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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 11, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLIFF BENTZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

ILLICIT FENTANYL CROSSING OUR BORDER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in 2022, more than 100,000 Americans lost their lives due to an overdose.

Sadly, nearly 70 percent of those deaths involved some form of illicit fentanyl. These drugs, which are created in China and then manufactured, compounded in Mexico and then traf-

ficked across our open southern border, took the lives of enough Americans to fill Beaver Stadium at Penn State University.

These deaths are the result of a southern border that has been thrown open to cartels and their operations by a President who refuses to enforce our laws. By inviting mass illegal immigration, President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas has stretched our border resources too thin and allowed the cartels to move their deadly drugs with impunity.

It is time to pass a border bill that will fully fund the resources that our Border Patrol agents so desperately need. It is time to return to the remain in Mexico policy, and it is time to put a stop to the fentanyl poisonings that have taken far too many American lives.

RUNAWAY SPENDING

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week during the State of the Union Address, the American people saw a campaign speech, not a plan to fix the economy that President Biden's failed policies has left in shambles.

In the first 2 years of his disastrous administration, President Biden passed reckless spending bills that sent inflation soaring by 17 percent.

Today, a mother visiting the grocery store will find that the price of juice is up 30 percent, the cost of beef is up 10 percent, vegetables are up 5 percent, and the price of bread is up 3 percent.

Ultimately, these costs add up. Over the course of a year, the average American family is paying an additional \$11,000 just to afford the basics that they need. Pennsylvanians cannot afford the government red tape in spending that has caused this runaway inflation. Pennsylvanians and all Americans certainly cannot afford the budget that President Biden is proposing, which would only amount to yet another year of runaway spending.

SURGING VIOLENT CRIME

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as crimes continue to surge in cities across the U.S., it has become clear that calls to defund the police and attempts to interfere with law enforcement have put our communities and our families in danger. Across 32 major cities, car thefts have increased by 33 percent, and here in Washington, D.C., carjackings are up nearly 100 percent.

Sadly, President Biden has ignored this crime wave and has refused to address the victims who now worry about living in their own homes.

Surging violent crimes in our cities makes all Americans more vulnerable, and it is time for radical Members of this body to finally show their support of police officers.

It is time for us to send a clear message that we will always stand with the men and women in blue.

IRS'S NEW AUDITING EFFORT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today on March 11, 35 days away from April 15, the tax filing deadline for 2024.

This is certainly not a joyful or happy event, but it is important to acknowledge that the IRS recently reported that 85 percent of Americans pay their taxes on time.

For most others, extensions are requested due to paperwork delays, illness, or other exigencies, which is proof that the vast majority of Americans understand their civic and legal duty to file a return.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, the IRS announced an astonishing new initiative to chase down 125,000 high-income individuals who—get this—have failed to even file a tax return since 2017.

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

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



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That is right, 125,000 cases have been opened on individuals with income over \$400,000 per year that filed no returns in the last 6 years—25,000 of those cases involved individuals with incomes of over \$1 million per year.

It is hard to believe that anyone with that level of income would have the chutzpah to refuse to file a return and think they would get away with it. In fact, the IRS has reported that in all these cases, they received third-party information, such as W-2 forms from employers and 1099 forms from financial institutions that clearly indicate these people received income in these ranges but never filed their own return, and, of course, never paid the legally required tax.

How is it possible that such flagrant, arrogant behavior went unnoticed, you might ask? It is because Congress, most notably Republican majorities in Congress, for decades have willfully starved the IRS of staff and technology to track such freeloaders.

Here is the record: From 1994 to 2021, the workforce of the IRS has been cut by Republicans in Washington by one-third. At the same time, America's population has grown by one-third.

As a result of defunding the IRS, the IRS has been able to file its nonfiler program only sporadically since 2016. Because of this, tax cheats have gotten bolder and more brazen.

The good news, as the IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel reported 2 weeks ago, because of the Inflation Reduction Act which passed in the last Democratic-controlled Congress without a single Republican vote, the IRS now has more staff and technology to pursue such blatant tax cheats.

Werfel estimates that this nonfiler initiative alone is focused on financial activity of more than \$100 billion.

Since this effort started 2 weeks ago, it is unclear exactly how much tax and penalty will be recovered, but given that the failure to file penalties of 5 percent per month on tax owed, conservative estimates are hundreds of millions of dollars will be recovered for past years and even more for future compliance.

I want to be clear. This effort is not auditing the content of taxpayer returns. These are cases of high-income earners who had the gall to not even file a return.

Mr. Speaker, this behavior is an insult to hardworking fellow Americans who obey the law and fulfill their civic duty, and at the end of the day bear the financial costs of this despicable misconduct.

Speaking of the middle class, Werfel made it clear that this new auditing effort on nonfilers is aimed at high-income tax cheats. That is in accordance with a Treasury directive by Secretary Janet Yellen that there would be no new enhanced IRS auditing on middle-class Americans. That makes sense.

The National Bureau of Economic Research estimates that audits aimed at the top 10 percent of Americans gen-

erate \$12 of revenue for every \$1 spent. That proportion declines dramatically with lower income filers.

It is a good thing that the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act is now at least partially restoring IRS's capacity to ensure that all of the rich actually file their returns and pay their fair share of taxes. It is a good thing that Democrats have blocked Republicans' efforts to once again cripple IRS's funding over the last year and a half.

Independent analysts such as the Congressional Budget Office have confirmed that this effort to track down scofflaws will actually cut the deficit. Indeed, the IRS announced that the Inflation Reduction Act effort will bring in 561 billion new dollars from 2024 to 2034.

For the 85 percent of Americans who work hard and play by the rules—teachers, cops, nurses, factory workers, office workers, retirees, military servicemembers, to name just a few—who pay their taxes with each paycheck, making sure that the wealthy file their returns and pay, too, is fundamental to a fair and just society.

The Inflation Reduction Act is doing exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, so as this April 15 approaches, the message is now clear for the well-to-do delinquents: The free ride is over. You have to obey the law and file your return just like everyone else. This is not too much to ask. No more freeloaders.

BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office there have been 8.7 illegal crossings nationwide. There have been over 7.2 million illegal crossings of our southern border.

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

Last week, the Republican-led House took a stand and passed the Laken Riley Act, legislation introduced by Representative MIKE COLLINS.

This is in addition to having passed H.R. 2, a border security and immigration bill.

This legislation honors the life and memory of Laken Riley and other victims of the Biden administration's open-border policies and endorses immigration laws.

The legislation also requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged with theft in the United States.

I voted for the Laken Riley Act to honor Laken Riley and protect our communities. I also voted in honor of the countless victims of the border crisis, the angel families, like Mollie Tibbetts, a 20-year-old University of Iowa

student who was killed by an illegal immigrant from Mexico, who lived in the United States for several years before murdering Mollie. Like Laken Riley, Mollie was out for a jog.

These heartbreaking stories of both Laken and Mollie are a constant reminder that our immigration system is broken and that the Biden border crisis is worsening by the minute.

Remember, it was President Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, who said more than a thousand immigrants crossing the border is a crisis.

In Iowa, according to the last CDC "Drug Overdose Mortality by State" report, in 2021 we had a record high of 475 overdose deaths. Across the Nation, overdose deaths cost the U.S. \$1 trillion per year. In San Francisco, during COVID, there were more deaths from overdose in the 18- to 45-year-old age group than deaths from COVID.

Yet, during the President's State of the Union Address last week, he delivered a lackluster campaign speech masked as a State of the Union Address that was divisive, touted empty policies, and swept the chaos at our southern border under the rug, all while putting blame on somebody else instead of where it resides, and that is with President Biden and his administration.

I am not surprised that the President failed to mention the decline of our Nation during his State of the Union Address, but I am disappointed. I am disappointed at the President's prized appearances—the appearance of a strong Nation, the appearance of a strong economy—over the harsh realities that many Americans face.

We cannot continue to ignore this aggressive overreach of the Biden administration and the mounting border crisis due to his overturning of policies and not enforcing immigration laws.

I will not ignore the mounting crisis, and I urge my colleagues to join me and work to keep our communities safe from the Biden border crisis and the fentanyl and illegal drugs that are crossing our border.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa's women's basketball team.

Yesterday, the incredible team won their third consecutive Big Ten Tournament title.

Led by Coach Bluder, the Hawkeyes beat Nebraska in overtime. The team did an outstanding job.

Hannah Stuelke had 9 rebounds, Sydney Affolter registered her third straight 10-point performance and second career double-double with 11 points and a team-best 11 rebounds. Gabby Marshall and Kate Martin were instrumental in getting us to overtime, and Caitlin Clark was named the Big Ten Tournament MVP for the third consecutive tournament.

Caitlin is only the second player since 1995 to earn MVP honors in three consecutive State tournaments.

I am extremely proud of our women's basketball team on their stellar performance and their record-breaking season. Job well done.

Congratulations to the University of Iowa women's basketball team on winning the Big Ten Tournament.

Go Hawks.

□ 1215

ECONOMIC STATISTICS MISSING FROM STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden delivered hopefully his final State of the Union Address that included heavily selective statistics that painted a one-sided account of the state of our economy. I rise to add some important context that gives a better snapshot of the economic conditions facing working families I represent in Tennessee.

For starters, American families now spend an average of \$1,000 more per month than 3 years ago just to get by. This means they are paying 20 percent more for necessities like food and rent and nearly 30 percent more to power and heat their homes. It is a staggering \$11,400 more every year just on the basics, just to get by.

The average monthly payment on a new home was \$1,746 before this President. Now, the average mortgage on a new home is \$3,322 every month. That is almost double. These rising mortgage payments are a direct result of higher interest rates, which are due to the reckless and runaway spending of this administration.

I believe it wouldn't have been this way if President Biden had heeded the advice of economists from both parties and fiscal conservatives like myself. Had he not advocated for the disastrous spending bills, which passed on a mostly partisan basis, the economy would not have overheated to the extent that it has.

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus package that the President proposed and passed early in his administration directly links to the soaring inflation that immediately followed, and it was to be expected. In fact, former Democratic Treasury Secretary Larry Summers predicted exactly this outcome.

Making matters worse, this administration has hardly mentioned the ballooning national debt, which now approaches \$34.5 trillion. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Federal Government spent half a trillion more than it collected. This is simply unsustainable.

In his address last week, we also heard the President tout small business growth and low employment. The speech, however, did not include the barriers employers around the country endure because of his administration's policies. To date, the Biden administration has finalized 838 new regula-

tions, which come with a projected negative economic impact of \$470 billion annually and 291 million hours of additional paperwork for American workers.

I will close with another statistic. A recent national poll shows that only 38 percent of voters approve of this administration's handling of the economy. More than half of those polled believe President Biden's policies will continue to increase prices. I agree.

That is just one of the reasons I am committed to supporting policies that foster economic growth, unburden our job creators, and end the reckless and unnecessary deficit spending.

Our children, my children, cannot afford the reckless spending policies of this administration, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that they do not have to foot the bill for this administration's mistakes and misguided policies.

REMEMBERING MARION CAMARDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the extraordinary life of Marion Camardo.

Marion was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who passed away on November 1, 2023. Throughout her long and admirable life, she made a significant contribution to her family and community in historic Auburn, New York.

I am so grateful that I had the honor and privilege to meet Marion. Her kindness and love shone through her gleaming and welcoming smile.

I also welcome here in the Chamber today her son John and grandson Anthony as they sit and actually get to witness a beautiful memory of their great mother and grandmother.

Marion was born in East Rochester, New York, to Ralph and Argerinda Reginelli on August 28, 1929, and moved to Auburn as a child. After graduating from Auburn Central High School, she worked at several clothing stores and went on to manage Stevens Department Store.

Marion married Joseph Camardo in 1955 and eventually grew their family to include their children, Joseph Jr., MaryAnn, Donna, John, and Lisa. Leaning on her good business sense, she earned a small fortune and was able to send all of her children to college.

I can say from experience that Marion raised her children to be kind, tenacious, and community-oriented, as her son, John, who is here today, has become a good friend and is a leader in our community.

Marion was also a respected community leader herself, being part of the Italian Heritage Society and a patron of the Auburn Civic Band. She continued her civic duty as an elections inspector for the board of elections and participated in elections, serving on

the Cayuga County Republican Committee. She was known for her flair for design, which she took to create a beautiful home for her family to host parties throughout the decades in the community.

Marion led her community based on her faith, having served as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church and serving as a Eucharist minister and on the school and parish committees. Marion always served with distinguished humility and graciousness, having put faith and family ahead of herself.

For fun, Marion enjoyed the classic movies and music such as Frank Sinatra, Jr., and Cristina Fontanelli, both of whom she was instrumental in bringing to Auburn through her work at the Italian Heritage Society. Her joy in life was helping others and her family all while keeping herself humble and committed to embodying her faith outwardly.

As she was a woman of strong faith and devotion, it is heartwarming and maybe not coincidental that she passed away on All Saints Day, but not without waiting to be with her family one last time during her final moments. She parted her family with one last piece of advice, which is to never give up hope no matter how difficult life may be.

Today, we honor and remember Marion and her wonderful family. She is an inspiration for all to strive to maintain the values of compassion and commitment to our communities.

My sincere thanks to Marion for her wise advice. May God bless Marion, her family, and her community. We are grateful that she lived and this wonderful soul was part of our community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Praise be to You, O God our creator. In all that has been revealed to us, in all that we have received by Your grace, we greatly rejoice.

Though we face a multitude of challenges in our work, in our Nation, and

in our own families, yet we rejoice. In the face of trials, troubles that threaten our well-being, our security, our certainty, yet we give thanks.

As gold is proven pure when refined by fire, may our faith, which is so much more valuable than gold, also be proven genuine.

Though we have not seen You, may we demonstrate our love for You, even as we love our neighbor. Though we cannot see You, may we live out our belief in You, even as we approach the labor of this day.

