching for so many people—for the Israeli people—the Palestinian people—and so many here in America.

This crisis began on October 7th with a massacre by the terrorist group Hamas. 1,200 innocent people—women and girls—men and boys—slaughtered—many enduring sexual violence. The deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. 250 hostages.

Here in the chamber tonight are American families whose loved ones are still being held by Hamas. I pledge to all the families that we will not rest until we bring their loved ones home. We will also work around the clock to bring home Evan and Paul—Americans being unjustly detained all around the world.

Israel has a right to go after Hamas. Hamas could end this conflict today by releasing the hostages—laying down arms—and surrendering those responsible for October 7th. Israel has an added burden because Hamas hides and operates among the civilian population. But Israel also has a fundamental responsibility to protect innocent civilians in Gaza.

This war has taken a greater toll on innocent civilians than all previous wars in Gaza combined. More than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed. Most of whom are not Hamas. Thousands and thousands are innocent women and children. Children also orphaned. Nearly 2 million more Palestinians under bombardment or dis-

placed. Homes destroyed—neighborhoods in rubble—cities in ruin. Families without food, water, medicine. It's heartbreaking.

We've been working non-stop to establish an immediate ceasefire that would last for at least 6 weeks. It would get the hostages home—ease the intolerable humanitarian crisis—and build toward something more enduring.

The United States has been leading international efforts to get more humanitarian assistance into Gaza. Tonight—I'm directing the United States military to lead an emergency mission to establish a temporary pier in the Mediterranean—on the Gaza coast—that can receive large ships carrying food—water—medicine—and temporary shelters. No U.S. boots will be on the ground. This temporary pier would enable a massive increase in the amount of humanitarian assistance getting into Gaza every day.

But Israel must also do its part. Israel must allow more aid into Gaza—and ensure that humanitarian workers aren't caught in the cross fire. To the leadership of Israel, I say this—humanitarian assistance cannot be a secondary consideration or a bargaining chip. Protecting and saving innocent lives has to be a priority.

As we look to the future—the only real solution is a two-state solution. I say this as a lifelong supporter of Israel—and the only American President to visit Israel in wartime.

There is no other path that guarantees Israel's security—and democracy. There is no other path that guarantees Palestinians can live with peace and dignity. There is no other path that guarantees peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors—including Saudi Arabia.

Creating stability in the Middle East also means containing the threat posed by Iran. That's why I built a coalition of more than a dozen countries to defend international shipping and freedom of navigation in the Red Sea. I've ordered strikes to degrade Houthi capabilities and defend United States Forces in the region. As Commander in Chief—I will not hesitate, to direct further measures to protect our people and military personnel.

For years—all I've heard from my Republican friends—and so many others—is that China's on the rise—and America is falling behind. They've got it backward. America is rising. We have the best economy in the world. Since I've come to office—our GDP is up. And our trade deficit with China is down to the lowest point in over a decade.

We're standing against China's unfair economic practices. And standing up for peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. I've revitalized our partnerships and alliances in the Pacific. I've made sure that the most advanced American technologies can't be used in China's weapons.

Frankly—for all his tough talk on China—it never occurred to my predecessor to do that. We want competition

with China—but not conflict. And we are in a stronger position to win the competition for the 21st Century against China—or anyone else for that matter.

Here at home—I've signed over 400 bipartisan bills. But there's more to do to pass my Unity Agenda. Strengthen penalties on fentanyl trafficking. Pass bipartisan privacy legislation to protect our children online—harness the promise of A.I. and protect us from its peril—ban A.I. voice impersonation—and more!

And keep our one truly sacred obligation: To train and equip those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they come home—and when they don't. That's why I signed the PACT Act—one of the most significant laws ever—helping millions of veterans who were exposed to toxins and who now are battling more than 100 cancers. Many of them didn't come home. We owe them and their families.

And we owe it to ourselves to keep supporting our new health research agency called ARPA-H—and remind us that we can do big things like end cancer as we know it!

Let me close with this. I know I may not look like it—but I've been around a while. And when you get to my age—certain things become clearer than ever before.

I know the American story. Again and again—I've seen the contest between competing forces in the battle for the soul of our Nation. Between those who want to pull America back to the past and those who want to move America into the future.

My lifetime has taught me to embrace freedom and democracy. A future based on the core values that have defined America. Honesty. Decency. Dignity. Equality. To respect everyone. To give everyone a fair shot. To give hate no safe harbor.

Now—some other people my age see a different story. An American story of resentment—revenge—and retribution.

That's not me. I was born amid World War II—when America stood for freedom in the world. I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Claymont, Delaware, among working people who built this country.

I watched in horror as two of my heroes—Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy—were assassinated—and their legacies inspired me to pursue a career in service. A public defender—county councilman—elected United States Senator at 29—then Vice President to our first Black President—now President with our first woman Vice President.

In my career—I've been told I'm too young—and I'm too old. Whether young or old—I've always known what endures. Our North Star. The very idea of America—that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives.

We've never fully lived up to that idea—but we've never walked away from it either. And I won't walk away from it now.

My fellow Americans—the issue facing our Nation isn't how old we are—it's how old are our ideas? Hate—anger—revenge—retribution—are among the oldest of ideas. But you can't lead America with ancient ideas that only take us back.

To lead America—the land of possibilities—you need a vision for the future of what America can and should be. Tonight—you've heard mine.

I see a future where we defend democracy—not diminish it. I see a future where we restore the right to choose and protect other freedoms—not take them away.

I see a future where the middle class finally has a fair shot—and the wealthy finally have to pay their fair share in taxes.

I see a future where we save the planet from the climate crisis and our country from gun violence.

Above all—I see a future for all Americans! I see a country for all Americans! And I will always be a President for all Americans! Because I believe in America! I believe in you—the American people. You're the reason I've never been more optimistic about our future!

So let's build that future together! Let's remember who we are! We are the United States of America. There is nothing beyond our capacity when we act together!

May God bless you all.

May God protect our troops.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 7, 2024.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3821. An act to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

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.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3821. An act to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### 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-3730. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "EPA Clean School Bus Program: Third Report to Congress, Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3731. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Director of the Migratory Bird Program, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Permits for Incidental Take of Eagles and Eagle Nests" (RIN1018-BE70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3732. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The CY 2020 Competitive Acquisition Ombudsman Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3733. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3734. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: Best Practices in the Money Follows the Person Demonstration"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3735. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Disproportionate Share Hospital Third-Party Payer Rule" (RIN0938-AV00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3736. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Prescription Payment Plan: Final Part One Guidance on Select Topics, Implementation of Section 1860D-2 of the Social Security Act for 2025, and Response to Relevant Comments" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3737. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Resources Priorities and Allocations System" (RIN0908-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 8, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3738. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Northeastern Arizona and Utah Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AO61) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3739. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advancing Pay Equity in Governmentwide Pay Systems" (RIN3206-A039) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3740. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Schedule Locality Pay Areas" (RIN3206-A058) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3741. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Surveys" (RIN3206-A064) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3742. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area" (RIN3206-A060) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3743. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "CFPB FY 2023 Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3744. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal package to re-authorize four key Department of Homeland Security authorities that have expired or will expire during fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3745. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report to Congress for calendar year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3746. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2023 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3747. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report of the United States Government (Financial Report)"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3748. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the Department's 2023 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-100. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana expressing support of hydropower and the Federal Columbia River Power System and opposing the breach of the lower Snake River dams; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, organizations throughout the Northwest have made proposals to breach the lower Snake River dams; and

Whereas, hydropower is a premier renewable resource that provides reliable, cost-effective, carbon-free electricity; and

Whereas, hydropower plays a critical role as our nation works to maintain an affordable, reliable, and resilient grid, which is an important cornerstone of our domestic energy system; and

Whereas, hydropower has become increasingly important to the grid as policies are adopted to increase electrification of other sectors of the economy, such as transportation and heating; and

Whereas, hydroelectric generation is unique in its ability to instantly increase or decrease generation to balance generation and electric demand; and

Whereas, hydropower provides a foundation for reliability that is necessary with decreasing levels of baseload power and firm dispatchable power and with increasing levels of variable nondispatchable renewable resources, such as wind and solar; and

Whereas, the recently concluded Columbia River System Operation environmental impact statement studied the environmental, biological, power supply, and socioeconomic impacts of the entire Federal Columbia River Power System, which is marketed by the Bonneville Power Administration. This multiyear, \$50.4 million analysis concluded the lower Snake River dams play a critical role in the Northwest power system and economy and their impact on salmon populations has been mitigated successfully through extensive fish and wildlife programs funded by regional ratepayers; and

Whereas, on an annual basis, the dams on the lower Snake River provide an average of 1,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to serve over 800,000 Northwest businesses, industries, and households, including in western Montana; and

Whereas the continued operation of the lower Snake River dams is central to reliably meeting the region's clean energy goals, providing dispatchable capacity to prevent blackouts, and ramping capability to integrate other renewable resources; and

Whereas the lower Snake River dams can provide over 2,600 megawatts of sustained peaking capacity that represents a quarter of the Federal Columbia River Power System's reserves holding capacity; and

Whereas, with weather events like ice storms and extreme cold and heat waves, the lower Snake River dams have also proved to be critical to maintaining electric grid reliability and public safety; and

Whereas, breaching the lower Snake River dams and replacing them with other non-emitting resources could raise Bonneville Power Agency's power supply rates by up to

50%. For most utilities relying on the agency, that translates to a 25% rate increase for their customers; and

Whereas, the lower Snake River dams contribute to the region's economy by providing irrigation, recreation, employment, and inland waterway transportation; and

Whereas, if successful in breaching the lower Snake River dams, Montana's federally owned dams and others in the Northwest that produce carbon-free, affordable power could be targeted for breaching; and

Whereas, breaching the lower Snake River dams or Montana's federally owned hydropower-producing dams, including Hungry Horse Dam, Libby Dam, Yellowtail Dam, Canyon Ferry Dam, and Fort Peck Dam, would greatly increase the risk of blackouts and raise power costs for electric cooperative members in Montana and public power across the Northwest. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:*

That the Montana Legislature hereby stands opposed to the breaching of any of the federally owned hydropower-producing dams, especially those on the lower Snake River, in the Northwest, and in the State of Montana; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the governors of all states served by the Bonneville Power Administration, including California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and to each member of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

\*Ron Borzekowski, of Maryland, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, for a term of six years.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Melissa R. DuBose, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Joshua S. Levy, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

Rebecca C. Lutzko, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Roy W. Minter, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Almo J. Carter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(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. COTTON:

S. 3890. A bill to prohibit certain off-post demonstrations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3891. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3892. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to increase access to community health workers under the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3893. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require the promulgation of cybersecurity and digital service regulations relating to the use of EBT cards under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3894. A bill to prohibit the granting or renewing of security clearances to a person who has expressed support for a foreign terrorist organization, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or any affiliate of such Corps, including Hamas and Hezbollah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3895. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide an inflation estimate with respect to legislation with a significant impact on the gross domestic product of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 580. A resolution expressing opposition to congressional spending on earmarks; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 581. A resolution affirming the support of the United States for the Republic of North Macedonia's accession to the European Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 582. A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 583. A resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the National League of Cities and the support it provides to municipalities across the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the recognition of March 10, 2024, as "Abortion Provider Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 799, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 963

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 963, a bill to provide enhanced student loan relief to educators.

S. 1071

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1071, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S. 1207

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1207, a bill to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1248

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California

(Ms. BUTLER) 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. 1273

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1274

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1274, a bill to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 1400

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1409, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1753

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to allow individuals with drug offenses to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1943

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1943, a bill to establish the Council on Improving Federal Civic Architecture, and for other purposes.

S. 2245

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota



(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2245, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from issuing a rule or promulgating a regulation requiring certain vehicles to be equipped with speed limiting devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2801

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) 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. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 2897

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2897, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 3099

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3099, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to further develop and support the adoption of a voluntary streamlined permitting and inspection process for authorities having jurisdiction over the permitting of qualifying distributed energy systems, and for other purposes.

S. 3381

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3381, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 3401

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3401, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to authorize the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to carry out research and development on a single index insurance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3526

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3526, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3734

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3734, a bill to require submission of the National Security Strategy and the budget of the President before the President may deliver the State of the Union address.

S. 3746

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3746, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program, and for other purposes.

S. 3760

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3760, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out emergency watershed protection measures on National Forest System land, and for other purposes.

S. 3775

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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. 3818

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added

as cosponsors of S. 3818, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program.

S.J. RES. 62

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 62, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relating to "Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay".

S.J. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 63, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act".

S. RES. 545

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 545, a resolution recognizing the importance of trilateral cooperation among the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

AMENDMENT NO. 1624

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1624 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1625

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1625 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 580—EX-PRESSING OPPOSITION TO CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING ON EARMARKS

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. RES. 580

Whereas fiscal year 2022 marked the return of “congressionally directed spending” and “community project funding”, also known as “earmarks”, after a 12-year hiatus;

Whereas the return of earmarks marked the return of lawmakers using their powers to circumvent the rules of the Senate in order to direct taxpayer dollars to wasteful projects;

Whereas, while Congress has the power of the purse, it must be prescriptive and effective in funding programs, projects, and activities of the Federal Government, which is now more than \$34,000,000,000,000 in debt, rather than focus on funding earmarks that are wasteful in nature;

Whereas the 118th Congress has re-instituted and embraced the wasteful practice of earmarking, as shown by the more than 5,000 requests for earmarks in the House of Representatives and the more than 19,000 requests for earmarks in the Senate for fiscal year 2024;

Whereas Congress has already dramatically increased earmarking since its return, increasing from \$9,000,000,000 for 4,970 earmarks passed in fiscal year 2022 to \$15,300,000,000 for 7,234 earmarks passed in fiscal year 2023;

Whereas the reckless, 1,653 page, \$1,700,000,000,000 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) enacted in December 2022, appropriated billions of dollars to earmarks even though the United States is more than \$34,000,000,000,000 in debt and experiencing the highest level of inflation seen in 40 years;

Whereas the massive, fiscal year 2023 omnibus spending bill included funding for earmarks, including \$3,600,000 for the Michelle Obama Trail in Georgia, \$2,500,000 for a Chinatown arts building in San Francisco, \$7,000,000 to fix staircases in the city of Pittsburgh, \$12,000,000 for a pedestrian walkway in Vermont, and \$3,000,000 for a theater and event space in Pennsylvania, in addition to other earmark projects such as botanical gardens in California, bike parking in Maryland, streetscaping in Connecticut, and a dance festival in Massachusetts;

Whereas the fiscal year 2024 minibus spending bill released on March 3, 2024, includes 605 pages of earmarks with 6,630 individual projects totaling \$12,700,000,000, including \$3,500,000 for Michigan’s Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, \$1,000,000 for an environmental justice center in New York City, \$500,000 for gardens in San Francisco, \$4,000,000 for a waterfront walkway in New Jersey, theater and opera house renovations in Georgia and Pennsylvania, and city hall renovations in Washington and Rhode Island;

Whereas former Senator Tom Coburn condemned the use of earmarks as a “gateway drug to overspending” and former Senator John McCain called earmarks “the gateway drug to corruption and overspending in Washington”;

Whereas several former Members of Congress and lobbyists have been convicted of crimes related to earmarking;

Whereas it is crucial that Congress spend taxpayer dollars wisely and with the best return on investment, especially during times of historic inflation and Federal debt levels; and

Whereas Congress must stop this reckless Federal spending and corrupt political dealing, start paying down the debt of the United States, and get the United States back on track: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of “congressionally directed spending” and “community project funding”, known as “earmarks”, to direct and appropriate taxpayer dollars in any form;

(2) reaffirms the previous ban on the use of earmarks and affirms to restore the ban permanently and immediately; and

(3) affirms the need for Congress to reign in overspending to help curb the inflation crisis that is crippling the families of the United States.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, since Joe Biden took office, inflation has exploded 17.9 percent. Prices on everything, especially groceries, are sky-high, and hard-working Americans are not able to keep up.

So think about what that means. If you haven’t seen your pay rise by more than 17.9 percent since January 2021, you are behind because of Joe Biden’s inflation.

We know that is the reality for millions of Americans because real average weekly earnings have fallen 4.3 percent since Joe Biden took office.

So when the press and Biden administration says: Good news, inflation is cooling, nobody in the real world is buying it because they see it is a lie each and every day.

Unless we see significant deflation, which will only happen if we cut spending, then there won’t be relief from the massive damage that Biden’s inflation has already caused.

One of the best ways to cut reckless spending is to take a serious look at earmarks. Now, I appreciate that Congress rightfully holds the purse strings under the Constitution. And my colleagues in the Senate know their States better than the Biden administration does. This is not about taking away authority from Congress. Neither Congress nor the President’s Agencies should waste your money.

Earmarks are pet projects that only benefit a small number of people; they are not voted on separately by Members of Congress. American taxpayers should not be used as a political piggybank.

Earmarks have been so badly abused that we can’t let it go on like this any longer. The time for forgiveness has passed.

In just the Senate, Members requested more than 6,000 earmarks to waste your tax dollars on projects like \$3.5 million for Michigan’s Thanksgiving Parade Foundation; \$1 million for an environmental justice center in New York—New York City has a budget already of \$106 billion; don’t you think they can do this on their own—\$1 million for a social justice organization in San Francisco to make building improvements; \$5 million for a theater, opera house, and other renovations in Georgia and Pennsylvania and city hall renovations in Washington and Rhode Island.

Why does the Federal Government have to pay for this? The States and local governments should take the lead here.

Today, the U.S. national debt is nearly \$35 trillion. That is about \$6.5 trillion more than it was when Biden took office.

Here is an even more disturbing figure: Since January 20, 2023, about 14

months ago, the national debt has grown by more than \$3 trillion. This explosion of America’s national debt is a grave threat to the civility and security of our country, and it is not going to stop unless we force change.

As someone who grew up in public housing and watched my mom struggle to put food on the table and pay taxes all of her life, I am furious about just how much failure in Washington is hurting hard-working families like my mom all across—families in Florida and all across the country.

Again, we have seen inflation increase 17.9 percent since Joe Biden took office. In my home State of Florida, that means families have to spend \$11,400 more to buy the same things. That is nearly \$1,000 more a month each and every single month just to get by the same way they did the day before Biden took office.

The status quo is burying America alive. That is why I am hoping all of my colleagues will join me in supporting the resolution against earmarks I will be filing today.

My resolution condemns the use of congressionally directed spending and community project funding, known as earmarks, to direct and appropriate taxpayer dollars in any form; reaffirms the previous ban on the use of earmarks and affirms to restore the ban permanently and immediately; and affirms the need for Congress to rein in overspending to help curb the inflation crisis that is crippling the families of the United States.

Debt matters because it fuels inflation. Just remember that. Debt fuels inflation. It makes it harder for the Federal Government to do the things it promised to do, like build roads and fund Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and national defense.

Americans know that the debt and inflation crisis we find ourselves in today was 100 percent preventable.

I believe we ought to fund the things that matter in government, like national defense, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, but that is not going to happen if we don’t stop spending money on these worthless projects.

If we truly intend to protect and preserve these programs and the core services and responsibilities the Federal Government is charged with providing to American taxpayers, we have to cut the reckless spending. If nothing changes, the interest on our debt, which is already costing us \$870 billion this year—more than we spend on defense—is going to keep going up. Soon, the government will not be able to keep its promise. That is not fair to each of you, and we should not let that happen.

We all need to work together to end earmarks and protect American taxpayer dollars.

SENATE RESOLUTION 581—AFFIRMING THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 581

Whereas the Republic of North Macedonia peacefully asserted and achieved independent statehood in 1991, during the course of the former Yugoslavia's violent disintegration, and has since become a secure, democratic, and prosperous country and a key United States ally and strategic partner in the Western Balkans;

Whereas North Macedonia affirmed its commitment to joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1993, adopted major defense reforms, built a modern, professional defense force, and became the 30th NATO alliance member on March 27, 2020;

Whereas, in 1993, the National Guard State Partnership Program was established between the State of Vermont and the Republic of North Macedonia;

Whereas North Macedonia was the first Western Balkan country to sign a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) and became an official EU candidate country in 2005;

Whereas, in 2008, the United States signed a Declaration of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation with North Macedonia;

Whereas, on June 17, 2018, the foreign ministers of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Macedonia signed the Prespa Agreement, resolving a bilateral dispute that had hindered North Macedonia's EU membership bid;

Whereas, in March 2020, European Union member states endorsed opening accession negotiations with North Macedonia, and pursuant to a July 2022 protocol, North Macedonia committed to adopt certain constitutional changes in order to resolve an additional bilateral disagreement;

Whereas, in June 2022, North Macedonia became the first Western Balkan country to start a strategic dialogue with the United States, marking a significant bilateral milestone and step toward implementation of the Declaration of Strategic Partnership;

Whereas, in November 2023, the European Commission outlined a new growth plan to provide Western Balkans countries certain EU membership benefits ahead of accession, boost economic growth, and accelerate socio-economic convergence with the EU;

Whereas North Macedonia remains an important European Union and United States security partner and NATO ally, providing Ukraine with humanitarian aid and considerable military equipment, voting in favor of United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions against Russian aggression, and adopting all European Union Russian sanctions;

Whereas, on November 29, 2023, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with North Macedonia's Foreign Minister Bujar Osmani and commended North Macedonia's strong contributions and leadership as the Chair-in-Office to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and reaffirmed the United States would remain a steadfast partner and ally in support of North Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic path;

Whereas, in November 2023, the European Commission adopted the 2023 Enlargement

Package and assessed that North Macedonia has continued to fully align with the European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy; and

Whereas the Government of North Macedonia has made significant progress in its work to join the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) appreciates North Macedonia's active role in regional cooperation and long-standing commitment to the European Union accession process;

(2) recognizes that there is strong support for EU membership across North Macedonia's multiethnic communities and that North Macedonia's diverse cultural heritage would be strengthened through EU membership;

(3) encourages the Government of North Macedonia to continue its important work toward membership in the European Union, as well as efforts to further peace, stability, and prosperity in Eastern Europe;