With an unspeakable and wondrous joy for the steadfast, loving care You offer us, we offer ourselves to You.

To You be glory and honor now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. FOXX 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.

MARKING 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF JULIE SU'S TENURE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of Julie Su's tenure as Acting Secretary of Labor.

Why 1 year as Acting Secretary? Su doesn't have the support or votes to be confirmed.

As California's Secretary of Labor, Ms. Su allowed fraudsters to steal \$32 billion in unemployment insurance, and she supported AB5, a State law she now wants to make Federal law that denies workers the freedom to choose their work.

Now, she is pursuing a radical agenda at the Department of Labor, writing 75 new regulations that will hurt workers and job creators.

Acting Secretary Su continues to thumb her nose at Congress and the American public. Under Ms. Su's leadership, the DOL has stonewalled congressional oversight. In fact, in December, she failed to comply with a duly served congressional subpoena.

The American people deserve better leadership at DOL. The President should withdraw Ms. Su's nomination.

MAUI MINUTE: DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MAUI

(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, the fires last August devastated our Maui "family," "ohana" in many ways. Adding to the unbearable weight of losing loved ones and homes, the tremendous economic loss from businesses destroyed and the steep drop in tourism compounded the suffering for thousands of families.

In the months after the fires, there were over 10,000 new claims for unemployment. Not everyone impacted qualified for regular unemployment insurance. Thankfully, under President Biden's major disaster declaration, disaster unemployment assistance, or DUA, filled the gap, providing \$7.8 million to thousands of Maui residents.

DUA benefits for Maui expired on February 10, but our people are still hurting. As of January, the unemployment rate for the island of Maui stood at 6.2 percent, an increase compared to 5.8 percent in December and well above our State average of 3.1 percent.

Last week, I led the Hawaii congressional delegation in introducing legislation to extend disaster unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks for Maui residents impacted by the fires. My bill applies those benefits retroactively to qualified individuals.

Our people are focused on recovery, but we need the House to pass this bill now, continue this critical relief, and help our people get back on their feet again.

UTILIZING FEDERAL OFFICE SPACE EFFICIENTLY

(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, I rise today in support of the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act, or the USE IT Act.

This legislation, which was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), directs the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, and the General Service Administrations, GSA, to establish standard methodologies to measure occupancy in public buildings and federally leased space.

It also requires GSA and OMB to take steps to reduce or consolidate space if utilization falls below 60 percent. Currently, Federal office space utilization averages an unbelievably low 25 percent or less for most major agencies.

This bill, which I am proud to support, would ensure our Federal workers are utilizing the workspace taxpayers are paying for.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 4 years since the pandemic. It is past time Federal

workers return to the office where they are most efficient to ensure they remain accountable to the taxpayers.

FULL FUNDING FOR WIC

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight that last week, Congress came together to deliver full funding for WIC nutrition assistance.

Without this action, access to this critical program would have been put at risk for thousands of mothers, children, and families, including 1 million Californians.

As someone who knows the difference that Federal nutrition programs make in our communities, I was proud to see us reach a bipartisan solution to deliver funding needed to avoid a benefits cliff later this year.

WIC helps put food on the tables in central coast communities. It helps our children grow strong and do better in school. It helps expecting mothers by protecting their future children's development.

Every dollar we invest in WIC saves more than \$2 in other expenses. That is a win-win.

I advocated for full funding of WIC, and I am proud to see this common-sense win for families signed into law.

FAMILY FARMS ARE IN CRISIS

(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, during President Biden's politically charged, factually inaccurate, and often confusing State of the Union speech, we heard a lot of excuses about the problems American families are facing.

One line from the President's speech stood out to me: Because of my investments, family farms are better able to stay in the family.

Well, this rosy picture painted by our President doesn't tell the whole story, and his own Department of Agriculture's data proves it.

Under President Biden, rural America and our family farms are in crisis. We are in the middle of the largest agricultural trade deficit on record. Farm input costs from fuel to fertilizer have skyrocketed. Interest rates are sky high. Grocery prices are up 21 percent since Biden took office.

The state of the Union is expensive. Rural America is struggling. Our family farms are in dire straits.

As the New York Post recently said: "Shrinkflation and many other problems are the bitter harvest of Bidenomics."

Thankfully, we have the opportunity to course correct, to revitalize rural America, and truly get our family farms back on track. We will do this

through the farm bill, one of the few remaining exercises in good governance left in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me and truly uplift our family farms.

PAYING TRIBUTE AND WELCOMING WEST COAST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to and welcome to Washington, D.C., a group of dedicated nursing and respiratory therapy students and professionals from West Coast University and American Career College.

West Coast University has been educating and preparing students for nursing and healthcare-related careers for more than 100 years. WCU is well known for its preeminent undergraduate, master's, and doctorate nursing programs.

WCU established a campus in Dallas in 2012. In 2021, after a decade of proven excellence in student outcomes, WCU opened a state-of-the-art nursing, occupational therapy, and physician assistants campus in Richardson. The school serves approximately 1,100 campus-based and 2,000 online students. WCU also has a campus in Florida that serves approximately 1,000 students.

Through its campuses in Texas, California, and Florida, West Coast University and American Career College are expanding access to nursing education and addressing workforce shortages among healthcare professionals across the United States. They are committed to preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to meet our country's rising demand for care.

Please join me in welcoming these fine students to our Nation's Capitol as they share with Congress their experience, passion, and perspective on providing quality nursing and healthcare.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 8, 2024, at 7:43 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3853

That the Senate agrees to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4366

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 94

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. McCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 8, 2024:

H.R. 4366, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes;

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, and for other purposes.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 9, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on March 9, 2024, at 12:10 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the designation of funding as an emergency requirement in H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. McCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

DESIGNATION OF FUNDING AS AN EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-117)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 6 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 4366; the “Act”), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum

from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 2024.

RECESS

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

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

□ 1532

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Georgia) at 3 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

FASTA REFORM ACT OF 2023

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6277) to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to improve such Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6277

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 “FASTA Reform Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) in paragraph (9) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (10) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) implementing innovative methods for the sale, redevelopment, consolidation, or lease of Federal buildings and facilities, including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer.”;

(2) in section 3(5)(B)(viii) by inserting “, other than office buildings and warehouses,” after “Properties”;

(3) in section 5(b) by striking “Five Board members” and inserting “Four Board members”;

(4) in section 7 by adding at the end the following:

“(C) RETURN TO CIVIL SERVICE.—An Executive Director selected from the civil service (as such term is defined in section 2101 of

title 5, United States Code) shall be entitled to return to the civil service after service to the Board ends if the Executive Director's service to the Board ends for reasons other than misconduct, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.”;

(5) in section 8—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking “and the Director of OMB”; and

(ii) by inserting “for a period of not less than 1 year” before “to assist the Board”;

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) HIRING OF TERM EMPLOYEES.—The Executive Director, with approval of the Board, may utilize the Office of Personnel Management to hire employees for terms not to exceed 2 years pursuant to the Office of Personnel Management guidance for nonstatus appointments in the competitive service.”;

(6) in section 10 by striking “6 years after the date on which the Board members are appointed pursuant to section 4” and inserting “on December 31, 2026”;

(7) in section 11(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “the Administrator and the Director of OMB” and inserting “the Administrator, the Director of OMB, and the Board”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “and” before “square footage”; and

(ii) by inserting “, amount of acreage associated with the property, and whether the property is on a campus or larger facility” before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CONSOLIDATION PLANS.—Any agency plans to consolidate, reconfigure, or otherwise reduce the use of owned and leased property.”;

(8) in section 12—

(A) in subsection (b)(2) by striking the second sentence and inserting “In the case of a failure by an agency to comply with a request of the Board, the Board shall notify the committees listed in section 5(c), the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction for the agency, and the inspector general of the agency of such failure.”;

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) PREPARATION OF PROPERTIES FOR DISPOSAL.—At the request of, and in coordination with, the Board, a Federal agency may undertake any analyses and due diligence as necessary to prepare a property for disposition so that the property may be included in the recommendations of the Board under subsection (h), including completion of the requirements of section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, for historic preservation and identification of the likely highest and best use of the property subsequent to disposition.”;

(D) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(II) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(III) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the process to be followed by Federal agencies to carry out the actions described under subparagraph (A), including the use of no cost, nonappropriated contracts for expert real estate services and other innovative methods, to obtain the highest and best value for the taxpayer; and”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) THIRD ROUND.—During the period beginning on the day after the transmittal of the second report and ending on the day before the termination of the Board under section 10, the Board may transmit to the Director of OMB a third report required under paragraph (1).”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Board shall periodically submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing any recommendations on consolidations, exchanges, sales, lease reductions, and redevelopments that are not included in the transmissions submitted under subsection (h), or approved by the Director of OMB under section 13, but which the majority of the Board concludes meets the goals of this Act.”;

(9) in section 13—

(A) in subsection (a) by striking “subsections (b) and (g)” and inserting “subsections (b) and (h)”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(4)—

(i) by inserting “, in whole or in part,” before “received under paragraph (8)”; and

(ii) by striking “revised” the second place it appears;

(10) in section 20 by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section, including the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the date on which the Board transmits the second report under section 12(h)(2)(B) and shall apply to proceeds from—

(1) transactions contained in such report; and

(2) any transactions conducted after the termination of the Board pursuant to section 10.”;

(11) in section 21(b) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) Whether the Federal real property is on a campus or similar facility and, if so, identification of such campus or facility and related details, including total acreage.”; and

(12) by inserting after section 25 the following:

“SEC. 26. ACCESS TO FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND REPORTS.

“The Federal Real Property Council established under section 623 of title 40, United States Code, shall ensure that the Board has access to any meetings of the Council and any reports required under such section.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 26. Access to Federal Real Property Council meetings and reports.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6277.

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

There was no objection.

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

First, I would thank the Economic Development, Public Buildings and

Emergency Management Subcommittee Ranking Member TITUS from Nevada for working with me on this piece of legislation. The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act, also known as FASTA, was passed in 2016 to create a temporary board of experts to identify Federal properties for sale and redevelopment.

Unfortunately, the process has not worked as Congress originally envisioned, and this bill seeks to remedy that.

Federal agencies are reluctant to let go of property they don't need, and it has become clear the board requires more authority to gather data it needs to develop recommendations.

This bill would make a number of reforms to improve the effectiveness of the process, including extending the board's timeline, speeding up the effective date of incentives for agencies to put properties forward, and giving the board access to the Federal Real Property Council.

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act, as you heard, FASTA, was a bipartisan and bicameral effort led by the T & I Committee in the 114th Congress, with the goal of improving the disposal process for unneeded Federal real property.

FASTA established the Public Buildings Reform Board, PBRB, an independent Federal agency, to review and recommend unused properties for the government to sell. Once the properties were identified, the PBRB was to work with the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration to dispose of these properties via a new, temporary three-round process.

Since its establishment, however, the PBRB has faced significant challenges. Although the legislation was passed in 2016, members were not appointed until May of 2019. Furthermore, the board was unable to conduct business for most of 2022 after two board members resigned, leaving the agency without a quorum until November 2022.

As a result, they were unable to complete and submit to OMB their first round of recommendations.

Overall, difficulties in doing research during the pandemic, lack of access to funding to help the agencies prepare for dispositions, delays in selling two particularly valuable properties in the high-value round, and disagreements with GSA and OMB on disposition strategies have all made the board's work challenging.

Due to these challenges and delays, I join Chairman PERRY in sponsoring the FASTA Reform Act, and I thank him for his leadership.

It requires Federal agencies to share their real property data and consolidation plans with the board. It also enables the board to submit recommendations to OMB on a rolling basis. It

gives the board control over the sales proceeds in the Asset Proceeds and Space Management Fund. It reduces the quorum requirement for meetings and activities from five board members to four. It permits agencies to prepare properties for disposition, and it extends the operation of the PBRB to December 2026.

As agencies' post-pandemic space needs evolve, efficient and effective disposal of unneeded properties will become even more important.

Allowing this demonstration program to complete its work will yield important information that can mitigate several longstanding disposal challenges and improve the size and efficiency of the Federal real property portfolio.

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

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I think this is a good example of government efficiency, saving taxpayer dollars, and working across the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for his support.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), for her hard work on this effort. H.R. 6277 makes improvements to the authorities of the Public Buildings Reform Board, or the PBRB, established by the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, or the FASTA, to increase the number of Federal properties the board recommends be sold or redeveloped.

By allowing for more Federal properties to be sold or redeveloped, H.R. 6277 will ultimately reduce the cost of our Federal real estate portfolio, resulting in savings for the taxpayers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6277.

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.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

concurrent resolution (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.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 83

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 43d Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the “Memorial Service”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2023.

(b) DATE OF MEMORIAL SERVICE.—The Memorial Service shall be held on May 15, 2024, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate, with preparation for the event to begin on May 10, 2024, and takedown completed on May 16, 2024.

SEC. 2. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition (in this resolution referred to as the “Exhibition”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to allow law enforcement representatives to exhibit their ability to demonstrate Honor Guard programs and provide for a bagpipe exhibition.

(b) DATE OF EXHIBITION.—The Exhibition shall be held on May 14, 2024, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

- (1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and
- (2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsors of the Memorial Service and Exhibition shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the events.

SEC. 4. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsors referred to in section 3(b) are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the Memorial Service and Exhibition.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the events.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 83.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 83, which I introduced, honors our Nation’s fallen law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty last year with a memorial service here at the Capitol.

Every day our police officers show up to protect and serve, keeping our families, businesses, and communities safe. Unfortunately, so many of our police officers are demonized and disparaged for doing one of the hardest, most important jobs in the country, and it is a job that continues to grow more dangerous every day.