(4) recognizes the cooperation between the State of Vermont and North Macedonia and the joint military partnership between the Vermont National Guard and the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia;

(5) recognizes the significant evidence of the benefits of North Macedonia's membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in closer economic and political ties and in its commitment to foster regional stability and the principle of mutual defense;

(6) recognizes the importance of European Union membership for North Macedonia for its economic growth, strengthening of its democratic institutions and norms, and bolstering [the] rule of law in Southeast Europe;

(7) encourages the Government of North Macedonia to undertake the reforms necessary to advance their European Union membership;

(8) calls on the President, the Secretary of State, and European allies to advocate for the opening of the first European Union negotiation cluster with North Macedonia without further bilateral conditions;

(9) urges the President and the Secretary of State to continue to—

(A) work closely with the Government of North Macedonia; and

(B) support European Union enlargement for the Western Balkans, including North Macedonia on its European Union path; and

(10) affirms the desire of the United States Government and American people to strengthen the transatlantic partnership with the European Union and all member countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 582—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 582

Whereas, as of March 2024, there are approximately 4,045,000,000 women and girls in the world, making up ½ of the world's population;

Whereas women and girls around the world—

(1) have fundamental human rights;

(2) play a critical role in providing and caring for their families and driving positive change in their communities;

(3) contribute substantially to food security, economic growth, the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the sustainability of peace and stability;

(4) are affected in different and often disproportionate ways by global, country, and community circumstances, including economic downturns, global health concerns, conflict, and migration; and

(5) must have meaningful protections and opportunities to more fully participate in and lead the political, social, and economic lives of their communities and countries;

Whereas the advancement and empowerment of women and girls around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States and is critical to the achievement of global peace, prosperity, and sustainability;

Whereas, on October 6, 2017, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-68; 131 Stat. 1202) was enacted into law, which includes requirements for a government-wide "Women, Peace, and Security Strategy" to promote and strengthen the participation of women in peace negotiations and conflict prevention overseas, enhanced training for relevant United States Government personnel, and follow-up evaluations of the effectiveness of the strategy;

Whereas the United States Strategy and National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, dated October 2023, recognizes that—

(1) the "implementation of the [Women, Peace, and Security] agenda is both a moral and a strategic imperative for U.S. foreign policy and national security", reiterating that "the status of women and the stability of nations are inextricably linked";

(2) the challenges posed to the United States and the global community cannot be solved without addressing the inequities faced by ½ of the world's population; and

(3) the United States must "eliminate barriers to women's meaningful participation . . . in peace and security decision-making processes" in order to "achieve and safeguard our national security priorities" and achieve "sustainable peace, international security, and economic stability";

Whereas, according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (commonly referred to as "UN Women"), peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women's groups play a meaningful role in the negotiation process;

Whereas, according to a study by the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, the full and meaningful participation of women in criminal justice professions and security forces vastly enhances the effectiveness of the resulting workforces;

Whereas, despite the contributions of women to society, hundreds of millions of women and girls around the world continue to be denied the right to participate freely in civic and economic life, lack fundamental legal protections, and remain vulnerable to exploitation and abuse;

Whereas, every year, approximately 12,000,000 girls are married before they reach the age of 18, which means that—

(1) nearly 33,000 girls are married every day; or

(2) nearly 23 girls are married every minute;

Whereas, despite global progress, it is predicted that by 2030 more than 150,000,000 more girls will marry before reaching the age of 18, and approximately 2,400,000 girls who are married before reaching the age of 18 are under the age of 15;

Whereas girls living in countries affected by conflict or other humanitarian crises are often the most vulnerable to child marriage,

and 9 of the 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are considered fragile or extremely fragile;

Whereas, on August 15, 2021, the Taliban entered Kabul, Afghanistan, and toppled the elected government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, resulting in de facto Taliban rule over the people of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Taliban continues to restrict the ability of women and girls to exist in Afghan society, including by—

(1) prohibiting girls from going to school past sixth grade, including banning women from attending university;

(2) limiting the employment that women can pursue outside of their households;

(3) mandating that women cover their heads and faces in public and punishing those who wear brightly colored clothing;

(4) restricting the independent movement of women and girls;

(5) closing domestic abuse shelters, sometimes forcing residents to return to their abusive families;

(6) preventing women aid workers from operating in Afghanistan, thus restricting operations in support of humanitarian assistance for all Afghans;

(7) jailing women human rights defenders; and

(8) limiting access to women's healthcare, including preventative and emergency services, and requiring a male chaperone at most clinics and hospitals;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (commonly referred to as "UNICEF")—

(1) globally, 1 in 5 girls between the ages of 10 and 19 have experienced recent intimate partner violence;

(2) approximately 120,000,000 girls worldwide, about 1 in 10, have experienced forced sexual acts; and

(3) an estimated 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced some form of physical or sexual violence;

Whereas the overall level of violence against women is a better predictor of the peacefulness of a country, the compliance of a country with international treaty obligations, and the relations of a country with neighboring countries than indicators measuring the level of democracy, level of wealth, or level of institutionalization of the country;

Whereas women around the world remain vastly underrepresented in government positions, as women account for only 25.6 percent of national parliamentarians and 21 percent of government ministers;

Whereas the ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve strong and lasting economic growth, self-reliance, and political and social stability;

Whereas, although the United Nations Millennium Project reached the goal of achieving gender parity in primary education in most countries in 2015, the COVID-19 global pandemic has deepened gender inequality in education and more work remains to be done to achieve gender equality in primary and secondary education, particularly in secondary education worldwide as gender gaps persist and widen, by addressing—

(1) discriminatory practices;

(2) harmful cultural and social norms;

(3) inadequate sanitation facilities, including facilities to manage menstruation;

(4) child, early, and forced marriage;

(5) poverty;

(6) food insecurity and malnutrition;

(7) early pregnancy and motherhood;

(8) conflict and insecurity; and

(9) other factors that favor boys or devalue girls' education;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—

(1) approximately 118,500,000 girls between the ages of 6 and 17 remain out of school;

(2) girls living in countries affected by conflict are 2.5 times more likely to be out of primary school than boys;

(3) girls are twice as likely as boys to never set foot in a classroom; and

(4) up to 30 percent of girls who drop out of school do so because of adolescent pregnancy or child marriage;

Whereas women around the world face a variety of constraints that severely limit their economic participation and productivity and remain underrepresented in the labor force;

Whereas, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations—

(1) agriculture and food systems are a major source of livelihoods, particularly for rural women;

(2) wage and productivity gaps persist in agriculture and food systems, despite the crucial role that women play in those sectors;

(3) the work of women in agriculture and food systems is more likely than that of men to be part-time, irregular, informal, vulnerable, labor-intensive, and low-skilled;

(4) in countries reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 5.a.1, more men than women are owners or have rights to agricultural land;

(5) the gender gap in food insecurity is growing and has reached 4.3 percentage points, with more women experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity in all regions than men; and

(6) the empowerment of women can have important benefits for agricultural productivity, nutrition, and food security;

Whereas the economic empowerment of women is inextricably linked to a myriad of other internationally recognized human rights that are essential to the ability of women to thrive as economic actors, including—

(1) living lives free of violence and exploitation;

(2) achieving the highest possible standard of health and well-being;

(3) enjoying full legal and human rights, such as access to registration, identification, and citizenship documents, and freedom of movement;

(4) access to formal and informal education;

(5) access to, and equal protection under, land and property rights;

(6) access to fundamental labor rights;

(7) the implementation of policies to address disproportionate care burdens; and

(8) receiving business and management skills and leadership opportunities;

Whereas the Millennium Challenge Corporation (commonly referred to as the "MCC"), an independent United States foreign assistance agency, recognizes that inequality and the exclusion of women from economic opportunities can inhibit efforts to promote economic growth and reduce poverty and decrease a country's economic growth trajectory, which is why the gender policy of the MCC requires gender inequalities to be identified and considered in every stage of agreements with participating countries;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, global maternal mortality decreased by approximately 38 percent from 2000 to 2017, yet approximately 810 women and girls continue to die from preventable causes relating to pregnancy or childbirth each day, and 94 percent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries, putting the global community off-track to meeting Sustainable Development Goal 3.1 for reducing maternal deaths;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that

women and girls comprise approximately ½ of the 78,900,000 refugees and internally displaced or stateless individuals in the world;

Whereas the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022, has resulted in a disproportionate number of women and children seeking safety outside of Ukraine;

Whereas those women and girls, like women and girls in all humanitarian emergencies, including those subject to forced displacement, face increased and exacerbated vulnerabilities to—

(1) gender-based violence, including rape, child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation and assault;

(2) disruptions in education and livelihood;

(3) lack of access to health services; and

(4) food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas malnutrition poses a variety of threats to women and girls specifically, as malnutrition can weaken their immune systems, making them more susceptible to infections, and affects their capacity to survive childbirth, and children born of malnourished women and girls are more likely to have cognitive impairments and higher risk of disease throughout their lives;

Whereas it is imperative—

(1) to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and girls; and

(2) to afford women and girls every opportunity to be equal members of their communities; and

Whereas March 8, 2024, is recognized as International Women's Day, a global day—

(1) to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the past, present, and future; and

(2) to recognize the obstacles that women face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the fundamental human rights of women and girls have intrinsic value that affect the quality of life of women and girls;

(3) recognizes that the empowerment of women and girls is inextricably linked to the potential of a country to generate—

(A) economic growth and self-reliance;

(B) sustainable peace and democracy; and

(C) inclusive security;

(4) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women human rights defenders, activists, and civil society leaders, who have worked throughout history to ensure that women and girls are guaranteed equality and fundamental human rights;

(5) applauds the women around the world who stand against oppression in any form and fight for a better future, especially in Ukraine, Iran, and Afghanistan;

(6) recognizes the unique cultural, historical, and religious differences throughout the world and urges the United States Government to act with respect and understanding toward legitimate differences when promoting any policies;

(7) reaffirms the commitment—

(A) to end discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(B) to ensure the safety, health, and welfare of women and girls;

(C) to pursue policies that guarantee the fundamental human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(D) to promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community, including conflict prevention, protection, peacemaking, and peacebuilding;

(8) supports sustainable, measurable, and global development that seeks to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and

(9) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 583—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND THE SUPPORT IT PROVIDES TO MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 583

Whereas the National League of Cities is the oldest and largest organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States, representing the interests of more than 19,000 cities, towns, and villages across the country and collectively more than 218,000,000 residents;

Whereas the National League of Cities, originally named the American Municipal Association, was founded in 1924 in Lawrence, Kansas, by State municipal leagues seeking more coordination and national representation as cities, towns, and villages expanded rapidly following the Industrial Revolution;

Whereas, today, the National League of Cities works in partnership with 49 State municipal leagues across the country to strengthen local leadership, drive innovation, and influence policies that impact local programs and operations;

Whereas, as the voice in Washington that represents cities, towns, and villages across the United States, the National League of Cities has successfully championed Federal legislative solutions that support municipalities and has worked closely with Congress, educating Members of Congress on the realities of local implementation of proposed Federal legislation;

Whereas the National League of Cities has a history of championing the passage of foundational Federal legislation and bolstering Congress' efforts to strengthen essential services that municipalities provide to their communities;

Whereas the National League of Cities is proud that 21 percent of the membership of the Senate and the House of Representatives, or 115 elected Members of Congress, are former local elected officials;

Whereas the National League of Cities supported the creation of the Former Local Elected Officials Caucus, which brings together Members of Congress who previously served in local government, to improve intergovernmental partnership and ensure that the voices of local governments are heard in Federal decision-making; and

Whereas, two National League of Cities' presidents, Senator Richard G. Lugar, former mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Senator George Voinovich, former mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, went on to have distinguished careers in the United States Senate and worked closely with local leaders to strengthen the Federal-local partnership: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the United States Senate recognizes—

(1) the 100th anniversary of the National League of Cities; and

(2) the role that the National League of Cities will play in the next century in supporting municipalities with—

- (A) unparalleled research;
- (B) technical expertise; and

(C) relentless advocacy as a key partner in preserving and strengthening the Federal-local partnership.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF MARCH 10, 2024, AS “ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 30

Whereas March 10 has been established as a day to show appreciation for the essential, high-quality care that abortion providers and staff provide to their communities and those traveling to their communities, and to celebrate their courage, compassion, and dedication to their work;

Whereas March 10 was selected for “Abortion Provider Appreciation Day” in honor of Dr. David Gunn, who was killed on March 10, 1993, outside his abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida, by a White supremacist and anti-abortion extremist in the first known instance of the murder of an abortion provider;

Whereas abortions are provided in-person and through telehealth by facilities such as independent clinics, Planned Parenthood health care centers, hospitals, and private offices of doctors, and all of the staff working for those facilities are essential to ensuring patients receive needed care;

Whereas, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States erroneously overturned *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 597 U.S. 215 (2022) (referred to in this preamble as “the Dobbs decision”), reversing decades of legal precedent affirming the right to an abortion and unleashing devastation on an already precarious abortion access landscape;

Whereas, following the Dobbs decision, States across the United States moved to further restrict access to abortion care and 21 States have banned some or all access to an abortion;

Whereas, because of State abortion bans and restrictions, scores of clinics and health care centers in already underserved areas have closed, forcing more patients to travel out-of-State for abortion care, increasing wait times, straining already thin resources, and pushing people farther and farther away from their homes;

Whereas abortion providers and all staff play a critical role in a world where it has become increasingly difficult for individuals to receive essential and time-sensitive care once those individuals have made decisions that are right for their bodies, lives, and futures;

Whereas abortion providers and all staff help to ensure that all individuals who can become pregnant can make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies, and support the decisions of their patients by treating them with dignity, empathy, compassion, and respect, despite numerous challenges due to abortion bans and restrictions;

Whereas abortion providers and all staff play an essential role within the reproductive justice framework, which was created by 12 Black women in 1994, who formulated a

human rights framework that demands every person has the human right to bodily autonomy, which includes the right to choose if, when, and how to have children and the right to parent children in safe and sustainable communities;

Whereas individuals seeking abortion care across the United States also rely on the work of abortion funds and practical support organizations to access abortion care for themselves and their families;

Whereas abortion funds and practical support organizations that rely on donations face increasing demand following the Dobbs decision as individuals are forced to travel longer distances, find childcare or lodging, and raise money to obtain an abortion and cover associated costs;

Whereas restrictions on abortion care have far-reaching consequences that deepen existing inequities and worsen health outcomes for pregnant people and people giving birth;

Whereas people who are denied abortion care are more likely to experience high blood pressure and other serious medical conditions during the end of pregnancy, remain in relationships where interpersonal violence is present, and experience poverty;

Whereas research shows that States that have more abortion restrictions are also States that have poorer maternal health outcomes;

Whereas the effects of the Dobbs decision were immediate and disastrous, with abortion being entirely banned in 14 States as of March 2024;

Whereas 1 in 3 women of reproductive age, plus more trans and nonbinary people, are blocked from accessing an abortion in their home State;

Whereas restricting and banning access to abortion care—

(1) limits the ability of current and future providers to obtain necessary education and training in abortion care;

(2) exposes the remaining abortion providers and clinic staff to increased levels of harassment and politically motivated restrictions; and

(3) creates and increases the out-of-pocket costs and logistical burdens that patients face to get care to a level that is sometimes insurmountable, forcing patients to remain pregnant;

Whereas the 2022 Violence and Disruption Report of the National Abortion Federation found an alarming escalation in incidents of obstruction, vandalism, and trespassing at abortion clinics, with abortion providers reporting an alarming rate of death threats and threats of harm, and documented 218 incidents in 2022;

Whereas Black, indigenous, and other providers and patients of color face heightened levels of threats, harassment, and violence as compared to their White counterparts;

Whereas the Dobbs decision has emboldened antiabortion individuals and groups to continue to harass providers and the patients they care for;

Whereas the Dobbs decision threatens the ability of abortion providers and staff to serve their patients; and

Whereas, in the face of multifaceted attacks on their work, abortion providers remain an essential and valued part of their communities, providing high-quality, compassionate, and necessary health care, and courageously delivering that care despite pressures, restrictions, political interference, and violent threats to their personal safety: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That Congress—

(1) recognizes “Abortion Provider Appreciation Day” on March 10, 2024, to celebrate the courage, compassion, and high-quality care that abortion providers and staff offer

to patients and their families across the United States;

(2) lauds communities across the United States who are proud to be home to abortion providers and staff;

(3) affirms the commitment of Congress to ensuring the safety of abortion providers, the ability of abortion providers to continue providing the essential care their patients need, and the right of patients to access abortion care no matter where they live, free from fear of violence, criminalization, or stigma;

(4) condemns the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States to limit abortion care, which has had a devastating impact on abortion providers and the communities they care for, threatening the work and livelihoods of providers and staff, and worsening the strain on providers who work in States where abortion is still available; and

(5) declares a vision for a future liberated from all abortion restrictions and bans, and affirms the commitment of Congress to working toward that goal in partnership with providers, patients, advocates, and their communities.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1627. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1628. Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1629. Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1630. Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1631. Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1632. Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1633. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1634. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1635. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1636. Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1637. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1638. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1639. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1640. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1641. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1642. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1643. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. VANCE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1644. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1645. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1646. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1647. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1648. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1649. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1650. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1651. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1652. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1653. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1654. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1655. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1656. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1657. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1658. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1659. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1660. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1661. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1662. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1663. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1664. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1665. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1666. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1667. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1668. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1669. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1670. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1671. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1672. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1673. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1674. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1675. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1676. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1677. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1678. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1679. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1680. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1681. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.



SA 1682. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1683. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1684. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1685. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1686. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1687. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1688. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1689. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1690. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1627.** Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

##### SEC. \_\_\_\_ ZERO-BASED BUDGETS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) ZERO-BASED BUDGET.—The term “zero-based budget” means a systematic budget analysis in support of decision making in which managers—

(A) examine current objectives, operations, and costs;

(B) consider alternative ways of carrying out a program or activity; and

(C) rank different programs or activities by order of importance to the organization.

(b) ZERO-BASED BUDGETS.—Every sixth year, each agency shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a zero-based budget for the next fiscal year and each of the 4 ensuing fiscal years.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In addition to the zero-based budget required under subsection (b), each agency, except the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration shall submit recommendations for which programs Congress should cut or reduce appropriations in an amount that equals not less than a 2-percent reduction from the previous year appropriation in discretionary spending.

**SA 1628.** Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division E, insert the following:

SEC. 1\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop or implement the proposed National Recovery Plan of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for gray wolves in the lower 48 States.

**SA 1629.** Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of division D, insert the following:

##### LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 5\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to promulgate new or finalize proposed rules unless the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration determines that the rule will not raise consumer energy prices.

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

##### LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 4\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate new or finalize proposed rules unless the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration determines that the rule will not raise consumer energy prices.

**SA 1630.** Ms. LUMMIS (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division E, insert the following:

SEC. 1\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the following proposed rules:

(1) The proposed rule of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of Regulations for Interagency Cooperation” (88 Fed. Reg. 40753 (June 22, 2023)).

(2) The proposed rule of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat” (88 Fed. Reg. 40764 (June 22, 2023)).

(3) The proposed rule of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations Pertaining to Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants” (88 Fed. Reg. 40742 (June 22, 2023)).

**SA 1631.** Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 2\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to carry out to carry out the program for Federal employees at the Department of the Interior entitled “Acknowledging Ecogrief and Developing Resistance” or any other counseling session, workshop, or meeting relating to ecological grief, ecogrief, or eco-resilience for Federal employees at the Department of the Interior.

**SA 1632.** Ms. LUMMIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division D, insert the following:

SEC. 2\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to carry out cashless entrance fee policies at units of the National Park System.

**SA 1633.** Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division F, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this division may be used to provide Federal funds to a local jurisdiction that refuses to comply with a request from the Department of Homeland Security to provide advance notice of the scheduled date and time a particular illegal alien is scheduled to be released from local custody.

**SA 1634.** Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place under the heading “GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE” in title I of division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to—

(1) conduct a decennial census that does not collect and make publicly available the number of individuals per State who are—

(A) citizens of the United States;

(B) nationals of the United States but not citizens of the United States;

(C) aliens lawfully residing in the United States; or



(D) aliens unlawfully residing in the United States; or

(2) report to the President an apportionment population that includes individuals who are not citizens of the United States.

**SA 1635.** Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

(a) **SHORT TITLES.**—This section may be cited as the “Protect Our Law Enforcement with Immigration Control and Enforcement Act of 2024” or the “POLICE Act of 2024”.

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

“(G) **ASSAULT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of, any offense involving the assault of a law enforcement officer is deportable.

“(ii) **CIRCUMSTANCES.**—The circumstances referred to in clause (i) are that the law enforcement officer was assaulted—

“(I) while he or she was engaged in the performance of his or her official duties;

“(II) because of the performance of his or her official duties; or

“(III) because of his or her station as a law enforcement officer.

“(iii) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘assault’ has the meaning given that term in the jurisdiction where the act occurred; and

“(II) the term ‘law enforcement officer’ is a person authorized by law—

“(aa) to apprehend, arrest, or prosecute an individual for any criminal violation of law; or

“(bb) to be a firefighter or other first responder.”

(c) **REPORT ON ALIENS DEPORTED FOR ASSAULTING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit an annual report to Congress, and make such report publicly available on the website of the Department of Homeland Security, that identifies the number of aliens who were deported during the previous year pursuant to section 237(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (b).

**SA 1636.** Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division D, insert the following:

**SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_.** None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for—

(1) the study of removal of powered Federal dams in the Northwestern Division of the Corps of Engineers;

(2) the study of power, flood control, or navigation replacement related to those dams;

(3) technical assistance related to those dams; or

(4) the study or consideration of operational changes that differ from current operations at those dams.

**SA 1637.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

**SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 1638.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “7 days” and insert “8 days”.

**SA 1639.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

**SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 9 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 1640.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “9 days” and insert “10 days”.