We all owe our gratitude to those police officers who continue to serve despite these challenging times. This memorial service is only one small way to thank and honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, I also thank the Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Ranking Member DINA TITUS from Nevada for working with me on this resolution.

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 83 authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 43rd annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

As the ranking member, as you heard, of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, it is an honor to carry this resolution alongside subcommittee chair, Mr. PERRY.

The memorial service will be held on May 15. It will be coordinated with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police, and it will honor law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty during 2023; that includes five from Nevada.

First, Correctional Officer Victor Hunter served with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police for 4 years.

During an altercation between two inmates, Officer Hunter rushed to the scene to calm the situation. In the aftermath, he began to feel ill and was sent home.

On his way home, he was involved in a car accident directly resulting from complications of his illness, and he passed away on September 16, 2011.

Trooper Clifford Fontaine served in the Nevada Highway Patrol for 15 years after previously working as an airline mechanic and as an advanced emergency medical technician. He is remembered for his kindness, his compassion, and for being a peacemaker in all facets of his life.

Trooper Fontaine passed away on November 27, 2021, from complications as a result of contracting COVID-19 in the line of duty.

Officer Anthony Francone retired from law enforcement, but he still answered the call to serve with multiple agencies in Nevada, including the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Police Department.

Nothing was more important to him and his family, including his two sons, and his daughter, who he dedicated every waking moment to as she battled a rare form of muscular dystrophy.

During an attempt to stop a fleeing subject, Officer Francone put himself in harm's way to deploy spike strips and was tragically struck by the vehicle. He passed away on August 25, 2023.

Sergeant Michael Abbate served in the Nevada Highway Patrol for nearly 11 years. A former race car driver himself, he utilized his passion for fast cars by teaching cadets about road safety and by running the emergency vehicle operations course for southern Nevada.

Trooper Alberto Felix served in the Nevada Highway Patrol for 4 years. A United States Air Force veteran, his friends and family remember him for his selfless leadership, his sense of humor, and his love of helping people. He especially took pride in removing impaired drivers, which undoubtedly saved countless lives in Nevada throughout his career.

□ 1545

Both Sergeant Abbate and Trooper Felix passed away on November 30, 2023, after they were struck by a suspected drunk driver while they were going out of their way to check on the welfare of a driver asleep in his car. In recognition of their service and heroism, Sergeant Abbate and Trooper Felix were posthumously awarded the Nevada State Police Medal of Valor.

We cannot bring back those we have lost, but the least we can do is honor the sacrifices they made to keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities safe.

I join my colleagues in expressing my condolences to the families, friends, and other colleagues of these public servants, and all of those who mourn the loss of the brave men and women whose duty and sacrifice will be commemorated at this year's memorial.

Let me reiterate that we can't bring these heroes back, but we can acknowledge the work they did, the sacrifice they made, and the life they gave to help all of us live in safer communities and with safer families.

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

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

All of us have had our hearts broken as we have watched the nightly news somewhere in our own town, our own State, or across the country as brave men and women wearing the uniform have run to the bullets, have run to the sound of the guns, have run to the violence—too many.

As law enforcement struggles to maintain recruitment, as, unfortunately, too many places in America don't respect the work that they do, it is an unfortunate situation we find ourselves in.

I can imagine every single day when an officer leaves their home, their family, and kisses their husband or wife or children good-bye, every day you never know, whether it is a traffic stop or a warrant service, where there is some bad turn of events and the officer never comes home.

That has to end in America, Madam Speaker. That circumstance has to end. While it is present and while we seek a better future for our country and the men and women who serve so bravely in uniform, the one small thing that we can do is open up their United States Capitol to bring attention and draw attention to what has happened with the unimaginable sacrifice that they have made, that their families continue to endure, so that all of America and all the world can see who we honor.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of H. Con. Res. 83 to allow these Capitol Grounds to be used for a memorial service to honor our Nation's fallen law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2023, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 83.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESTABLISHING AN EXPIRATION DATE OF CERTAIN COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO LEASES OR PROJECTS

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6316) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6316

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

SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) EXPIRATION OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless a lease is awarded or a construction, alteration, repair, design, or acquisition project is initiated not later than 5 years after the resolution approvals adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate pursuant to subsection (a), such resolutions shall be deemed expired.

“(2) APPLICATION.—This subsection shall only apply to resolutions approved after the date of enactment of this subsection.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6316.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6316 sets an expiration date for committee resolutions for the General Services Administration's capital leasing and improvements program.

If the GSA fails to proceed with a project that has been approved by both the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 5 years, the bill would require that the authorization expires and the GSA would then return to the committees for a new approval.

I thank my good friend, Ranking Member TITUS of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for her leadership and work on H.R. 6316 and for working with me and the whole committee on this piece of legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor.

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As you heard, H.R. 6316 sets a 5-year expiration on resolutions approving GSA construction, alteration, repair, design, or acquisition projects. This means that if within 5 years of the passage of the resolution GSA has not executed the project, then the authorization is deemed expired.

This has been a concern to Members on both sides of the aisle for years. Similar provisions were included in former T&I Chairman Shuster's Public Buildings Reform and Savings Act of 2016 and former Chairman Barletta's

REAL Reform Act of 2018. Unfortunately, neither of these bills was signed into law.

I hear from the many Federal agencies that I work with that it can be difficult to obtain information from GSA on the status of projects authorized by Congress, especially the construction of new courthouses. Once we authorize an activity, whether it is a leasing activity or construction of a new building, we currently have little access to how, when, and if the project has been executed.

This lack of information became apparent after GSA submitted a prospectus to build a new courthouse in Los Angeles, California, in 2000 as part of its FY 2001 capital investment program. Even though there were already two courthouses in Los Angeles, the Judicial Conference insisted that the L.A. courthouse complex was so short of space for judges that it was the number one space emergency in the country.

GSA submitted a prospectus to build a new courthouse totaling 712,102 gross square feet at a cost of \$266 million, and the committee approved it. The design of the building, however, exceeded the congressionally authorized size by 13 courtrooms, 260,000 square feet, and \$100 million, and the scope of the project changed so often that GSA eventually just canceled the project in 2006, despite saying it had been an emergency.

Then, in 2011, the courts and GSA announced that they would move forward with a downsized project that would not exceed the size and cost originally authorized by Congress more than 10 years earlier, without providing any notification to Congress.

Some members of the T&I Committee were so concerned about GSA's actions and lack of transparency on the Los Angeles courthouse project that they requested a GAO study of the courthouse construction program and held a series of hearings about GSA's construction of Federal courthouses.

Although Chairmen Shuster and Barletta are no longer with us here in Congress, their concerns, as well as the longtime concerns of my colleague, Congresswoman NORTON, are still relevant, and this legislation is more necessary than ever.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation so we can ensure GSA is being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. I thank Chairman PERRY for his help in getting this to the floor, and I urge Members to vote in favor of it.

Madam Speaker, I think this is a bill that is worth bragging about. It is not very sexy and probably won't get a lot of press, but it is one of those things that can really make a difference. It will encourage GSA to move forward with needed projects. It will shorten the amount of time it takes to get these projects on the ground. No doubt, it will also save taxpayer dollars.

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

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

I agree with the gentlewoman from Nevada that maybe it is not going to get a lot of press, but I think we both agree that it is simply good governing. Project proposals can grow stale, and if GSA fails to proceed on the authorization within 5 years, the agency should be required to resubmit the proposal. A lot of things can change in 5 years, and we have seen that.

H.R. 6316 would increase GSA's accountability to Congress and, more importantly, to the American people, ultimately aiding in our ability to conduct appropriate oversight of these leases and these projects.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6316.

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.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2023

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6254) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review on the Public Buildings Service, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6254

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 “Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the Public Buildings Service and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing the results of such review, including—

(1) a review of the administration and management of all Public Buildings Service real estate programs and activities, including—

(A) a review and accounting of the number of employees and contract workers, including functions and the sources of funding (for example building operations, reimbursable work, project-specific funding) categorized by region and organizational, management, and oversight structure within the Public Building Service, including identification of components, programs, and reporting structures;

(B) an accounting of in-person attendance by employee category and function;

(C) an analysis, trends, and comparisons of staffing numbers and associated costs and other administrative costs over the 10 years preceding the review; and

(D) an analysis of the effectiveness of organizational structure, management, and oversight in carrying out the mission of the Public Buildings Service; and

(2) a review of the building operations account of the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 592 of title 40, United States Code, including activities and costs associated with conferences, training, and travel and transportation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6254.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6254 directs the Government Accountability Office to review the General Services Administration's Public Building Service personnel structure, including staffing trends, work locations, and organizational structure.

GSA's Public Building Service administrative budget, including staffing, is paid for out of the Federal Buildings Fund. Because it is buried in a larger fund, it is difficult to track and evaluate the Public Buildings Service workforce and its management to conduct appropriate oversight.

This bill would seek to address that issue, increasing transparency and, ultimately, greater oversight.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for introducing H.R. 6254, the Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023, and for his leadership on this important issue.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023, H.R. 6254, which directs the GAO to review the administration and management of GSA's real estate programs, activities, funding, and staffing.

Information and data are essential for Congress to conduct proper oversight of the agencies under its jurisdiction. Having GAO do an independent analysis of the efficacy of the GSA's operations will help the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee better evaluate GSA authorization requests.

However, GAO must work with the Department of Homeland Security's Interagency Security Committee to ensure that security concerns for the employees and buildings are addressed.

□ 1600

I recommend that GAO, as they are drafting the parameters of the study, ensure that information that could impact the security of Federal employees and Federal facilities is protected.

Madam Speaker, I support the legislation, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), to speak on his bill.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, the work-from-home standard for Federal employees which the Biden administration has empowered has enabled an already overcompensated Federal bureaucracy to continue to not show up for work and leave the taxpayers on the hook for empty, unused Federal office space across the country.

Back in July, I asked the Commissioner of the Public Buildings Services a simple question during a roundtable: How many of your employees are actually at work today?

She was incapable of answering that.

Three months later I asked her exactly the same question during a committee hearing chaired by Mr. PERRY, and she was still incapable of answering that question.

Their truancy has led to possibly the worst customer service of any Federal agency, and that is an incredibly low standard to fail to meet.

From my own personal experience, it took over a month to get a single phone line in my public building as a Member of Congress, and we wound up moving my office out of the public space because of their inability to perform customer service functions. I had the luxury of doing that as a Member of Congress. Other members of the United States Government do not have that same luxury.

This is just not that hard. As an Active Duty Navy SEAL, I managed military maneuvers on three continents simultaneously. I could tell you, Madam Speaker, within a 10-meter square where each one of those individuals was 24 hours a day. So this simply is not that difficult to do.

I am incredibly proud and pleased that this committee is focusing on legislation to help ensure that Federal agencies are using the office space they are assigned and selling the space they are not, saving taxpayer dollars.

The GSA currently manages over 370 million square feet of owned and leased assets, and yet they have no idea how much of this space is truly occupied. Approximately 75 percent of building space in Washington, D.C., is not occupied, but, unfortunately, we can't actually get a square footage from the GSA.

I introduced the Public Buildings Accountability Act of 2023 to enforce transparency and accountability within the public buildings service to do just that.

H.R. 6254 will shed light on the effectiveness of the Public Buildings Serv-

ice staffing structure and funding within the GSA by providing information to enhance the committee's ongoing oversight work to maximize the return of Federal employees to in-person work.

These reports will provide greater clarity to PBS' funding needs and ensure the responsible use of hard-working taxpayers' dollars.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman PERRY very much for his patience in getting this through and for our counterparts on the other side of the aisle for participating in this incredibly important legislation.

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

Mr. COHEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERRY. I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Do you think this could be expanded in some way to show the effects of the Capitals and the Wizards moving to Virginia and the effect that will have on properties in downtown D.C., and the opportunities to have good restaurants and good commerce in downtown Washington?

Mr. PERRY. I am not sure that that one particular singular focus should be an amendment or something like that, but as a general theme, I don't know that the committee would mind. We could take a look at that kind of activity and the effects.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we support the bill. Information and data are essential for Congress to conduct proper oversight of the agencies under its jurisdiction, even those peripheral to its jurisdiction like the Capital One Arena.

Madam Speaker, this bill will provide Congress with information needed in its oversight of the General Services Administration. I support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Again, Madam Speaker, this bill will improve transparency and oversight of GSA's Public Buildings Service, and its staffing management structure.

Further, H.R. 6254 will inform the committee's oversight efforts to maximize the return of Federal employees to in-person work. I do urge support for this.

I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for offering this and to acknowledge his strident and outspoken work on the behalf of constituents, otherwise known as our bosses, who demand and deserve an answer when they call these folks who work for us and work for them. I thank him for his diligence and dogged determination.

Madam Speaker, I, again, urge support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6254.

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.

HAROLD L. MURPHY FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 532) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the "Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 532

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Judge Harold L. Murphy was born in Felton, Georgia, in 1927.

(2) He attended West Georgia College before serving in the United States Navy during the closing years of World War II.

(3) He resumed his studies at the University of Mississippi and the University of Georgia School of Law, where he graduated in 1949.

(4) He began a law practice in Haralson County, Georgia, and in 1950 was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives as the youngest Member at the time.

(5) Judge Murphy served five consecutive terms before stepping down in 1961 to focus on practicing law.

(6) In 1971, Judge Murphy was appointed by Governor Jimmy Carter to the Superior Court for the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit, and following his election in 1976, President Carter nominated Judge Murphy to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

(7) Judge Murphy was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 28, 1977.

(8) For 45 years, he served his country on the Federal bench and became an acclaimed jurist and legal icon with a stellar reputation that extended far beyond Georgia.

(9) He always displayed a quick wit and a keen sense of humor, was kind and empathetic, and treated all those who appeared before him with courtesy and respect.

(10) Judge Murphy worked tirelessly and carried a full docket until the age of 90, when he took senior judge status in the Northern District of Georgia.