**SA 1641.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “10 days” and insert “11 days”.

**SA 1642.** Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction,

the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 542 of title I of division C, strike “up to .07 percent of amounts made available to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration by such Act shall be available for salaries and expenses, administration, and oversight of programs administered by such Administration that receives appropriations by such Act, in addition to amounts previously made available for such purpose:” and insert “\$110,657,000 of amounts made available to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for administrative purposes for grants for broadband deployment under section 60102 of title I of division F of such Act and appropriated under title II of division J of such Act shall be rescinded as of the date of enactment of this Act, and \$226,343,000 of funds from the same accounts shall be available for salaries and expenses, administration, and oversight of programs administered by such Administration that receives appropriations by such Act, in addition to amounts previously made available for such purpose: *Provided*, That none of such amounts shall be used for Algorithmic Justice:”.

**SA 1643.** Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. VANCE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division F, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FUNDS FOR PROVIDING FUNDING TO AIRPORT OWNERS OR OPERATORS THAT USE AIRPORT PROPERTY TO SHELTER OR HOUSE ALIENS NOT PROPERLY ADMITTED.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide funding to an airport owner or operator that uses any facility classified for aeronautical or non-aeronautical uses on airport property to provide shelter or housing for an alien who has not been admitted (as such terms are defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)), unless such shelter or housing is on a short-term emergency basis made necessary by a specified disaster. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term “specified disaster” means any fire, flood, explosion, hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought for which a disaster declaration is made by the Federal Government or a State pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

**SA 1644.** Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO PAUSE PERMITTING OF LNG EXPORTS.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds shall be used to facilitate or implement the Department of Energy supplemental review of economic and environmental analyses used to permit liquefied natural gas exports under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.).

**SA 1645.** Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division F, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ .** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used for grants for the Economic Development Initiative related to West Harlem Environmental Action, Inc., or WE ACT Environmental Justice.

**SA 1646.** Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division E, insert the following:

**EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000**

**SEC. 1 \_\_\_\_ .** (a) **SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.**—(1) Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended, in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2026”.

(2) Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2026”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.**—(1) Section 205(a)(4) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(a)(4)) is amended by striking “December 20, 2023” each place it appears and inserting “December 20, 2026”.

(2) Section 208 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7128) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “2025” and inserting “2028”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “2026” and inserting “2029”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO EXPEND COUNTY FUNDS.**—Section 305 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2025” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “2026” and inserting “2029”.

(d) **RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION.**—Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

“(g) **PILOT PROGRAM FOR RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS BY REGIONAL FORESTERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary concerned shall establish and carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary concerned shall allow the regional forester with jurisdiction over a unit of Federal land to appoint members of the resource advisory committee for that unit, in accordance with the applicable requirements of this section.

“(2) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL FORESTER.**—Before appointing a member of a resource advisory committee under the pilot program under this subsection, a regional forester shall conduct the review and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for an appointment to a resource advisory committee if the pilot program was not in effect, including any review and analysis with respect to civil rights and budgetary requirements.

“(3) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Nothing in this subsection relieves a regional forester or the Secretary concerned from an obligation to comply with any requirement relating to an appointment to a resource advisory committee, including any requirement with respect to civil rights or advertising a vacancy.

“(4) **TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.**—The authority provided under this subsection terminates on October 1, 2028.”.

**SA 1647.** Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ .** None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, may be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finalize, issue, or implement any rule, notice of proposed rulemaking, or order setting any tobacco product standard that would prohibit menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes, or prohibit characterizing flavors in all cigars and their components and parts.

**SA 1648.** Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SUPPORTING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available to entities under section 2001(b)(1) of Public Law 117-2 shall remain available to those entities for purposes authorized under such section through September 30, 2025.

**SA 1649.** Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year

ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division B, strike section 763.

**SA 1650.** Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division B, strike section 770.

**SA 1651.** Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

**LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS**

**SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_ .** None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop, finalize, issue, or use assessments under the Integrated Risk Information System of the Environmental Protection Agency (commonly referred to as “IRIS”).

**SA 1652.** Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

**LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS**

**SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_ .** None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act or any other Act may be used by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop, finalize, or enforce the proposed rule of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled “Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review” (87 Fed. Reg. 74702 (December 6, 2022)), or a substantially similar rule.

**SA 1653.** Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

**LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS**

**SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_ .** None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act or any other Act may be used by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the final rule of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled “Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air

Quality Standards for Particulate Matter” (89 Fed. Reg. 16202 (March 6, 2024)).

ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may use appropriations for clean air programs made available under this Act—

(1) to improve air quality monitoring data by—

(A) addressing air quality impacts from wildfires, prescribed burns, and other fugitive emissions from nonpoint sources; and

(B) analyzing, quantifying, and addressing air quality impacts from foreign sources; and

(2) to improve air quality modeling tools and policies.

SA 1654. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by any division of this Act may be obligated or expended to issue an interim or final rule that amends or replaces the rule on speed restrictions to protect North Atlantic Right Whales under section 224.105 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 3, 2023, until the date on which—

(1) the mitigation protocols required under section 11303(e) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (16 U.S.C. 1391(e)) have been fully developed and deployed; and

(2) the Secretary of Commerce has submitted a report on how the mitigation protocols will inform any proposed changes to section 224.105 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, to—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SA 1655. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. No Federal funding appropriated to the Department of Justice may be disbursed to—

(1) any State, local, Tribal, or territorial governmental entity that facilitates or encourages unlawful activity, including unlawful entry, human trafficking, human smuggling, drug trafficking, and drug smuggling;

(2) any State, local, Tribal, or territorial governmental entity to provide, or facilitate the provision of, transportation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmissible aliens who enter the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) any nongovernmental organization that facilitates or encourages unlawful activity, including unlawful entry, human trafficking, human smuggling, drug trafficking, and drug smuggling; or

(4) any nongovernmental organization to provide, or facilitate the provision of, transportation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmissible aliens who enter the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1656. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **WAIVER OF DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN STATE VETERANS HOME PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall waive under subsection (b) of section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act (subtitle A of title IX of division G of Public Law 117-58) the domestic content procurement preference under such section with respect to a project for the construction of State home facilities with respect to which the application under section 8135 of title 38, United States Code, for such project was submitted on or before April 15, 2022, and included in the “VA State Home Construction Grants Priority List FY 2023”, dated June 1, 2023.

(b) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

SA 1657. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY TO WORK WITH GOVERNMENT OF CHINA ON REGULATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to enter into negotiations with officials from the Government of the People’s Republic of China or issue guidelines with cooperation from officials from such government regarding artificial intelligence policy regulation, coordination, and collaboration without specific authorization in law.

SA 1658. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement the

pause in the issuance of new export licenses involving certain firearms, related components, and ammunition as identified in the Bureau of Industry and Security’s “Firearms Pause & Review: Frequently Asked Questions” dated October 27, 2023.

SA 1659. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division F, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR HOUSING, OR FACILITATING THE HOUSING OF, ALIENS AT AIRPORTS.**

None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used for the purpose of housing, or facilitating the housing of, aliens at airports.

SA 1660. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division F, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide Federal funds to a local jurisdiction that routinely refuses to comply with a request from the Department of Homeland Security to provide advance notice of the scheduled release dates and times for illegal aliens in local custody.

SA 1661. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DREDGING.**

None of the funds made available under this Act shall be used to enforce section 55109 of title 46, United States Code, or section 55110 of such title with respect to dredged material.

SA 1662. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **BROADBAND SERVICE FUNDS LIMITATION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of any division of this Act, no amounts previously appropriated or appropriated under this Act shall be made available for use by

the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to encourage eligible entities to set, freeze, or cap rates charged by a provider of broadband service under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program or to approve the initial or final proposal of an eligible entity that sets, freezes, or caps rates charged by a provider of broadband service, submitted as part of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program.

**SA 1663.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

- (1) for—
  - (A) in the Department of Commerce—
    - (i) the Equity (DEIA) Council;
    - (ii) in the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Office; or
    - (iii) in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—
      - (I) the Office of Inclusion and Civil Rights;
      - (II) the Diversity and Inclusion Management Advisory Council; or
      - (III) the Diversity and Professional Advancement Working Group;
    - (B) in the Department of Justice—
      - (i) the Chief Diversity Officer;
      - (ii) in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Diversity and Career Impact Program;
      - (iii) in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion;
      - (iv) the Antitrust Division Diversity Committee; or
      - (v) the National Resource Center for Justice-Involved LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit Youth;
    - (C) in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity; or
    - (D) in the National Science Foundation—
      - (i) the Office of Equity and Civil Rights;
      - (ii) the Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program; or
      - (iii) the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate;
  - (2) to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out—
    - (A) Executive Order 13985 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to advancing racial equity and support for undeserved communities through the Federal Government), as amended before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act;
    - (B) Executive Order 14091 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825; relating to further advancing racial equity and support for undeserved communities through the Federal Government), as amended before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act;
    - (C) Executive Order 14035 (42 U.S.C. 2000e note; relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), as amended before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act; or
    - (D) the People with Disabilities Program of the Federal Aviation Administration; or
  - (3) to conduct any diversity, equity, inclusion, or implicit bias training.

**SA 1664.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of division C, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ .** None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to allow the Bureau of the Census to include aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States in rendering apportionment determinations in any decennial census.

**SA 1665.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

None of the funds made available by this Act for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program may be obligated or expended.

**SA 1666.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to perform, promote, counsel, or provide referrals for the provision of hormonal treatments or surgical care to affirm a person's chosen identity of his or her sex, if that chosen identity is incongruent with such person's biological sex.

**SA 1667.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ABORTION.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to perform, promote, counsel, or provide referrals for abortions.

**SA 1668.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year

ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund military construction projects related to climate adaptation at the Department of Defense.

**SA 1669.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN UKRAINE.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund permanent, minor, or temporary military construction projects in Ukraine.

**SA 1670.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for a military construction project in a foreign country with which the United States maintains a status of forces agreement that has not been subject to a review of legal protections afforded to members of the Armed Forces by the Secretary of Defense during fiscal year 2024, other than those projects related to housing or the provision of medical services for members of the Armed Forces.

**SA 1671.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT OR MODIFY FACILITIES TO HOUSE ALIENS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to construct or modify facilities to house aliens (as defined in section 101(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(3))) on military installations of the United States.

**SA 1672.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR OFFICE OF RESOLUTION MANAGEMENT, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be obligated or expended by the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion of the Department of Veterans Affairs or for any diversity, equity, and inclusion office, position, or activity at the Department.

**SA 1673.** Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . ANTITRUST DIVISION FUNDS.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of any division of this Act—

(1) all fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in the “salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division” appropriation, and shall remain available until expended; and

(2) any funds credited to the “salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division” appropriation as offsetting collections during the current fiscal year shall be available for obligation, without regard to the limitations under the heading “salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division”.

**SA 1674.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

Sec. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used—

(1) to carry out Socially Disadvantaged Applicant funding under Farm Service Agency farm loan programs; or

(2) for Department of Agriculture loan programs that use race as a criteria for eligibility.

**SA 1675.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division D, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . NO FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD FOR CONSUMER FURNACES.**

No funds made available under this division may be used by the Secretary of Energy to implement or enforce the final rule of the Department of Energy entitled “Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces” (88 Fed. Reg. 87502 (December 18, 2023)).

**SA 1676.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . CIVIL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT.**

Section 3(b) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended by striking “shall not exceed” and inserting “shall be not less than”.

**SA 1677.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III of division D, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . NO FUNDS TO FINALIZE A RULE RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS.**

No funds made available under this division may be used by the Secretary of Energy to finalize the proposed rule of the Department of Energy entitled “Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers” (88 Fed. Reg. 1722 (January 11, 2023)).

**SA 1678.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY AND FACILITIES LOCATED ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM CERTAIN CREDITS RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT.**

(a) EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY PLACED IN SERVICE ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) EXCLUSION OF PRIME FARMLAND.—“(A) IN GENERAL.—Expenditures which are properly allocable to property placed in service on prime farmland shall not be taken into account for purposes of this section.

“(B) PRIME FARMLAND DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘prime farmland’ means land determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be prime farm-

land within the meaning of part 657.5 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

(b) EXCLUSION OF FACILITIES LOCATED ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: “(14) PRIME FARMLAND EXCLUDED.—The term ‘qualified facility’ shall not include any facility located on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9)).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to facilities placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

(c) EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY PLACED IN SERVICE ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM ENERGY CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “or any property located on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9))” after “any prior taxable year”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

(d) EXCLUSION OF PROPERTY PLACED IN SERVICE ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM CLEAN ELECTRICITY INVESTMENT CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48E(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) EXCLUSION OF PRIME FARMLAND.—Expenditures which are properly allocable to property placed in service on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9)) shall not be taken into account for purposes of this section.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to qualified investments with respect to any qualified facility or energy storage technology the construction of which begins after the date of the enactment of this section.

(e) EXCLUSION OF FACILITIES LOCATED ON PRIME FARMLAND FROM CLEAN ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45Y(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) PRIME FARMLAND EXCLUDED.—The term ‘qualified facility’ shall not include any facility located on prime farmland (as defined in section 25D(e)(9)).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to facilities placed in service after the date of the enactment of this section.

**SA 1679.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

**PROHIBITION OF ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS BY THE PRESIDIO TRUST**

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_ . Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Presidio Trust may not issue obligations to the Secretary of the Treasury under this Act.

**SA 1680.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in any division of this Act may be used to list on the New York Stock Exchange any Natural Asset Companies.

**SA 1681.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out the proposed rule of the Bureau of Land Management entitled "Conservation and Landscape Health" (88 Fed. Reg. 19583 (April 3, 2023)).

**SA 1682.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out the Grand Staircase-Escalante Draft National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and dated August 2023.

**SA 1683.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in any division of this Act may be used to carry out the management plan prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service entitled "Bears Ears National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" and dated September 2022.

**SA 1684.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year

ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of division D, insert the following:

LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out the final rule of the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency entitled "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" (88 Fed. Reg. 3004 (January 18, 2023)).

**SA 1685.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV of division E, insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON USE OF USE OF FUNDS TO FINALIZE AND IMPLEMENT CERTAIN TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE STATE OF UTAH

SEC. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term "applicable period" means the period that begins on the date of enactment of this Act and ends on the date on which the Secretary certifies to Congress that each of the R.S. 2477 cases has been adjudicated.

(2) COVERED TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term "covered travel management area" means any of the following travel management areas in the State of Utah:

(A) The Henry Mountains and Fremont Gorge Travel Management Area.

(B) The Dinosaur (North) Travel Management Area.

(C) The Book Cliffs Travel Management Area (Vernal Field Office).

(D) The Nine Mile Canyon Travel Management Area (Vernal Field Office).

(E) The San Rafael Swell Travel Management Area.

(F) The Nine Mile Canyon Travel Management Area (Price Field Office).

(G) The Book Cliffs Travel Management Area (Moab Field Office).

(H) The Dolores River Travel Management Area.

(I) The Trail Canyon Travel Management Area.

(J) The Paunsaugunt Travel Management Area.

(3) R.S. 2477 CASE.—The term "R.S. 2477 case" means each of—

(A) Beaver County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-423-CW);

(B) Box Elder County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 1:12-cv-105-DB);

(C) Carbon County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-427-DB);

(D) Daggett County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-447-RJS);

(E) Duchesne County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-425-CW);

(F) Emery County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-429-CW);

(G) Garfield County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-478-TC);

(H) Grand County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-466-DN);

(I) Iron County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-472-BSJ);

(J) Juab County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-462-DB);

(K) Kane County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-1073-CW) (consolidated with Case No. 2:11-cv-1031-CW; Case No. 2:12-cv-476-CW).

(L) Millard County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-451-DB);

(M) Piute County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-428-CW);

(N) Rich County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-424-DN);

(O) San Juan County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-467-DAK);

(P) Sanpete County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-430-DB);

(Q) Sevier County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-452-DN);

(R) Tooele County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-477-CW);

(S) Uintah County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-461-DAK);

(T) Utah County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-426-CW);

(U) Washington County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-471-RJS);

and

(V) Wayne County and State of Utah v. United States (Case No. 2:12-cv-434-DN).

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

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO FINALIZE AND IMPLEMENT CERTAIN TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS.—During the applicable period, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may not obligate or expend Federal funds—

(1) to finalize or implement, with respect to land within the boundary of the State of Utah, a new travel management plan for a covered travel management area; or

(2) to implement, with respect to land within the boundary of the State of Utah—

(A) the Indian Creek (Canyon Rims) Travel Management Plan;

(B) the San Rafael Desert Travel Management Plan; or

(C) the Labyrinth/Gemini Bridges Travel Management Plan.

**SA 1686.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 101 of division G, add the following:

(f) LIMITATION ON USE OF CHC FUNDS.—None of the funds made available pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (a) may be used by community health centers to promote or provide referrals for abortion services or to promote or provide hormonal treatments or surgical care to affirm an individual's chosen identity of his or her sex, if that chosen identity is incongruent with such individual's biological sex.

**SA 1687.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to support, directly or indirectly, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any laboratory owned or controlled by the governments of



the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**SA 1688.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated by division A, B, C, D, E, F, or G shall be obligated to any entity that financially supports, promotes, or hosts any obscene activities, including drag shows for children, BDSM, kink, or pedophilic practices.

**SA 1689.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, implement, or enforce—

(1) the modifications made by the Food and Drug Administration on January 3, 2023, to the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505-1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355-1), or any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under such section 505-1 for mifepristone that is substantially similar to any such modifications; or

(2) any non-enforcement or enforcement discretion policy for any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under such section 505-1 for mifepristone.

**SA 1690.** Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The payment rate for livestock indemnity payments described in section 1501(b)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)(2)) shall be 90 percent in the case of losses due to wildfires occurring in the States of Texas and Oklahoma in calendar year 2024.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I have seven 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 Sen-

ate, 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, March 7, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 9:40 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 11 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, March 7, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Devon Gorbey, Wasem Gawish, Max Katz, Cynthia Bailey, Cliff Ho, Will Murray, Jon Yap, who are all fellows in my office, be granted privileges to the floor until January 2, 2025.

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

**ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8:20 p.m. today and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress provided under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 93; that upon dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 10 a.m. on Friday, March 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be

reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 4366; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the House Message ripen at 12 noon.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. So we will gather in the Senate Chamber at 8:20 p.m. this evening to proceed as a body to the House for the State of the Union.

Senators should expect a live quorum tomorrow morning at approximately 10 a.m. Let me repeat that: Senators should expect a live quorum tomorrow morning at approximately 10 a.m.

**RECESS**

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., recessed until 8:20 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. OSSOFF).

**JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Kelly Fado; the Secretary of the Senate, Sonceria Ann Berry; and the Vice President of the United States, KAMALA HARRIS, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024, AT 10 A.M.**

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:59 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Friday, March 8, 2024, at 10 a.m.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 7, 2024:

**NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD**

LINDA A. PUCHALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024.

LINDA A. PUCHALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2027.

DEIRDRE HAMILTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2025.



LOREN E. SWEATT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2023.

LOREN E. SWEATT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2026.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FARA DAMELIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

REBECCA KELLY SLAUGHTER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2022.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

DOUGLAS DZIAK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 26, 2024.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

ANDREW N. FERGUSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

ANDREW N. FERGUSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2023.

MELISSA HOLYOAK, OF UTAH, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2018.

THE JUDICIARY

ADRIENNE JENNINGS NOTI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

KELLY HARRISON RANKIN, OF WYOMING, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MRS. CHRISTAL BENNETT, THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Christal Bennett, for her exceptional efforts in fostering the musical talents of her many students. A longtime Florida native, Mrs. Bennett's extensive history in music education began in the very District in which she now teaches. From Avalon Middle School to the University of West Florida, Mrs. Bennett's exceptional gift of music has exemplified a lifelong dedication to spreading joy throughout her community.

As the Director of Bands at Central School and the recent founder of its very first marching band, Mrs. Bennett's leadership continues to find new and influential ways to impact the lives of countless young musicians. In its first year, the Central School Jaguar Marching Band has already managed to obtain a competition rating of "excellent" under her direction.

Mrs. Bennett's stated mission of filling her students with pride exemplifies the kind of leader she is. I express great pride in knowing that such a remarkable and kindhearted person has been named the Santa Rosa County Teacher of the Year. I congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to seeing the many musical successes that she and her students will undoubtedly achieve in the future.

CONGRATULATING DR. JACQUELINE APPLGATE ON A HAPPY RETIREMENT

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jacqueline Applegate, President of Bayer Crop Science North America on her retirement. In the words of her colleagues, Dr. Applegate has been an excellent member of the Executive Leadership Team for the Global Crop Science division of Bayer.

Dr. Applegate is a scientist by training and began her career at Bayer as a process development chemist at a manufacturing facility in Kansas City, Missouri after graduating from Iowa State University with a Ph.D. in organic chemistry. Dr. Applegate served as Global President of Vegetable Seeds and Environmental Science, and as the Culture and Change Management Lead for the Bayer/Monsanto integration. Throughout her career she's made a positive impact everywhere she's

been. Dr. Applegate oversaw more than 11,000 employees and was responsible for the commercial performance of the Crop Science business in the United States and Canada, which is a segment worth more than \$8B in net sales.

Dr. Applegate made significant impacts throughout her career, whether through her commitment to assist in the career elevation for each team member or in opening opportunity for the youth who will lead agriculture in the future. The greatest leaders we have not only take on the issues of today, but they also lay the groundwork for a better tomorrow. Dr. Applegate certainly fits that description.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Dr. Applegate for her service to America's farmers and agriculture around the world, and in wishing her a happy retirement on an unforgettable career.

HONORING TAMMY HOLLAND

**HON. BLAKE D. MOORE**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened by the recent and sudden passing of Tammy Holland, who was an anchor in the Ogden, Utah and Hill Air Force Base communities. Tammy was a native to Colorado, where she grew up hiking, skiing, and riding horses. She brought her love of the outdoors to Utah and instilled the same admiration for God's creations in her children, Andrew and Avery. Tammy was easy to be around and quick to welcome anyone as a new friend. With her husband of 23 years, Tammy built her home centered on faith in Jesus Christ and encouraged family and friends alike to join her in serving others.