(11) He continued to preside over cases until his death on December 28, 2022.

(12) Judge Murphy received many professional awards and recognitions, including from the State Bar of Georgia and the University of Georgia School of Law.

(13) In 2014, Alabama State University renamed its graduate school after Judge Murphy in recognition of his landmark ruling in *Knight v. Alabama*, a long-running case that the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals asked him to handle involving the vestiges of racial segregation then present in the Alabama University System.

(14) Above all else, Judge Murphy was a loving and devoted husband and father—and a strong role model.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 2 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 532.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill honors Judge Harold L. Murphy, a former judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, by naming the Federal building and United States Courthouse in Rome, Georgia, after him.

After being nominated to the United States District Court by President Jimmy Carter, Judge Murphy served on the Federal bench for 45 years. It is fitting that we honor the late Judge Murphy by naming this courthouse after him.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I also support this legislation. Just about anything Jimmy Carter did, he did right. This imprimatur about Mr. Murphy's serving on the bench was obviously a good one. He spent those 45 years there.

He was the son of a farmer and a schoolteacher. He attended the University of Mississippi and the University of Georgia School of Law.

He was the youngest member elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, serving five terms there before he was appointed a superior court judge by then-Governor Jimmy Carter. After Mr. Carter was elected President, he nominated Judge Murphy to serve as the Northern District Federal judge.

Judge Murphy remained on the bench until 2017 when he took senior status. Judge Murphy remained an active senior judge until his death at the age of 95.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) to speak on her bill.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 532, to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

This bill honors a man who devoted his life to the service and protection of our Nation, Judge Harold Murphy.

Born in Felton, Georgia, in 1927, Judge Murphy attended West Georgia College before serving in the Navy toward the end of World War II. He resumed his studies at the University of Mississippi and the University of Georgia School of Law where he graduated in 1949. He began a law practice in Haralson County, Georgia, and in 1950 was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives as the youngest member at the time.

Judge Murphy served five consecutive terms before stepping down in 1961 to focus on practicing law. In 1971, Judge Murphy was appointed by Governor Jimmy Carter to the Superior Court for the Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit, and following his election in 1976, Mr. Carter nominated Judge Murphy to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He was confirmed by the Senate on July 28, 1977.

For 45 years he served his country on the Federal bench and became an acclaimed jurist and legal icon with a stellar reputation that extended far beyond Georgia. He always displayed a quick wit and a keen sense of humor. Judge Murphy once subpoenaed a talking myna bird who had witnessed a store robbery to testify in court.

He was kind and empathetic and treated all those who appeared before him with courtesy and respect.

Judge Murphy's congeniality was only surpassed by his fairness and prudential impartiality. In fact, he is the only judge who was known to receive Christmas cards from inmates in prison that Judge Murphy had himself put away. He was so excruciatingly fair and impartial that during one case, he even talked a defendant out of a guilty plea.

Judge Murphy worked tirelessly and carried a full docket until the age of 90 when he took senior judge status in the Northern District of Georgia. He continued to preside over cases until his death on December 28, 2022.

Judge Murphy received many professional awards and recognitions, including from the State Bar of Georgia and the University of Georgia School of Law.

In 2014, Alabama State University renamed its graduate school after Judge Murphy in recognition of his landmark ruling in *Knight v. Alabama*, a long-running case that the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals asked him to handle

involving the vestiges of racial segregation then present in the University of Alabama System.

Above all else, Judge Murphy was a loving and devoted husband and father, and a strong role model who made everyone who knew him in northwest Georgia proud.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Judge Murphy showed that people can rise to certain levels and do things where he was recognized by Alabama State University, an HBCU, by naming their graduate school for him, and I guess it related to that particular case where he got the case by interchange.

Moreover, going almost to 95 years old speaks to the fact that somebody can be even older than 81 and can still do their job for the Federal Government in a good way.

Otherwise, I support the bill greatly, I appreciate Ms. GREENE bringing it, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. In closing, let me offer further support to this bill which certainly recognizes Judge Murphy's service to our country by naming this Federal building after him. I certainly am encouraged by my colleague, Ms. GREENE's, sponsorship of the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 532.

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.

THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT EMERGENCIES ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6249) to provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and the families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6249

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 "Think Differently About Emergencies Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives

and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report describing the assistance and resources that the Administrator provides for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families of such individuals who are impacted by major disasters declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) to the following:

- (1) States.
- (2) Localities.
- (3) Nonprofit organizations.
- (4) Directly to such individuals.
- (b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall contain—
 - (1) a description of the resources and best practices that the Administrator makes available to the entities listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) that are impacted by major disasters declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);
 - (2) detail the process the Administrator undertakes to train personnel and deploy such personnel into areas to coordinate with States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to provide assistance and ensure that the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families of such individuals are met following such a disaster;
 - (3) list the number of programs the Administrator administers which support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to prepare for and recover from such disasters, including by provide accommodation to such individuals and the families of such individuals;
 - (4) description of outreach activities of the Administration to State, local, and nonprofit experts on addressing the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families of such individuals impacted by such disasters; and
 - (5) report that identifies, with respect to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families of such individuals, areas for improvement in supporting such individuals and families to prepare for and recover from such disasters.

SEC. 3. REVIEW OF ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall each—

- (1) conduct a review of assistance and resources the Administrator provides to States, localities, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to assist—
 - (A) individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
 - (B) individuals with physical disabilities; and
 - (C) the families of the individuals described in subparagraphs (A) and (B);
- (2) identify potential legal impediments to providing such assistance and resources;
- (3) provide to Congress recommendations on how the Administration can—
 - (A) improve such assistance and resources;
 - (B) enhance coordination with States, localities, nonprofit organizations in carrying out such assistance and providing such resources; and
 - (C) streamline the application process and delivery of assistance and resources to individuals described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1); and
- (4) provide to Congress recommendations on any legislative reform necessary to improve such assistance and resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6249.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 6249, the Think Differently About Emergencies Act.

This bill requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report to Congress that outlines the assistance and resources available to those with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities and further directs the Government Accountability Office to review available assistance to help identify gaps.

As March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, it is appropriate that Congress moves this bill and works to ensure gaps in responding to emergencies are addressed.

Disasters, as we know, are difficult for everyone, but they are especially challenging for those individuals with disabilities and those who care for them. It is important that we understand what resources are available and how we can best help those who may have limited ability to respond on their own.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6249, a bipartisan bill to help people and individuals with disabilities before and after disasters.

As was well stated by Mr. MOLINARO, all Americans must have equal access to disaster recovery resources, and people with disabilities might need a little more.

Census data released in 2023 concluded that individuals with disabilities are far more likely to face major hardships, including displacement from their homes, after a disaster. Such outcomes are unacceptable, and the Federal Government must work with urgency to eliminate that disparity.

□ 1615

This legislation will equip Congress with the knowledge required to improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The bill requires FEMA and the GAO to review and report on the assistance available to individuals with disabilities before and after disasters.

This is much-needed information as approximately 13 percent of Americans, Mr. Speaker, 42.5 million people live with a disability, and the Americans

with Disabilities Act requires the Federal Government to provide these individuals with equal access to disaster-related programs.

I am also pleased that this legislation places a particular emphasis on individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities since their needs have been overlooked in existing Federal disaster guidance documents.

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

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that FEMA is complying with the law and providing Americans with disabilities equal access to Federal disaster assistance.

This legislation will do that.

I compliment Ms. TITUS and Mr. MOLINARO for bringing this bipartisan legislation to us. I support it, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would again like to highlight the importance of ensuring the needs of individuals with developmental, physical, and intellectual disabilities are considered during disasters and how FEMA can work to assist those disaster victims.

I also want to thank the other co-sponsors of this legislation—this bipartisan legislation—including the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Ranking Member TITUS for working with me on this issue.

I further extend my appreciation to my colleagues across the aisle in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their support. I would like to extend my thanks to Chairman SAM GRAVES for his support, as well.

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today's disasters are more frequent, cause more damage, and have longer recovery times. Through my role as Ranking Member of the T&I Subcommittee that oversees FEMA and as a co-founder of the Disaster Equity and Building Resilience Caucus, we know that, unfortunately, in the aftermath of these events, individuals with disabilities find themselves at an increased risk of institutionalization, injury, and death.

I am proud to have joined Rep. MOLINARO in introducing the Think Differently About Emergencies Act which will help identify needed improvements to the emergency management landscape so we can ensure that no one gets left behind in the wake of a major disaster.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6249.

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.

ROSA PARKS FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1278) to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Parks Federal Building”, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1278

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

SECTION 1. ROSA PARKS FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the “Rosa Parks Federal Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Rosa Parks Federal Building”.

(c) REPEALS.—

(1) Public Law 109-98 (119 Stat. 2168) is repealed.

(2) Sections 1 and 2 of Public Law 109-101 (119 Stat. 2171) are repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on S. 1278.

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

There was no objection.

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

This bill honors Rosa Parks, a pivotal figure in the civil rights movement, by naming the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, in her honor.

Of course, we know that Rosa Parks is best known for inspiring the Montgomery bus boycott when she refused to move from the front to the back of the bus.

Her courageous work fighting against discrimination and segregation makes it fitting that we honor Rosa Parks by naming this Federal building after her.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of S. 1278 introduced by Ms. STABENOW, which will designate this Federal building to be named for Rosa Parks.

Ms. Parks is famous in civil rights history for refusing to give up her seat on the bus in Montgomery, leading to the Montgomery bus boycott. She also, after that great, heroic incident—which was memorialized in a song by the Neville Brothers called “Sister Rosa”—moved to Detroit, Michigan.

When she moved to Detroit she was employed by the United States Congressman John Conyers in his office. John Conyers was a great hero of mine and a great star who served in this body for many, many years. He hired Ms. Parks, and he was responsible for Dr. King’s birthday becoming a Federal holiday. I am sure he would have been very proud to be here today to see this courthouse named for Rosa Parks for her work in the civil rights movement, as well as in his office and just being an outstanding citizen at large.

She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, and she was the first woman to ever lie in state in the United States Capitol rotunda. A statue of her is present in our Statuary Hall, as well.

I am pleased to honor her memory by supporting this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would again indicate that I support this bill, and I urge everyone else to support it. I think so fondly upon John Conyers, who was my mentor when I came to Congress, and how much he would have appreciated this bill.

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

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

In closing, this is an appropriate piece of legislation to recognize the late Rosa Parks by naming this particular Federal building after her. This is among just one of the ways we can acknowledge the important work Ms. Parks did to better our Nation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1278.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEADLINES ALIGNMENT ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1858) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1858

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 “Disaster Assistance Deadlines Alignment Act”.

SEC. 2. DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION DEADLINE.

Section 410 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5177) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) APPLICATION DEADLINE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a major disaster for which assistance is provided under this section and section 408, the application deadline for an individual seeking assistance under this section shall match the application deadline for individuals and households seeking assistance under section 408.

“(2) EXTENSION.—The President may accept an application from an individual described in paragraph (1) that is submitted after the deadline described in paragraph (1) if—

“(A) the individual has good cause for the late submission; and

“(B) the individual submits the application before the date on which the period during which assistance is provided under this section for the applicable major disaster expires.”.

SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.

The amendment made by section 2 shall apply only with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on S. 1858.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1858 would align the application deadlines for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s individual assistance and disaster unemployment assistance.

Currently, disaster victims are faced with two different deadlines for their applications, which creates confusion during what is already a stressful time.

This bill simply aligns and ensures identical deadlines to reduce burdens

and help disaster victims in their application process for assistance.

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

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

I rise in support of S. 1858. This bipartisan and bicameral effort was led by Senators PETERS and PAUL in the Senate and Representative NEGUSE and Congresswoman GONZALEZ-COLÓN in the House. This legislation aligns the deadlines to apply for FEMA Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Individual Assistance programs.

The application process for Federal disaster assistance can be cumbersome and often makes it difficult for survivors to get that critical aid.

The Federal Government must take every possible step to simplify and streamline this process. We want to do that with disaster survivors quickly because they need help. Navigating the disaster recovery application process should not be an added stressor.

Having to keep track of separate deadlines for Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Individual Assistance is unnecessary, complex, and confusing for disaster survivors.

This legislation helps alleviate the burden to keep track of multiple deadlines.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill. I ask everyone else to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bill will help to reduce confusion for disaster victims by aligning the deadlines for certain types of assistance.

This bill makes a simple adjustment that will ultimately ease the process by which disaster victims seek assistance, relieving a burden during a difficult period of recovery.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1858.

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.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO RURAL INTERNET DEVELOPMENT GRANT ELIGIBILITY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1752) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1752

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act” or the “E-BRIDGE Act”.

SEC. 2. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 219. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) *BROADBAND PROJECT.*—The term ‘broadband project’ means, for the purpose of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service to further the goals of this Act—

“(A) planning, technical assistance, or training;

“(B) the acquisition or development of land; or

“(C) the acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of facilities, including related machinery, equipment, contractual rights, and intangible property.

“(2) *ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The term ‘eligible recipient’ means an eligible recipient.

“(B) *INCLUSIONS.*—The term ‘eligible recipient’ includes—

“(i) a public-private partnership; and

“(ii) a consortium formed for the purpose of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service between 1 or more eligible recipients and 1 or more for-profit organizations.

“(3) *HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.*—The term ‘high-speed broadband’ means the provision of 2-way data transmission with sufficient downstream and upstream speeds to end users to permit effective participation in the economy and to support economic growth, as determined by the Secretary.

“(b) *BROADBAND PROJECTS.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under this title for broadband projects, which shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

“(2) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—In reviewing applications submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration geographic diversity of grants allocated, including consideration of underserved markets, in addition to data requested in paragraph (3).