It's no easy task raising two kids in an Air Force family, and Tammy was a rock for her husband and children as they made homes in Florida, South Carolina, Ohio, Germany, Texas, Massachusetts, Virginia, Illinois, Missouri, and ultimately, Utah. Friends and loved ones in each of these communities came to love Tammy for her organizing and compassionate service to the Airmen and their respective families. Our community is better because of her efforts and her influence will be greatly missed. It is upon us to carry forward her legacy of service.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Tammy's husband, Col. Jeff Holland, and their son, Andrew, and daughter, Avery, for their loss, and I offer my prayers on their behalf.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. NATHANIEL MORAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I was back in my district for Primary election night. Had I been

present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 60 and YEA on Roll Call No. 61.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. DANIEL A. MOORE, SR.

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Daniel A. Moore, Sr. of Stone Mountain, Georgia, who passed away on March 4, 2024.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 20, 1935, Mr. Moore found his true calling in film. After moving to Atlanta in the 1970s, he quickly became a key figure in the City's burgeoning cultural scene. A tireless entrepreneur, filmmaker, producer, writer, cinematographer, editor, exhibition designer, photographer, author, and humanitarian, Mr. Moore was a man of immense talent and his renowned works in film, music, and literature helped shape our culture in Atlanta and beyond.

In 1978, Mr. Moore embarked upon one of his greatest gifts when he founded the African American Panoramic Experience (APEX) Museum, where he proudly served as its President until his passing. The APEX Museum is the oldest Black history museum in Atlanta and a cultural institution. His work will live on as the museum plans APEX Phase II, a massive 90,000 square foot expansion that will provide a state-of-the-art walk-through history, from African civilizations to contemporary Black America.

Among his many awards and accolades, Mr. Moore received the Joseph R. Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award on October 21, 2023. Most recently, during Black History Month this year, I had the pleasure of recognizing Mr. Moore for his pioneering contributions to the preservation and showcasing of Black history and culture in Atlanta at a ceremony in Stonecrest.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the outstanding life and legacy that Mr. Moore leaves behind for generations to come.

PASSAGE OF THE WINNEBAGO LAND TRANSFER ACT

**HON. SHARICE DAVIDS**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1240, the Winnebago Land Transfer Act, introduced by my colleague, Mr. FEENSTRA from Iowa. This critical bill would transfer rightfully-owed land back to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The land in question was taken from the Tribe in an illegal acquisition, and due to complex legal stipulations within the most recent court proceedings

• 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.

pertaining to this matter, the land has still not been returned to the Tribe. Legal complications of these sorts when it comes to federal tribal trust responsibility are an all-too-common phenomenon for Indian Country and demonstrates the importance of a strong relationship between the federal government and tribes. This bill would reinstate the autonomy of the land back to the Winnebago Tribe and protect their sovereignty. The state of Iowa, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and two affected counties are supportive of this bill, and have demonstrated their support for this cause. I applaud my colleagues who have moved swiftly to pass this bill.

---

CELEBRATING THE 95TH  
BIRTHDAY OF MALPHINE FOGEL

---

**HON. GUY RESCENTIALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and advocacy of Malphine “Mafa” Fogel, who will celebrate her 95th birthday on March 11, 2024.

Malphine was born and raised in Brady’s Bend, Pennsylvania. After graduating as the valedictorian of East Brady High School’s class of 1947, she moved to Butler, Pennsylvania. She began a successful career there with the Butler Eagle newspaper and Nationwide Insurance Company. In 1957, Malphine married Maurice “Cubby” Fogel and shared 57 happy years of marriage before his passing in 2014. The couple raised three children together: Mary, Marc, and Anne. Over the years, the Fogel family grew to include nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She also remains closely connected with her seven siblings and travels home to Brady’s Bend every Sunday to spend dinner with them.

Last May, I had the honor of meeting Malphine for the first time when she traveled to Washington and advocated for her son’s release from a Russian prison. With the support of Malphine and her family, I proudly introduced the Marc Fogel Act to provide transparency into the State Department’s wrongful detainment determination process and ensure that Americans imprisoned overseas are not forgotten. The Fogel family deserves answers, and we will not rest until Marc returns home.

Malphine built her life on the bedrock of faith and reverence for God, and it continues to guide her through this difficult time. Every Sunday, she attends Mass at St. Michael the Archangel and was a frequent parishioner at the 24 hour Eucharistic Adoration for 20 years. Her example of faith, love, and devotion to family provide an inspiring example for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District, I wish Malphine a happy 95th birthday and express my urgent, longstanding hope for her son’s release so that the Fogel family can be swiftly reunited.

RECOGNIZING JOE BONAMASSA

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Bonamassa, a celebrated blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter, for his tireless efforts in preserving and promoting the blues genre. Through the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation (KTBA), Bonamassa has become a beacon of hope for aspiring musicians, educators, and enthusiasts alike. Our nation recognizes Joe Bonamassa’s contributions to the blues community, the mission and impact of the KTBA Foundation, and the significance of his legacy in keeping the blues alive for generations to come.

Joe Bonamassa is a renowned figure in the world of blues music, revered for his exceptional talent as a guitarist and his unwavering dedication to the preservation of the genre. He is seen by many as the best guitarist of his generation. In addition to his prolific career as a recording artist and performer, Bonamassa is the founder of the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting music education and preserving the rich heritage of the blues.

Joe Bonamassa’s love affair with the blues began at a young age, inspired by the music of legends like B.B. King, Eric Clapton, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. With his prodigious talent and soulful playing style, Bonamassa quickly established himself as one of the pre-eminent blues guitarists of his generation. His extensive discography, which spans over two decades, showcases his mastery of the genre and his ability to breathe new life into classic blues songs.

Beyond his achievements as a performer, Bonamassa has been a passionate advocate for the blues community. He has used his platform to raise awareness about the importance of preserving this uniquely American art form and has worked tirelessly to ensure its continued relevance in the modern music landscape. Through his music, Bonamassa pays homage to the blues tradition while also pushing the boundaries of the genre, attracting new audiences and inspiring future generations of musicians.

In 2011, Joe Bonamassa founded the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation with the mission of providing resources and support to music education programs and aspiring musicians. The foundation offers scholarships, instrument donations, and grants to schools and organizations that are dedicated to teaching and preserving the blues. Through these initiatives, KTBA aims to empower young musicians and ensure that the blues remains a vibrant and thriving art form for years to come.

Since its inception, the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation has made a significant impact on the blues community, funding music programs in schools across the country and providing instruments to aspiring musicians who may not have had access otherwise. In addition to its financial support, KTBA also hosts events, workshops, and educational programs that celebrate the blues and foster a sense of community among musicians and fans.

Joe Bonamassa’s legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as a musician.

Through his advocacy work with the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation, he has become a champion for the blues, ensuring that its rich legacy endures for future generations. His passion, talent, and generosity have earned him the respect and admiration of fans and fellow musicians alike, cementing his status as one of the genre’s most influential figures.

As we celebrate Joe Bonamassa and his contributions to the blues community, we are reminded of the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift. Through his music and his philanthropy, Bonamassa has touched the lives of countless individuals and left an indelible mark on the world of blues music. As we look to the future, we are confident that his legacy will continue to shine brightly, keeping the blues alive for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Bonamassa’s dedication to the blues and his efforts with the Keeping the Blues Alive Foundation have had a profound impact on the music community. Through his music, advocacy, and philanthropy, Bonamassa has helped to preserve the legacy of the blues while also ensuring its continued relevance in the 21st century. As we honor his contributions, we are reminded of the importance of supporting music education and nurturing the next generation of blues musicians. Joe Bonamassa’s legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire and uplift for years to come.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I, along with several Members of Congress from the Energy and Commerce Committee, missed a vote this evening through no fault of our own.

We missed this vote as a result of a miscommunication from the Floor while the Committee was in executive session on a very important national security matter. We were told the first vote was going to be held open to allow Members to exit the classified briefing, walk to the floor, and vote. That did not happen and instead the vote was closed with a number of Members missing the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 66, H.R. 7511—“To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.”

---

COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF  
MR. J. BRENT OLMSTEAD

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the distinguished career and contributions of J. Brent Olmstead, a fourth generation Idahoan raised on a cattle ranch with a rich background in public policy and advocacy.

Brent grew up on a cattle ranch south of Twin Falls, Idaho, and dedicated over 35

years of his life to public service. He began his career as a lobbyist for Idaho Commerce and Industry in 1994. There he focused his attention and expertise on issues such as agriculture, natural resources, immigration, and the environment.

After 7 years at IACI, where he served as vice-president. Brent then created his own consulting firm named MPIdaho. As a consultant, Brent specialized in public policy development and strategic planning for private businesses in agriculture, taxation, and immigration. He also created the non-profit organization, Milk Producers of Idaho.

More recently, Brent joined the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, as assistant dean for government and external relations. In this capacity, Brent worked extensively on a project called the

Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (CAFE). The new center will focus their research on critical problems that agribusiness faces.

Brent also received IACI's 2023 Pat K. Harwood award, in recognition of his decades of service to the state of Idaho. A great achievement for a man who exemplifies what it means to be a leader.

His commitment to Idaho is also evident through his service on various boards, including the advisory board for the James A. and Louise McLure Center for Public Policy Research, the Idaho Hispanic Foundation, the Idaho Small Business Advisory Council, the Children's Discovery Center of Idaho, and Idaho Red Cross.

My friend, Brent Olmstead, has had many titles in his distinguished career, but the two most important to Brent are father and hus-

band. Brent is a devoted family man and raised five children with his late wife, Jane Wittmeyer.

If anyone has earned the right to have a peaceful and enjoyable retirement, it is Brent. Well done my friend and congratulations.

---

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICK LARSEN**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2024*

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from the House on November 8, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on rollcall No. 635.

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 3853, Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act.

House and Senate met in Joint Session to receive a State of the Union Address from the President of the United States.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2249–S2294*

**Measures Introduced:** Six bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3890–3895, S. Res. 580–583, and S. Con. Res. 30. **Page S2279**

#### Measures Passed:

**Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act:** By 69 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 75), Senate passed 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, by the order of the Senate of Thursday, February 29, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative. **Pages S2256–65**

#### House Messages:

**I–27 Numbering Act:** Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 992, to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate the Texas and New Mexico portions of the future Interstate-designated segments of the Port-to-Plains Corridor as Interstate Route 27. **Pages S2252–53**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on March 7, 2024; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–41) **Pages S2272–77**

**Schydlower and Gonzalez Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Re-

publican Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Leon Schydlower, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, and Ernest Gonzalez, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed. **Page S2271**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 76), Adrienne Jennings Noti, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years. **Pages S2249–52, S2265–71**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 74), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2253–56**

Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2025.

Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2022.

Fara Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission.

Loren E. Sweatt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

Loren E. Sweatt, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2026.

Douglas Dziak, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2024.

Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2016.

Andrew N. Ferguson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2023.

Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2018.