“(3) *DATA REQUESTED.*—In reviewing an application submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall request from the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Appalachian Regional Commission data on—

“(A) the level and extent of broadband service that exists in the area proposed to be served; and

“(B) the level and extent of broadband service that will be deployed in the area proposed to be served pursuant to another Federal program.

“(4) *INTEREST IN REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY.*—For any broadband project carried out by an eligible recipient that is a public-private partnership or consortium, the Secretary shall require that title to any real or personal property acquired or improved with grant funds, or if the recipient will not acquire title, another possessory interest acceptable to the Secretary, be vested in a public partner or eligible non-profit organization or association for the useful life of the project, after which title may be transferred to any member of the public-private partnership or consortium in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

“(5) *PROCUREMENT.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person or entity shall be disqualified from competing to provide goods or services related to a broadband project on the

basis that the person or entity participated in the development of the broadband project or in the drafting of specifications, requirements, statements of work, or similar documents related to the goods or services to be provided.

“(6) *BROADBAND PROJECT PROPERTY.*—

“(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary may permit a recipient of a grant for a broadband project to grant an option to acquire real or personal property (including contractual rights and intangible property) related to that project to a third party on such terms as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, subject to the condition that the option may only be exercised after the Secretary releases the Federal interest in the property.

“(B) *TREATMENT.*—The grant or exercise of an option described in subparagraph (A) shall not constitute a redistribution of grant funds under section 217.

“(C) *NON-FEDERAL SHARE.*—In determining the amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a broadband project, the Secretary may provide credit toward the non-Federal share for the present value of allowable contributions over the useful life of the broadband project, subject to the condition that the Secretary may require such assurances of the value of the rights and of the commitment of the rights as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 89-136) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 218 the following:

“Sec. 219. High-speed broadband deployment initiative.”.

SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by this Act shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 1752.

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

There was no objection.

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

I am very proud to sponsor H.R. 1752, the Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act, or the E-BRIDGE Act.

Unfortunately, too many of our communities, particularly in rural Missouri, still lack broadband access.

Broadband is critical for conducting business, for attracting jobs, telehealth, education, and emergency preparedness and response—you name it.

While Economic Development Administration grants can be used to attract jobs to these economically distressed areas, right now, there are hurdles to using these grants for broadband projects, including difficult

last-mile efforts that often delay rural broadband deployment.

This bill removes those hurdles to help connect and revitalize our rural communities.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2023.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I am writing regarding H.R. 1752, the E-Bridge Act, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on July 27, 2023.

The bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget. In order to expedite House consideration of H.R. 1752, the Committee on the Budget will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in H.R. 1752 or similar legislation and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that the Committee may address any remaining issues that fall within its jurisdiction. The Committee on the Budget also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and requests your support of any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1752 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report and in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration of H.R. 1752.

Sincerely,

JODEY C. ARRINGTON,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 27, 2023.
Hon. JODEY ARRINGTON,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARRINGTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1752, the Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility (E-BRIDGE) Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on the Budget.

In response to your letter, I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget. I also acknowledge that your Committee's decision to forgo consideration would not prejudice your Committee regarding the appointment of conferees, to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill, or to similar legislation falling under your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, should a conference on this bill become necessary, I would support your request to have members of the Committee on Financial Services represented on the conference committee.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor. Thank you again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield my self such time as I may consume.

tinuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2023.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Financial Services regarding H.R. 1752, the E-BRIDGE Act. I agree that the Committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1752 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your Committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 26, 2023.
Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1752, the Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility (E-BRIDGE) Act. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on the Budget.

In response to your letter, I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services. I also acknowledge that your Committee's decision to forgo consideration would not prejudice your Committee regarding the appointment of conferees, to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill, or to similar legislation falling under your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, should a conference on this bill become necessary, I would support your request to have members of the Committee on Financial Services represented on the conference committee.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor. Thank you again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1752, as well, the E-BRIDGE Act, which creates high-speed broadband opportunities at the Economic Development Administration and for the public, both in rural areas and in inner city, underserved areas. It makes public-private partnerships and consortiums eligible for grant awards.

Without having access to broadband, you can't keep up economically or socially.

Access to reliable high-speed internet is a vital tool for participation in today's workforce and economy. Despite a clear commitment to broadband access across Federal agencies, E-BRIDGE is still necessary.

While the EDA can fund the deployment of broadband infrastructure in communities most in need of assistance, many communities lack the financial and technical resources necessary to apply for these funds.

By clarifying that public-private partnerships and consortiums are eligible, the E-BRIDGE Act enables communities to leverage private sector expertise without disqualifying them from receiving EDA assistance.

The bill provides grant applications with additional flexibility in financing broadband infrastructure projects by clarifying that EDA funds can be combined with other Federal resources and allowing real or personal property to count toward the non-Federal share of a project's costs.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman GRAVES has introduced this legislation in the 116th and 117th Congresses. In the 117th Congress, the bill passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 410-16.

I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I thank Mr. GRAVES for pursuing this legislation again, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GRAVES for yielding. I rise in support of H.R. 1752, the Eliminating Barriers for Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act, or E-BRIDGE.

This bill will help to attract and support businesses in rural areas of the country by eliminating barriers to investment in broadband projects and provide these projects with the flexibility needed to be successful.

We all know that access to reliable internet is essential for small businesses, families, and farms, along with schools. It touches all aspects of residential and commercial life.

Yet, too many families and businesses don't have access to high-speed internet, so it is imperative that we work to bridge the digital divide and ensure communities across America, like those in upstate New York do not get left behind in funding opportunities for broadband expansion.

□ 1630

Without adequate broadband infrastructure, rural communities like those I represent face obstacles in education, healthcare, economic development, and overall social well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. I am grateful to the chairman and the bipartisan support of the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, as has been discussed, this bill would help close the digital divide and help communities across the country connect to reliable high-speed vital for participation in today's workforce and economy.

In Mr. GRAVES' own State of Missouri, it would allow people in the bootheel of Missouri to connect so much closer to the city of Memphis, where they will want to come and hear music, eat barbecue, and watch the Cardinals' farm team play baseball.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1752, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 886) to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 886

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 "Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended by inserting before section 3 the following:

“Subtitle A—NOAA And Coast Guard Programs”.

(b) GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.—Section 3(d) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(d)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking "AND CONTRACTS" and inserting "CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS";

(2) in paragraph (1) by striking "and contracts" and inserting ", contracts, and other agreements";

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking "part of the" and inserting "part of a"; and

(ii) by inserting "or (C)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) by inserting "and except as provided in subparagraph (B)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—With respect to any project carried out pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into under paragraph (1) that is not a cooperative agreement or an agreement to provide financial assistance in the form of a grant, the Under Secretary may contribute on an in-kind basis the portion of the costs of the project that the Under Secretary determines represents the amount of benefit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration derives from the project.”

(c) RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; USE OF RESOURCES.—Section 3 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—In order to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 2, the Under Secretary, acting through the Program, may receive and, only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, expend funds made available by—

“(1) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;

“(2) any State or local government (or any political subdivision thereof);

“(3) any Indian tribe;

“(4) any foreign government or international organization;

“(5) any public or private organization; or

“(6) any individual.

“(f) USE OF RESOURCES.—In order to accomplish the purpose set forth in section 2, the Under Secretary, acting through the Program, may use, with consent, with reimbursement, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of—

“(1) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;

“(2) any State or local government (or any political subdivision thereof);

“(3) any Indian tribe;

“(4) any foreign government or international organization;

“(5) any public or private organization; or

“(6) any individual.”

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to appear after section 6 of the Marine Debris Act (P.L. 109-449).

(b) STATUS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 111(a) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended, in the second sentence, by striking "organization" and inserting "corporation".

(c) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL.—Section 112(b) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6) respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated, the following:

“(1) RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARD REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.—For appointments made under paragraph (2), the Board shall submit to the Under Secretary recommendations on candidates for appointment.”;

(C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "and considering" and inserting "considering"; and

(ii) by inserting "and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce," after "by the Board";

(D) in paragraph (4)(A), as redesignated, by inserting "with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" after "the Board";

(E) by amending paragraph (3), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(3) TERMS.—Any Director appointed under paragraph (2) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.”; and

(F) in paragraph (6), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting "the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development," after "Service,"; and

(ii) by inserting "and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" after "EPA Administrator".

(2) GENERAL POWERS.—Section 112(g) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking "officers and employees" and inserting "the initial officers and employees"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i) by striking "its chief operating officer" and inserting "the chief executive officer of the Foundation".

(3) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—Section 112 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL; REVIEW.—The Board may appoint, remove, and review the performance of the chief executive officer of the Foundation.

“(2) POWERS.—The chief executive officer of the Foundation may appoint, remove, and review the performance of any officer or employee of the Foundation.”.

(d) POWERS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 113(c)(1) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by inserting "nonprofit" before "corporation"; and

(2) by striking "acting as a trustee" and inserting "formed".

(e) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—Section 113 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—The Board shall locate the principal office of the Foundation in the National Capital Region, as such term is defined in section 2674(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code, or a coastal shoreline community.”.

(f) BEST PRACTICES.—Section 113 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act and amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) BEST PRACTICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall develop and implement best practices for conducting outreach to Indian Tribes.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The best practices developed under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) include a process to support technical assistance and capacity building to improve outcomes; and

“(B) promote an awareness of programs and grants available under this Act.”.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 118 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2024” and inserting “2025” and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, regional organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and foreign government entities”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, United States and international nongovernmental organizations, regional organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and foreign government entities”.

(i) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 9(a) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2023” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025”.

SEC. 4. TRANSFERS.

(a) SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT.—Subtitle C of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to appear after section 119 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) as transferred and redesignated by this Act.

(b) MARINE DEBRIS ACT.—The Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended—

(1) by transferring sections 7, 8, and 9 to appear after section 127, as transferred by this Act, and redesignated as sections 131, 132, and 133, respectively; and

(2) by inserting before section 131, as so transferred and redesignated, the following:

“Subtitle D—Administration”.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (11), (12), and (13), respectively;

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

“(1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term ‘circular economy’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).

“(2) COASTAL SHORELINE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘coastal shoreline community’ means a city or county directly adjacent to the open ocean, major estuaries, or the Great Lakes.

“(3) EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘EPA Administrator’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).

“(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (8), as so redesignated, the following:

“(9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘nonprofit organization’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).

“(10) POST CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT.—The term ‘post-consumer materials management’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (13), as so redesignated, the following:

“(14) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal organization’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(15) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ‘Under Secretary’ has the meaning given such term

in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”; and

(6) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) Indian Tribe;”.

(b) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(7) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), inserted after paragraph (8) (as redesignated), and redesignated as paragraph (8).

(2) REDESIGNATION.—Section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is amended by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (10), respectively.

(c) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—Paragraph (8)(D) of section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))”.

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 of the Marine Debris Act, and section 133 of the Marine Debris Act as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, strike “Administrator” and insert “Under Secretary”.

(b) SECTION 5.—In section 5 of the Marine Debris Act strike—

(1) “Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and insert “Under Secretary”; and

(2) “Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and insert “EPA Administrator”.

(c) SECTION 123.—In section 123, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, strike “title I” and insert “subtitle B”.

(d) SECTION 131.—Paragraph (8)(D) of section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))”.

(e) SECTION 134.—Section 134 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, strike “Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and insert “EPA Administrator”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 886.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 886 builds upon the work of previous Congresses to protect and preserve the quality of our oceans from marine debris.

This measure was reported favorably from both the Committee on Transpor-

tation and Infrastructure as well as the Committee on Natural Resources. This reconciled version before us today was collaborated on and agreed to by both committees and would enhance the capabilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration without imposing any new mandates on industry or local government.

It also encourages the Marine Debris Foundation to establish its principal office in a coastal community in the real world outside of Washington, D.C.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation. It is very close to my heart. I have worked on plastic pollution for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the author of this bill.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act.

Marine debris is a serious problem. Unfortunately, much of marine debris is made up of plastic pollution. The ocean is littered with plastic bottles, straws, grocery bags, cigarette butts, fishing gear, and abandoned vehicles. Additionally, there are tiny pieces of plastic, microplastics, that make their way into marine life, blocking digestive tracts, altering growth, and, in some cases, killing marine mammals and threatening fisheries.

We still don’t know how long it takes for plastic to biodegrade completely. Estimates range from 500 years to never. A 2020 study from The Pew Charitable Trusts found that, every year, more than 11 million metric tons of plastic garbage enter the ocean, harming marine life and destroying ecosystems.

If we do nothing to minimize ocean plastic pollution, it will nearly quadruple by 2040. We need to fundamentally change our reliance on plastics. Not only do they pollute the ocean, but they also exacerbate the climate crisis. The fossil fuel and plastics industries are connected, and plastics contribute to industrial emissions in the United States.

A global challenge of this magnitude cannot be solved with a single bill. We should not limit our action to removing existing plastic from the ocean, and we cannot recycle our way out of plastic waste that ends up on our shores.

We need comprehensive action, but today, we have the opportunity to build on our strong, bipartisan foundation of bicameral efforts to strengthen the NOAA Marine Debris Program and enhance the work of the Marine Debris Foundation.

The bipartisan SOS 2.0 Act, which I worked on and authored with the late Congressman Don Young and Senators SULLIVAN and WHITEHOUSE, is the most comprehensive legislation Congress has

passed to address marine debris that threatens coastal communities and ecosystems.

The bill created a Marine Debris Foundation to support NOAA's work; advanced the removal and prevention of debris, including plastic waste; and established a pilot program to provide incentives for the proper disposal of marine debris collected at sea.

Despite these important policies, current law does not effectively permit NOAA through the Marine Debris Program to assist and collaborate with foreign governments, international organizations, Tribal groups, and other organizations that may have the specific skills required to achieve the Marine Debris Act's goals.

As co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and I introduced the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act. This bill would amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and the Marine Debris Act to provide NOAA with greater flexibility to deliver Federal resources and enter into cooperative agreements to conduct marine debris prevention and cleanup.

The ocean is resilient. We can help it heal, but we cannot afford to wait. We have significant work ahead of us to clean up and prevent marine debris, and the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act continues to build on our bipartisan foundation to protect the ocean.

I thank the gentlewoman and co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for her partnership on this bill. I thank our Senate colleagues, Senator DAN SULLIVAN and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. I also thank Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN, as well as Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to strengthen the Federal response to marine debris and to continue to make ocean health a priority for future generations.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, so I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. BONAMICI for bringing this legislation, and I also want to reflect on a group that I am familiar with called the Plastic Pollution Coalition that is headed up by Ms. Dianna Cohen and her sister, no relation to me. They have done great work on plastic and bringing the public's attention to the dangers of plastic in our environment.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important next step to help remove marine debris and protect our oceans without instituting any new burdensome requirements.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 886, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY SALARY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4693) to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4693

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 "Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. SALARY DISCLOSURE; EXCEPTION TO REPORT ELIMINATION.

Section 9 of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (16 U.S.C. 831h) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "a financial statement" and all that follows through "\$1,500 a year" and inserting "a report of the total number of employees at the management level or above, to include all executives and board members, that shall include the names, salaries, and duties of such employees, that are receiving compensation at or greater than the maximum rate of basic pay for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule";

(2) by striking all that precedes "The Board shall" and inserting the following:

SEC. 9. FINANCIAL REPORTING.

"(a) REPORT ON COMPENSATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—"; and

(3) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

"(2) EXEMPTION.—The information concerning salaries of employees of the Corporation contained in, or filed with, the report described in paragraph (1) is exempt from—

"(A) disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and

"(B) the requirements of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (Public Law 117-263).".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 4693.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act. This legislation simply reinstates an annual reporting requirement for the Tennessee Valley Authority to disclose to Congress the salaries for upper-level management.

I thank Representatives COHEN and BURCHETT for their bipartisan work on this legislation, which passed out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote this last year.

The bill continues years of work to make the TVA more transparent for its customers and the communities that it obviously serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 4693, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GRAVES for his help with this legislation.

I rise in support of H.R. 4693, bipartisan legislation to promote additional transparency over the management structure of the TVA.

I thank my dear friend and colleague from days in Tennessee and days up here, Representative BURCHETT, for his tireless work on this issue and for partnering with me on this act.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, or the TVA, is better known as the Nation's largest government-owned wholesale power producer, supplying power to ten million people across the States of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky.

The legislation corrects a change enacted in 1995 that removed a requirement to disclose the management structure and salaries of TVA executives as part of the legislation to eliminate antiquated Federal agency reporting requirements. Well, this wasn't an antiquated portion that was deleted. This was something the public needs to see and know.

This bill reflects a fair compromise between our legitimate congressional oversight responsibilities over TVA and the need of TVA to retain and maintain a pool of talented, diverse, and effective management staff, executives, and board members.

It would ensure that Congress has the ability to provide effective oversight of the TVA and its management and executives.

I have asked TVA for salary transparency time and time again but have been refused information beyond that of the five highest-paid employees included in their annual SEC disclosure, which does indicate that the head of TVA makes \$10 million. That is, in my

opinion, too much for a public employee, even if it is a quasi-public employee. The fact is, when this gentleman, who is a good gentleman, was working in Canada when we hired him, he was earning \$2 million managing a utility. When he came to Tennessee, he followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, and his salary crept up to \$10 million.

Congress should have oversight, and the public should know what people are being paid. There are quite a few people being paid multimillions of dollars, not what F.D.R. envisioned when he helped pass the TVA bill back in the days of F.D.R.'s administration.

TVA's mission to make life better for the people in the Tennessee Valley is still there. We strayed from it in some ways. Hopefully, this bill is a vote for a more transparent and more accountable, better TVA.

It is going to give TVA a new deal, the New Deal they were originally passed under.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4693, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), one of the cosponsors of this piece of legislation.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act.

The Tennessee Valley Authority controls a vital part of east Tennesseans' lives. It controls how they get energy, Mr. Speaker. If my constituents are going to rely on TVA every day, they deserve to know how TVA is spending its money. They deserve to know with certainty that TVA is doing right by them.

□ 1645

My first bill in Congress focused on transparency in TVA and, dadgummit, I have been proud to partner with my friend, Congressman STEVE COHEN, on several bills over the past few years on that very issue.

This bill, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act, would make sure the public has access to information about the salaries of employees at TVA. If government money flows into it, Mr. Speaker, we ought to know what they are paying and who they are paying. These are the GS-15 level or above. My constituents and all the Tennessee Valley should know exactly what the high earners at TVA are really making.

Transparency has been a problem for TVA in the past, but it has been getting better recently. I want to make sure that that pattern continues. This bill will help make that happen.

The Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act will help Congress keep TVA accountable for how it pays its employees, which is an important part of preserving the public trust.

I thank my friend and colleague, STEVE COHEN, for his hard work. When I think of Memphis, I think of barbecue, Stax Records, Elvis, Al Green, and STEVE COHEN. I thank him for working with me on this bill, and I strongly encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, first, I would have to say in the spirit of Elvis: "Thank you, thank you very much." That is nice company to be put into, with Stax, Al Green, and barbecue.

I thank Mr. BURCHETT for his work. In fact, this morning, Mr. BURCHETT's picture was in The Commercial Appeal looking up at the solar eclipse. He had glasses on, though; that was a good thing.

This is a good bill. I appreciate all the help we have had to get it to this point. The public deserves to see what the salaries are of the people serving in the public sector of the TVA.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act, is a commonsense piece of legislation that is going to help increase transparency at the TVA and ensure that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee can conduct appropriate oversight over the agency's actions.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4693, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1752; and

H.R. 886.

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.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO RURAL INTERNET DEVELOPMENT GRANT ELIGIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1752) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 20, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 79]

YEAS—375

Adams	Cartwright	Fallon
Aderholt	Casar	Feenstra
Aguilar	Case	Ferguson
Alford	Casten	Finstad
Allen	Chavez-DeRemer	Fischbach
Allred	Cherifius-	Fitzgerald
Amo	McCormick	Fitzpatrick
Amodei	Chu	Fleischmann
Armstrong	Ciscomani	Fletcher
Arrington	Clark (MA)	Flood
Auchincloss	Clarke (NY)	Foster
Babin	Cline	Foushee
Bacon	Clyburn	Franklin, Scott
Baird	Clyde	Frost
Balderson	Cole	Fry
Balint	Collins	Fulcher
Banks	Comer	Gaetz
Barr	Connolly	Garamendi
Barragán	Correa	Garbarino
Beatty	Costa	Garcia (IL)
Bentz	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Bera	Craig	Garcia, Mike
Bergman	Crane	Garcia, Robert
Beyer	Crenshaw	Gimenez
Bice	Crockett	Golden (ME)
Bilirakis	Crow	Goldman (NY)
Bishop (NC)	Cueilar	Gomez
Blumenauer	Curtis	Gonzales, Tony
Blunt Rochester	D'Esposito	Gonzalez
Bonamici	Davids (KS)	Vicente
Bost	Davis (IL)	Good (VA)
Bowman	Davis (NC)	Gooden (TX)
Boyle (PA)	De La Cruz	Gottheimer
Brown	Dean (PA)	Granger
Brownley	DeLauro	Graves (LA)
Buchanan	DelBene	Graves (MO)
Bucshon	Deluzio	Green (TN)
Budzinski	DeSaulnier	Green, Al (TX)
Burchett	DesJarlais	Greene (GA)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Griffith
Burlison	Dingell	Grothman
Bush	Doggett	Guest
Calvert	Duarte	Guthrie
Cammack	Duncan	Hageman
Caraveo	Edwards	Harris
Carbajal	Elzey	Harshbarger
Cárdenas	Emmer	Hayes
Carey	Escobar	Hern
Carl	Eshoo	Hill
Carson	Espalliat	Himes
Carter (GA)	Estes	Hinson
Carter (LA)	Evans	Horsford
Carter (TX)	Ezell	Houchin

Houlahan	McClintock	Schakowsky
Hoyle (OR)	McCollum	Schiff
Hudson	McGarvey	Schneider
Huffman	McGovern	Scholten
Huizenga	Meeks	Schrirer
Hunt	Menendez	Scott (VA)
Issa	Meng	Scott, David
Ivey	Meuser	Self
Jackson (IL)	Mfume	Sessions
Jackson (NC)	Miller (IL)	Sewell
Jackson (TX)	Miller (OH)	Sherman
Jackson Lee	Miller (WV)	Sherrill
Jacobs	Miller-Meeks	Slotkin
Jayapal	Molinaro	Smith (MO)
Jeffries	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)
Johnson (GA)	Mooney	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (LA)	Moore (UT)	Smith (WA)
Johnson (SD)	Moore (WI)	Smucker
Jordan	Moran	Sorensen
Joyce (OH)	Morelle	Soto
Joyce (PA)	Moskowitz	Spanberger
Kamlager-Dove	Moulton	Spartz
Kaptur	Mrvan	Stansbury
Kean (NJ)	Mullin	Stanton
Keating	Murphy	Stauber
Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Steel
Kelly (MS)	Napolitano	Stefanik
Kelly (PA)	Neal	Steil
Khanna	Neguse	Stevens
Kiggans (VA)	Newhouse	Strickland
Kildee	Nickel	Strong
Kiley	Norcross	Suozzi
Kilmer	Nunn (IA)	Swalwell
Kim (CA)	Obernolte	Sykes
Krishnamoorthi	Ocasio-Cortez	Takano
Kustoff	Omar	Tenney
LaHood	Owens	Thanedar
LaLota	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
LaMalfa	Palmer	Thompson (MS)
Lamborn	Panetta	Thompson (PA)
Landsman	Pappas	Tiffany
Langworthy	Pascrell	Timmons
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Titus
Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Tokuda
Latta	Peltola	Tonko
LaTurner	Pence	Torres (CA)
Lawler	Perez	Trahan
Lee (CA)	Peters	Turner
Lee (FL)	Petterson	Underwood
Lee (NV)	Pfluger	Valadao
Lee (PA)	Pingree	Van Duyne
Leger Fernandez	Pocan	Van Orden
Lesko	Porter	Vargas
Letlow	Posey	Vasquez
Levin	Pressley	Velázquez
Lieu	Quigley	Walberg
Lofgren	Ramirez	Waltz
Loudermilk	Raskin	Wasserman
Lucas	Reschenthaler	Schultz
Luetkemeyer	Rodgers (WA)	Waters
Luttrell	Rogers (AL)	Watson Coleman
Lynch	Rogers (KY)	Weber (TX)
Mace	Rose	Webster (FL)
Magaziner	Ross	Wenstrup
Malliotakis	Rouzer	Westerman
Maloy	Ruiz	Wild
Mann	Ruppersberger	Williams (GA)
Manning	Rutherford	Williams (NY)
Mast	Ryan	Wilson (FL)
Matsui	Salinas	Wittman
McBath	Sánchez	Womack
McClain	Scalise	Yakym
McClellan	Scanlon	Zinke

NAYS—20

Bean (FL)	Donalds	Ogles
Biggs	Foxx	Perry
Boebert	Luna	Rosendale
Brecheen	Massie	Roy
Buck	McCormick	Schweikert
Cloud	Moore (AL)	Steube
Davidson	Norman	

NOT VOTING—37

Bishop (GA)	Harder (CA)	Scott, Austin
Castor (FL)	Higgins (LA)	Simpson
Castro (TX)	Hoyer	Tlaib
Cleaver	James	Torres (NY)
Cohen	Kim (NJ)	Trone
Crawford	Kuster	Van Drew
DeGette	McCaull	Veasey
Dunn (FL)	McHenry	Wagner
Frankel, Lois	Mills	Wexton
Gallagher	Nehls	Williams (TX)
Gallego	Phillips	Wilson (SC)
Gosar	Salazar	
Grijalva	Sarbanes	

1854

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 AMENDMENTS
ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 886) to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 326, nays 73, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 80]

YEAS—326

Adams	Cartwright	Estes	Maloy	Ruppersberger	Webster (FL)
Aderholt	Casar	Evans	Mann	Rutherford	Wenstrup
Aguilar	Case	Ezell	Manning	Ryan	Westerman
Allred	Casten	Feeenstra	Matsui	Salinas	Wild
Amo	Castro (TX)	Ferguson	McBath	Sánchez	Williams (GA)
Amodei	Chavez-DeRemer	Fitzgerald	McCaul	Sarbanes	Williams (NY)
Armstrong	Cherifius-	Fitzpatrick	McClain	Scalise	Wilson (FL)
Arrington	McCormick	Fleischmann	McClellan	Scanlon	Wittman
Auchincloss	Chu	Fletcher	McCullum	Schakowsky	Womack
Bacon	Ciscomani	Flood	McGarvey	Schiff	Yakym
				Schneider	Zinke