Kelly Harrison Rankin, of Wyoming, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming. **Pages S2271, S2293–94**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S2277**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S2277**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S2277–78**

**Petitions and Memorials:** **Page S2278**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S2278**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2279–80**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S2280–85**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S2272**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S2285–93**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S2293**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S2293**

**Record Votes:** Three record votes were taken today. (Total—76) **Pages S2256, S2265**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2293.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the posture of United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future

Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General Michael E. Kurilla, USA, Commander, United States Central Command, and General Michael E. Langley, USMC, Commander, United States Africa Command, both of the Department of Defense.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Ron Borzekowski, of Maryland, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury.

### SEMIANNUAL MONETARY POLICY REPORT

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, including S. 2190, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to increase bank executive accountability and to improve financial stability, after receiving testimony from Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador, Robert William Forden, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, who was introduced by Senator Schatz, B. Bix Aliu, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Montenegro, who was introduced by Senator Duckworth, and Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, who was introduced by Senator Murkowski, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### OLDER AMERICANS ACT

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Older Americans Act, focusing on supporting efforts to meet the needs of seniors, after receiving testimony from Alison Barkoff, Principal Deputy Administrator, performing the delegable duties of Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator of the Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services; Ramsey Alwin, National Council on Aging, and Ellie Hollander, Meals on Wheels America, both of Arlington, Virginia; Michelle Branham, Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Tallahassee; Martha Kubik, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia; and Dorothy M. Hutchins, Alexandria, Virginia.



**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Amir H. Ali, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Melissa R. DuBose, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Sunil R. Harjani, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Robert J. White, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District

of Michigan, Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Almo J. Carter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission, and Joshua S. Levy, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Rebecca C. Lutzko, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, and Roy W. Minter, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia, all of the Department of Justice.

---

## House of Representatives

**Chamber Action**

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 13 public bills, H.R. 7576–7588; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 118; H. Con. Res. 95; and H. Res. 1065–1066, were introduced. **Page H1033**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H1034**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6136, to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to authorize the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–413);

H.R. 6277, to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to improve such Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–414);

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 (H. Rept. 118–415); and

H.R. 2925, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–416). **Page H1032**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Guest to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1003**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:06 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1010**

**Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture to fill the vacancy thereon: Dr. Masum Momaya of Gilberts, Illinois. **Page H1013**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:19 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H1020**

**Laken Riley Act:** The House passed H.R. 7511, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, by a yea-and-nay vote of 251 yeas to 70 nays, Roll No. 66. **Pages H1013–20, H1020–21**

H. Res. 1052, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2799) and (H.R. 7511) was agreed to yesterday, March 6th.

**Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, March 5th.

**Action for Dental Health Act:** H.R. 3843, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize grants to address dental workforce needs, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 391 yeas to 32 nays, Roll No. 67; **Page H1021**

**Eradicating Narcotic Drugs and Formulating Effective New Tools to Address National Yearly Losses of life Act:** S. 206, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry; and **Page H1025**

**DHS Biodetection Improvement Act:** H.R. 6174, to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security. **Page H1025**

**Expanding Access to Capital Act:** The House considered H.R. 2799, to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 8th. **Pages H1021–25**

Agreed to:

Lawler amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that was debated on March 6th that clarifies the definition of “general solicitation” and

“angel investor” for purposes of the federal securities laws to ensure that startups can discuss their products and business plans at certain events, known as “demo days” (by a recorded vote of 278 ayes to 146 noes, Roll No. 68); **Pages H1021–22**

Huizenga amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that was debated on March 6th that directs the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate rules with respect to the electronic delivery of certain required disclosures to investors (by a recorded vote of 269 ayes to 153 noes, Roll No. 69); **Pages H1022–23**

Lucas amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that was debated on March 6th that amends Federal securities laws to allow 403(b) plans to invest in collective investment trusts (CITs) and insurance contracts that currently may be invested in by comparable retirement plans, such as 401(k)s (by a recorded vote of 301 ayes to 125 noes, Roll No. 70); and **Page H1023**

Wagner amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that was debated on March 6th that allows a closed-end investment company, an entity that invests in securities using money raised in its initial public offering, to invest its assets in securities issued by private funds (by a recorded vote of 270 ayes to 154 noes, Roll No. 71). **Pages H1023–24**  
Rejected:

Sherman amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–407) that was debated on March 6th that sought to allow an individual to invest not more than 5 percent of the net worth of the individual excluding the individual’s primary residence in any one private offering (by a recorded vote of 203 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 72). **Pages H1024–25**

H. Res. 1052, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2799) and (H.R. 7511) was agreed to yesterday, March 6th.

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:43 p.m. and reconvened at 8:36 p.m. **Pages H1025–26**

**State of the Union Address:** President Joseph Biden delivered his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 93. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Scalise, Emmer, Stefanik, Hudson, Palmer, Moore (UT), McClain, Cole, Reschenthaler, Rogers (KY), Jeffries, Clark (MA), Aguilar, Lieu, DelBene, Clyburn, Neguse, Underwood, Escobar, Trahan, and Kildee, and Senators Schumer, Durbin, Murray, Stabenow, Klobuchar, Warner, Baldwin, McConnell, Thune, Barrasso, Capito, and Ernst. The President’s message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–94). **Pages H1026–32**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate appears on page H1011.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1020–21, H1021, H1022, H1022–23, H1023, H1024, and H1024–25.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:59 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MONITORING OF COVID–19

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Department of Defense Monitoring of COVID–19”. Testimony was heard from Lester Martinez-Lopez, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense; and Shauna Stahlman, Senior Epidemiologist, Epidemiology and Analysis Branch, Armed Forces Health Surveillance Division, Defense Health Agency.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held a markup on legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Legislation on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 was ordered reported, without amendment.

### DIVISIVE, EXCESSIVE, INEFFECTIVE: THE REAL IMPACT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Divisive, Excessive, Ineffective: The Real Impact of DEI on College Campuses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AMERICANS FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS POSED BY FOREIGN ADVERSARY CONTROLLED APPLICATIONS

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Legislation to Protect Americans from the National Security Threats Posed by Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications”. Part of this hearing was closed.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7521, the “Prohibition of Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act”; and H.R. 7520, the “Protecting Americans’ Data from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024”. H.R. 7521 and

H.R. 7520 were ordered reported, without amendment.

### **POLITICIZED FINANCIAL REGULATION AND ITS IMPACT ON CONSUMER CREDIT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled “Polititized Financial Regulation and its Impact on Consumer Credit and Community Development”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **THE AGENTS OF ANTISEMITISM IN LATIN AMERICA**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “The Agents of Antisemitism in Latin America”. Testimony was heard from Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, Department of State.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence held a markup on H.R. 7443, to authorize a dedicated transnational repression office within the Department of Homeland Security’s Homeland Security Investigations to analyze and monitor transnational repression and related terrorism threats and require Homeland Security Investigations to take actions to prevent transnational repression; H.R. 7433, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a transnational repression hotline and conduct a transnational repression public service announcement campaign, and for other purposes; and H.R. 7439, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of State and local law enforcement capabilities to combat transnational repression and related terrorism threats, and for other purposes. H.R. 7443, H.R. 7433, and H.R. 7439 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

### **HEARING ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government held a hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **PRESIDENTIAL POWER TO SECURE THE BORDER**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Immigration, Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Presidential Power to Secure the Border”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 1584, the “Plum Island National Monument Act”; H.R. 1647, the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act”; H.R. 3047, the “Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2023”; H.R. 3173, the “Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2023”; H.R. 6852, the “Holcombe Rucker Park Landmark Act”; and H.R. 7332, the “Utah State Parks Adjustment Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Amodei, Espaillat, Crane, LaLota, and Maloy; Mike Reynolds, Deputy Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Greg Smith, Associate Deputy Chief—National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Daryl Seymore, Supervisor, Navajo County, Arizona; Scott Strong, Director, Division of State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Utah; Bryce Shields, District Attorney, Pershing County, Nevada; and public witnesses.

### **MONETIZING NATURE AND LOCKING UP PUBLIC LAND: THE IMPLICATIONS OF BIDEN’S STRATEGY FOR NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Monetizing Nature and Locking up Public Land: The Implications of Biden’s Strategy for Natural Capital Accounting”. Testimony was heard from Marlo Oaks, State Treasurer, Utah; and public witnesses.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4552, the “Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2023”; H.R. 7523, the “Governmentwide Executive Councils Reform Act”; H.R. 7532, the “Federal AI Governance and Transparency Act”; H.R. 7528, the “Comment Integrity and Management Act of 2024”; H.R. 7533, the “Modernizing Retrospective Regulatory Review Act”; H.R. 7525, the “Special District Grant Accessibility Act”; H.R. 7530, the “D.C. Criminal Reform to Immediately Make Everyone Safer Act”; H.R. 7526, the “D.C. Consumer Vehicle Choice Protection Act”; H.R. 7527, the “Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act”; and H.R. 5301, the

“Eliminate Useless Reports Act”. H.R. 4552, H.R. 7523, H.R. 7532, H.R. 7528, H.R. 7533, H.R. 7525, H.R. 7530, H.R. 7526, H.R. 7527, and H.R. 5301 were ordered reported, as amended.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISCRETIONARY GRANTS: STAKEHOLDER  
PERSPECTIVES**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Department of Transportation Discretionary Grants: Stakeholder Perspectives”. Testimony was heard from Jared W. Perdue, Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-  
OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PILLAR  
1: ENSURING THE BIDEN  
ADMINISTRATION PUTS AMERICANS  
FIRST**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Tax held a hearing entitled “OECD Pillar 1: Ensuring the Biden Administration Puts Americans First”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**GROWING STAKES: THE BIOECONOMY  
AND AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY**

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party:* Full

Committee held a hearing entitled “Growing Stakes: The Bioeconomy and American National Security”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

*Joint Meetings*

**DAV LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION**

*Joint Hearing:* Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans, after receiving testimony from Nancy Espinosa, Barry Jesinoski, Bryan Van Boxel, Edward R. Reese, Jr., Jim Marszalek, Joy Ilem, John Kleindienst, Ryan Burgos, and AnnMarie Hurley, all of Disabled American Veterans.

---

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,  
MARCH 8, 2024**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Friday, March 8

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, March 8

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Senate will resume consideration of the House Message to accompany H.R. 4366, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.

Senators should expect a live quorum at approximately 10 a.m., with the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur ripening at 12 noon.

Additional votes are expected during Friday's Session.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Complete consideration of H.R. 2799—Expanding Access to Capital Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Davids, Sharice, Kans., E223  
Gaetz, Matt, Fla., E223  
Johnson, Henry C. "Hank", Jr., Ga., E223

Larsen, Rick, Wash., E225  
Luetkemeyer, Blaine, Mo., E223  
Moore, Blake D., Utah, E223  
Moran, Nathaniel, Tex., E223  
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E224

Reschenthaler, Guy, Pa., E224  
Simpson, Michael K., Idaho, E224  
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E224



# Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov), free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, [contactcenter@gpo.gov](mailto:contactcenter@gpo.gov). ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: [bookstore.gpo.gov](http://bookstore.gpo.gov). Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.