NAYS—73

Balint	Clyburn	Frost	Alford	Fischbach	Miller (IL)
Barr	Cole	Fry	Allen	Foxx	Miller (WV)
Barragán	Connolly	Gaetz	Babin	Franklin, Scott	Mooney
Beatty	Correa	Garamendi	Bean (FL)	Fulcher	Moore (AL)
Bentz	Costa	Garbarino	Biggs	Good (VA)	Moran
Bera	Courtney	García (IL)	Bishop (NC)	Green (TN)	Nehis
Bergman	Craig	García (TX)	Boebert	Greene (GA)	Norman
Beyer	Crenshaw	Garcia, Mike	Brecheen	Griffith	Ogles
Bice	Crockett	Garcia, Robert	Buck	Guest	Palmer
Bilirakis	Crow	Gimenez	Burchett	Hageman	Perry
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Golden (ME)	Burgess	Harris	Pfluger
Blunt Rochester	Curtis	Goldman (NY)	Burlison	Harshbarger	Posey
Bonamici	D'Esposito	Gomez	Carter (TX)	Hern	Rose
Bost	Davids (KS)	Gonzales, Tony	Cline	Houchin	Rosendale
Bowman	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez,	Cloud	Hunt	
Boyle (PA)	Davis (NC)	Vicente	Clyde	Jackson (TX)	Roy
Brown	De La Cruz	Gooden (TX)	Collins	Jordan	Self
Brownley	Dean (PA)	Gottheimer	Comer	Joyce (PA)	Spartz
Buchanan	DeLauro	Granger	Crane	Kustoff	Steube
Bucshon	DelBene	Graves (MO)	Davidson	Lesko	Thompson (PA)
Budzinski	Deluzio	Green, Al (TX)	DesJarlais	Loudermilk	Tiffany
Bush	DeSaulnier	Grothman	Donalds	Massie	Timmons
Calvert	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie	Duncan	Mast	Van Duyne
Cammack	Dingell	Hayes	Fallon	McClintock	Weber (TX)
Caraveo	Doggett	Hill	Finstad	McCormick	
Carbajal	Duarte	Himes			

NOT VOTING—32

Carly	Bilzzy	Horsford	Banks	Cohen	Frankel, Lois
Carl	Emmer	Houlihan	Bishop (GA)	Crawford	Gallagher
Carson	Escobar	Hoyer	Bishop (GA)	Crawford	Gallagher
Carter (GA)	Eshoo	Hoyle (OR)	Castor (FL)	DeGette	Gallego
Carter (LA)	Espaillat	Hudson	Cleaver	Dunn (FL)	Gosar

Graves (LA)	Mills	Trone
Grijalva	Phillips	Veasey
Harder (CA)	Salazar	Wagner
Higgins (LA)	Scott, Austin	Wexton
Kim (NJ)	Simpson	Williams (TX)
Kuster	Tlaib	Wilson (SC)
McHenry	Torres (NY)	

□ 1901

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 79 and "yea" on rollcall No. 80.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 79 and "yea" on rollcall No. 80.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I had to remain home in Green Bay, Wisconsin to attend to a family matter and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 79 and "yea" on rollcall No. 80.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for rollcall votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 79 and "yea" on rollcall No. 80.

WASTED FEDERAL OFFICE SPACE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as President Biden has allowed Federal workers to stay home, millions of tax dollars have been wasted on office space that is no longer in use.

While Pennsylvania families are struggling under the weight of inflation, President Biden is spending their hard-earned dollars on empty office space.

Included in one GAO report was an example of an agency using just 9 percent of their office space. This waste is unacceptable, and it is time for the American taxpayers to stop footing the bill for D.C. offices that aren't being used.

As our deficit continues to skyrocket past \$34.5 trillion, it is time to rein in runaway spending. It is time to pass the USE IT Act and help put a stop to President Biden's wasteful and reckless use of American taxpayer dollars.

HONORING PASTOR ALI

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of faith from my district, Pastor Bryan Ali.

Pastor Ali has been my friend for more than 50 years. He was the "pastor in the hood," as we called him, at New Psalmist Worship Center in Newark, New Jersey. His story is one that should inspire us all.

Pastor Ali received his spiritual calling during a time when he fought homelessness and chemical addiction. He improved his life through the power of the Lord. His own personal reformation led to a doctoral degree in holistic theology. He served as president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Newark and Vicinity.

In addition, he was the spiritual counselor for the Newark Anti-Violence Coalition and served on the board of the Newark Community Health Centers.

I was honored when he accepted the invitation to be the guest chaplain here in Congress.

Pastor Ali was an outstanding clergyman, an incredible leader, and an inspirational figure in our community. He will be missed.

CONGRATULATING STATE REPRESENTATIVE SAM MCKENZIE ON RECEIVING THE 2023 CRYSTAL GAVEL AWARD

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor State Representative Sam McKenzie who represents House District 15 in Tennessee and Knoxville.

Representative McKenzie has been serving the people of east Tennessee for a long time. He was on the Knoxville Utility board of directors from 2003 to 2008, and he spent time working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and sat on the Oak Ridge Federal Credit Union board of directors.

He then served on the Knox County Commission while I was the mayor of Knox County, so we worked side by side on a lot of important issues.

We met at FCA camp in high school. We played high school football for different schools. He played for Austin East, and I played for Bearden. We also share a love for the Pizza Palace on Magnolia Avenue.

I know from time to time working alongside him that he is a straight shooter who asks solid, direct questions about what is happening in our government. It is clear he cares about our community and the work he is doing for east Tennessee.

Representative McKenzie was recently awarded the 2023 Crystal Gavel Award of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators at its 47th convention in Nashville. He was given this award because of his leadership of the Tennessee Black Caucus, which has over 700 members.

Sam and I are on opposite sides of the political aisle, and we might have different visions of how things should get done, but we both want what is best

for our constituents and the areas we represent.

Congratulations to Representative McKenzie on receiving the 2023 Crystal Gavel Award.

CELEBRATING THE SPRINGBORO PANTHERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Springboro Panthers women's basketball team on making it to the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Tournament.

I congratulate the girls and Coach Mike, who is in his first season with the Panthers. Coach Mike celebrated their grit and effort after the girls clenched the win in the second overtime after overcoming a 35-30 deficit in the fourth quarter.

This season, the Panthers went 23-5. This impressive record is taking them to the University of Dayton for the first State tournament match-up on Friday.

This is the second time in school history that the girl's team has made it to the State tournament, the last time being 1978.

We are wishing them luck on their journey in the State tournament, and hope that their hard work continues to pay off.

POSSIBLE LINK OF MYOCARDITIS TO COVID VACCINES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the CDC, which stands for the Centers for Disease Control, based in Atlanta, Georgia, recently released a 148-page study on myocarditis being possibly linked to the COVID vaccines—whether it is by Pfizer or Moderna or what have you.

In order to have good science, you would want these studies to get information out there so people can understand what the link may or may not be with myocarditis.

What is CDC's approach to that? Of that 148-page report, they edited out, they redacted not just some of the names, but every one of the 148 pages.

What is that as far as having openness, having clarity? That sounds pretty corrupt to me. Certainly, this body is going to be taking a better look at that. The CDC needs to be held accountable to all of us—directly to us in Congress and the American people, because the truth still needs to get out there on how the injections work and what effects they cause to the public.

□ 1915

WE MUST SHOW OUR HUMANITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in the bitter cold, one might wonder what the conditions of the soldiers in Ukraine are, young soldiers who are fighting for democracy.

You would also wonder why this body of Members has not been able to resolve the crisis at the border in a way that is humane and is dealing with the southern border with the right kind of personnel and the right kind of funding. All of this was offered.

There are hostages still being held, but what is most of a crisis are the children in Gaza who are dying and the fact that we are leaving this week without providing the funding that is necessary, the humanitarian funding, helping Doctors Without Borders, trying to make sure that ships are delivering the amount of resources that are necessary. People are dying, but most of all, our babies are dying.

It is urgent that the Speaker of the House provides funding legislation, some of which was already presented by the President of the United States, to move forward on saving lives, helping the soldiers fighting for democracy, children trying to live, and families trying to live.

Enough is enough. We must show our humanity.

HONORING THE HELLO GIRLS OF WORLD WAR I

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise to honor the trailblazing women of the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit.

During World War I, General Pershing found the Army's communications network in disarray. He urged the War Department to employ Americans experienced in switchboard operation. There were 233 women who enthusiastically honored the call to service and deployed to war-torn France.

This included Elizabeth M. Shovar, born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. She spoke fluent French. These Hello Girls worked tirelessly to direct calls coordinating troop movements and artillery fire.

As the first women to actively support combat operations on a regular basis, these soldiers paved the way for female servicemembers. They also helped win women the right to vote.

Despite their honorable service, it took six decades before they were formally recognized as veterans and given their hard-earned benefits.

Today, I am proud to honor their legacy by cosponsoring H. Res. 1572 to

award a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of these patriotic, brave women, the Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators Unit. God bless them.

COMMEMORATING MAYOR JUDY COOK

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Mayor Judy Cook of Pembroke, Georgia. Judy has served as mayor of Pembroke for five terms, and she has retired after years of dedicated service.

Before becoming mayor, Judy served as the city clerk, personnel administrator, planning and zoning administrator, and municipal court clerk.

Judy pioneered the Pride in Pembroke initiative to encourage community involvement in the city's future. Judy partnered with fellow cities, communities, and State agencies to incentivize growth, progress, and community spirit.

Her love for her city and community has impacted all of Bryan County. The city of Richmond Hill named Judy an honorary citizen for her contributions and exemplary service.

I thank Judy for her tireless service to the First District and the city of Pembroke.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS

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

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the community projects we funded last week. We showed the country we can work together in a bipartisan way to fund projects that have an impact in our communities.

In my district, we secured \$12 million for 15 community-centered projects across our district. In total, our office has now delivered over \$50 million to projects in every corner of the Fifth District. This funding will address the affordable housing crisis, climate resilience, food access, workforce development, and healthcare investment.

I am grateful to the countless community members throughout Minnesota's Fifth who brought their hopes and dreams to our office with these project proposals. Since President Biden signed the package, we are one step closer to making those dreams a reality.

I will always fight to ensure our communities have a seat at the table where funding decisions are made.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. BUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in solidarity with the Puerto Rican people.

Puerto Rico has long been harmed by its status as a U.S. territory. One example of this is what is known as Act 22. This policy allows people who move to Puerto Rico to not pay local taxes on their dividends, capital gains, and certain investments. Unsurprisingly, the wealthy have benefited from this policy while the Puerto Rican people are left to deal with the harms.

Because of Act 22, Puerto Rico stands to lose an estimated \$4.5 billion in tax revenues between 2020 and 2026, and we are already seeing skyrocketing rents and increased displacement. This must end.

Congress must close the Act 22 tax loophole, end the injustice of colonialism, and enact self-determination legislation for the Puerto Rican people.

I stand with the Puerto Rican community in St. Louis, in Puerto Rico, and around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE EVA CLAYTON

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, in eastern North Carolina, the spirit of strong, resilient women flows through the fabric of our communities.

From Vance County to Pasquotank County, Northhampton County to Greene County, and everywhere in between, women have played essential roles in shaping our history.

However, we cannot talk about women and history in eastern North Carolina without recognizing the Honorable Eva Clayton. Ms. Clayton was the first African-American Congresswoman from North Carolina.

During Women's History Month, we celebrate all the women of eastern North Carolina and beyond. Let us honor their many contributions, recognize their strength, and support their endeavors.

Together, we can ensure that their voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their legacy continues to inspire generations to come.

RISING NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, we are going to do something really daring tonight, and we will see if it actually works. We are going to use some boards, some math, that I haven't even seen the final numbers on. We were

working on them over the weekend in regard to President Biden's State of the Union and then with them dropping their budget. We are trying to make the math work, which seems to be the routine here.

I have a lot of boards. The theme is really simple on a couple of conceptual levels.

The President basically said: Hey, the Medicare trust fund, we are going to do something about it. Great. Seven years or so from now, the Medicare trust fund is empty. We often refer to it as part A. There are actually a couple of slivers of it. It is about a third. It is just the hospital portion. The rest comes out of the general fund.

Did you notice how the President stood right there and basically said you are not allowed to talk about Social Security, not allowed to talk about reforming it, and not allowed to talk about the fact that in 8 or 9 years, it is gone?

The amount of that dwarfs dramatically the scale of the shortfall of Medicare. Understand, you have the transportation trust fund that is going empty, and you have Medicare part A. Then, the big kahuna is Social Security. Those all happen within the next 9 years.

The intense frustration of the President's speech is that it was a campaign speech. In talking to the voters out there, I would ask: Are you for sale? You were promised lots of things with your own money. Here is the reality. We are going to borrow the money, or we are going to raise the taxes. I am going to show you the tax calculations are a complete fraud. We are going to buy your votes with your own money, and then we are going to borrow a boatload of spending that is going to crush your retirement and crush your kids and grandkids.

Go America.

Once again, we are back to sort of setting records. If you subscribe to my Daily Debt Monitor, we send out a text message every single day with what is going on. It is not our opinion. It is right off the Treasury's website. We just grab it, and we give you two numbers so you actually understand it.

Remember, we play some games at the end of the fiscal year and the timing effect where, like they did last year, they rolled back the money from the Supreme Court ruling in regard to student loans, but they rolled it back in to push down the total number because they had done it up the previous fiscal year. There are all sorts of games.

We also give you one which is just a running clock. It is the 365-day—this year, 366-day—clock, and it just runs. You get to see both of them.

Right now, if you tell the truth and use the gross number—we pay interest to the trust funds. We are the only industrialized country in the world that lies on this, where we borrow our own money, pay interest, and then pretend that is off the books.

If you look at OECD, they actually have the United States closer to 144

percent of debt to GDP because they don't allow accounting games like we do internally.

We are borrowing over \$95,000 per second. If you actually look at the run rate right now, the last 365 days, or 366 if you throw in the leap year, we have borrowed over \$3 trillion—I am trying to find a nice way to emphasize that word, \$3 trillion—in the running last year.

□ 1930

I think I have it in one of my charts here, but if I don't, I will just say it right now: When the President published their budget, did anyone pay attention to how the game is working?

We are starting to understand the game.

So several months ago when the preliminary budget numbers were put out by the White House, we were going to borrow \$1.5 trillion, 1.6, wink, wink, nod, nod. The number came out what was it yesterday or—no, excuse me—earlier today. It says: It looks like we are closer to 2.1, 2.2. However, if you then look at the rest of their math, it is going up higher than that. It looks like actually, if you actually do the gross, it really is going over the \$2 trillion 800 billion.

Do we do this to lie to the bond markets or each other?

Or is it just so the idiot class in Washington basically quotes the old number?

Be that as it may, does anyone understand, Madam Speaker, that when you see movements of numbers that are functionally 1 trillion, the burn rate right now is we are borrowing \$1 trillion about every 125 days.

Does that get anyone's attention?

So we are going to walk through a number of these slides, and then when we get down to the end here, we are going to actually do some slides trying to take a look at the President's budget they dropped just a few hours ago and our base math.

So I am going to run through many of these really quickly because there were a number of things said during the President's State of the Union Address that were bizarre. They are urban folk legends. Nonetheless, as we have seen in this town, if you say a lie enough times it starts to become baseline political discussion.

What happened after the TCJA?

That is the tax reform that happened in December 2017.

There are two reasons for doing this. I want to show that the vast majority of where the tax cuts were for the working middle class and that the U.S. tax code got more progressive. The wealthy, the top-tiers—actually the top couple of tiers—in the United States of income today pay a higher percentage of the Federal income tax than they did before 2017.

I probably should say this now, so I don't forget it: I believe there is a scam.

So often when we go home, we have people who meet you at your grocery

store. You are at Walmart, Costco, whatever, when someone comes up to you, Madam Speaker, and they have the latest conspiracy theory or the number of times our cell phones are just filled with them.

Madam Speaker, I will give you one that is not a conspiracy theory. It is math. If you take the President's speech and say: We are going to tax rich people—Remember, Madam Speaker, I have come to this floor multiple times and shown you what happens when you do tax maximization of those over \$400,000 and you can't even get anything close. You get about 1.5 percent of GDP. This year, we are basically borrowing, what, 9.6 percent of the GDP.

Does anyone do some basic math and see the difference?

We have a problem. Be that as it may, it is great political rhetoric both on the right and the left because we are a populist country now: tax the rich people.

Great. It doesn't get you anywhere near where you need to be.

So when we get near the end of this decade, the Social Security trust fund is empty and the transportation trust fund is empty, the President got his way, and we have tax maximized just to cover the shortfall in the Medicare trust fund. Madam Speaker, where do you get the money?

I will lay a marker down today, by the end of this decade this country will have a VAT tax, a value added tax, just like the rest of the industrialized world, just like Europe and just like everyone else. At that moment, the working middle class—that hard-working middle class—will be poorer. That is the scam that is going on because that is where the money is.

So, Madam Speaker, you have this dancing here.

It works politically. Think about this: as the wealthier and better educated have moved more to the Democratic Party and working people have moved to the Republican Party, depending on who is in power at the end of this decade, be prepared.

If we don't make some of these policy changes that change the cost of healthcare, then there is no mathematical way we make it out of this decade without kicking the working class in the head. That is what is going on.

So let's walk through some of this.

So over here, Madam Speaker, you have got to understand one of the key things that happened when we did tax reform is we functionally took one-half of the society, one-half of the working people in this country, the poor working people, understand, but half of them pay almost no income taxes. Okay?

Now, you get over here to that top 1 percent, and, yes, they had a huge tax cut. They went from 26.8 to 25.6. However, we also removed a whole bunch of other deductions. We are going to talk about that. So it is always amusing

here when you have our brothers and sisters from high tax States saying: we want SALT because it goes mostly to really rich people, and they write us checks.

So we are going to blaze through these because we have a lot to do tonight.

I did this last week. I want to make the point that this number is now wrong. Now our estimate is we are going to have interest this year—interest this fiscal year—of \$1.1 trillion. Madam Speaker, \$1.1 trillion dollars of interest in the 2024 fiscal year means Social Security is the number one spend at \$1 trillion 450 billion, interest will be number two, Medicare will be number three, and defense is now number four.

We all heard that in the President's speech, right?

I keep trying to make the point over and over and over that it is not just those of us who think it is more ethical to do gross interest, if you even do net interest—net interest—now that means you pretend you didn't pay any interest to the Social Security trust fund, Medicare trust fund, transportation trust fund, railroad retirement trust fund, and all the others. You just say you borrowed the money, and you didn't pay anything—we are just going to keep that off the books—just the interest we pay out to those people who bought U.S. debt, bonds, T-bills, notes, that is still the second highest spend.

Nonetheless, that would be inconvenient to go out and tell the truth, wouldn't it?

So I am laying myself on the line. I believe if you look at the trendline—even from the Budget Office at the White House, they have kept revising the number, revising the number, and revising the number—there is a very good chance total gross debt, borrowing, borrowing, this year, \$2.8 trillion, it could actually kiss up to 3.

Now, why is this such a big deal?

Think about it, Madam Speaker.

Why is this such a big deal?

Didn't we just have a gentleman standing behind that microphone telling us how great the economy was, how great all the spending was, and how much it had moved the economy?

Okay. GDP is actually reasonable. It is actually pretty good right now.

How is it possible we are running a \$2.8, \$3 trillion deficit in a time when the economy is supposedly doing well?

Madam Speaker, do you understand that these are deficits that would have been in the middle of the pandemic?

The wheels have come off, and this place isn't willing to actually deal with the reality.

When we can't even do a deficit commission, when we sit here and fight for months over things that would be rounding errors, then we are borrowing like \$9 billion a day, and we are going to shut the place down for months over \$16 billion?

Does anyone see a math problem?

We basically burnt this place down for a couple of days of interest, borrowing.

So let's actually walk through what is about to happen to each of you. We will use 2026 because that is the year you are going to pay your taxes.

Next year, a number of the provisions of the tax reform from December 2017, expire.

So let's walk through. Let's say you are a middle American. You are basically working. Right now, you have a 24 percent tax rate. Congratulations. You go up to 28. If you are one of those top earners, then you now have functionally a 37 percent tax rate, you are going to 39.6. All the marginal tax rates go up, and that happens next year.

So the moment this election is over, and the negotiations begin on this it will matter who is in the Senate Finance Committee and who is in the House Ways and Means Committee because the math takes off.

So let's actually go a little bit further. The expiring 2025 tax provisions, standard deduction, if you are single, Madam Speaker, you get a \$14,600 deduction, that goes away next year, and that standard deduction goes to \$8,300.

Does anyone see a problem?

Married, you get a \$29,200 deduction today. A year from now, that is gone. You go to \$16,600.

I am sure glad the President spent a bunch of time talking about how we were going to protect the middle class and make the economy continue to grow.

So here is just a baseline. The baseline number, and this is already the law, you are a single individual, you make \$60,000, you will pay \$1,794 more, \$1,794 at the end of next year. That is the law. It is already baseline.

So, Madam Speaker, understand the crazy amount of spending that was talked about behind that microphone last week. They are already relying on your taxes going up.

So let's walk through a couple of other things so people understand. In 2025 tax provisions for pass-throughs expire.

Do any of you have an LLC? A family business? A side hustle?

Do you have a little LLC, you make some income, you do some consulting. Maybe you are a fancy Sub-Chapter S Corporation. Maybe you are a partnership. Maybe you are one of those employee-owned type businesses. You understand, Madam Speaker, current status, you can deduct equal to 20 percent. I was trying to find a way to make it equal, so you have the same fairness for Sub-Chapter C Corporations. That is gone. Your taxes are going up a whole bunch if you are an LLC or a pass-through.

Employer credit for paid leave goes away next year. It just goes away. Right now, credit up to 25 percent for up to 12 weeks, you get a 25 percent credit. That was one of the incentives that was built into the 2017 tax reform. It expires. It goes away.

I am sure glad this place is stepping up and understanding the expiring pro-

visions and the kick in the head that it will be to the working class because we are making the numbers work, right?

All right. Another expiring 2025 provision is the State and local tax deduction. Now those of you from high tax States, you are giddy. The deduction right now is capped at \$10,000, and it goes back. It goes back to as high as you want.

The great irony here is when you have the BERNIE SANDERSes of the world who basically say: This is a tax cut, a tax deduction for the ultrawealthy. Years ago, I came back and did the charts on this, and it was somewhere in the 80 percent, almost 90-plus percent went to really the top 1 or 2 percent income earners.

Watch how many of our friends on the left, our Democratic colleagues, fight like crazy for this even though it is a complete violation of every principle they claim, except it happens to be their constituents and their contributors.

Let's have a little more darkness here. There is the expiring 2025 tax provision, the child tax credit and credit for other dependents. Right now you get a couple thousand dollars, and it phases out when you get to around that \$400,000. Next year, it is no longer \$2,000. It goes to one, and it starts to phase out at \$110,000, not \$400,000.

This is already the law. This is what is coming.

I was delusional. I thought the President would actually talk about: hey, these are the things I am willing to support in the tax reform and its extensions.

Current status: You get \$500 per dependent. That is gone.

Expiring in 2025 tax provisions, some more stuff that is expiring. The current status, 100 percent of first-year bonus deduction through 2022. This is what we did a couple weeks—well, 2 months ago now. It is still sitting in the Senate where we were just trying to fix some of the bonus depreciation because it turns out—all right, I am going to backtrack on myself, but this is important.

When you hear some of us come behind the microphone and talk about being able to deduct research and development, Madam Speaker, you realize that is not a deduction, that is a depreciation. It is a timing effect. You get to take it over 5 or 7 years that you spent all this money developing a new technology or you can take it today. However, you still take it as a deduction.

The difference is if you do it over 5 years, then you have to finance your cost, and in today's environment, that financing has gotten much more expensive.

It is just like expensing when you buy a new piece of equipment so you are more productive and so you can pay your workers more, so you can actually grow the economy and grow your business.

When depreciating that piece of equipment, do you do it in one day or in 7 years?

□ 1945

It is still the same depreciation. The difference is if you do it over 7 years, you have to finance the piece of equipment. If you do it in the first year, you can take it now, and the reinvestment cycle gets dramatically faster. That is why you are seeing productivity shoot up.

Is that an expense to the Government; I mean, for our tax collections? It is a timing effect. If you do it in the 10-year window it hits, but if you use a perpetual horizon, it is the same thing. The economics say you actually get more growth.

Please understand, one of the great advocates for doing the expensing was I think this ultraconservative President—what was his name—oh, yes, Barack Obama. Part of this was his idea.

Just understand, the expensing is gone.

Now we need to talk about—I am so glad the President basically said we are not going to touch Social Security; we are not going to talk about it. In the budget they just dropped, they did actually put out money for the Medicare Trust Fund, but there is nothing there for Social Security.

Why am I the only idiot that keeps coming behind these microphones saying in 8 or 9 years we double senior poverty? It is immoral, but is it just immoral for me? I don't understand why our brothers and sisters don't walk around here and understand we already have lots of data about the number of baby boomers who are ending up homeless right now because they weren't prepared—because they were renters—for what was happening to their rent costs. There is a spike in homeless baby boomers.

In 8, 9 years, the Social Security trust fund, you get a 25 percent cut. If you are an average working couple in America, that is a \$17,400 cut. You double senior poverty.

I did multiple presentations here, but I did a big one 3 weeks ago—I had almost at least 200-plus thousand views on YouTube, so someone cared enough to watch it, and many of the comments were insane—that basically showed the Democrats' proposal to just raise the cap doesn't get you anywhere close to covering the shortfall.

Here, I will do this backwards. The first year, the very first year—so my math, this is in 2033, but they want me to use 2034 because that is the vetted number. The first year, the shortfall is \$616 billion. We know this is coming. It is really crappy to talk about this when you are out there campaigning because, God knows, we don't want to tell our voters the actual truth of how hard and how difficult what is coming at us is, but it is math. It is real. If you raise the cap on \$400,000 and up, you only cover about a quarter of this. You have still doubled senior poverty.

That is the morality of this place.

Look, it is not Republican or Democrat. It is demographics. We got old.

We only have a fraction of the workers. We have got an update—what was it—a week ago Friday. U.S. fertility rates have collapsed again, so we are down to like 1.63. Basically that math means in 15 years the United States has more deaths than births.

All these things are fixable.

I am just exhausted. I keep coming behind these microphones to see if anyone cares. Is it too hard to tell the truth? I even have some of the—what is a nice way to say the Republican industrial establishment fighting like crazy to stop the debt and deficit commission because they are terrified that one of the special interests that finances their group might actually have to step it up.

Does anyone actually care about the country?

This is the type of crap that takes down a republic. It is not my feelings. It is not Republican math. It is not Democrat math. It is demographics. It is what we are.

Here is the chart I get the most complaints about, and it happens to be maybe the one—and it is already out of date because we no longer think this number is \$116 trillion deficit in 30 years; we now think it is closer to 130. So it gives you an idea. This chart is now 3 years out of date.

Madam Speaker, 100 percent of the borrowing from today through the next 30 years—100 percent of the borrowing from today through the next 30 years is interest, healthcare costs, and Medicare. Then if the decision is to backfill Social Security, that is what you get.

It always goes silent. You always get, DAVID, no one wants to see that board. I have actually had a Member come up to me angrily in the elevator once telling me that I have got to stop doing that. I had to actually face a question at one of my townhalls about that chart.

These are the facts.

Once again, a couple weeks ago because I am an idiot I came here and showed the chart that says Social Security, you and your spouse, you and your partner, you get back every dime plus about a \$70,000 spiff. Now, that is a crap rate of return. You would have done so much better if you had been allowed to take a little sliver and put it in the markets, but that ship sailed 20 years ago.

Medicare, for every dime you put in, you are functionally now close to getting \$5 back. That is the primary driver. We are not supposed to talk about that, but that is the primary driver. Think about what happened—and this is my point I have made for years here. We talk about healthcare as a financing issue; not as a reducing the cost of delivering healthcare.

ObamaCare, ACA, it was a financing bill. It was who had to pay, who got subsidized. The Republican alternative was a financing bill. It was who got subsidized, who had to pay. Medicare for All is a financing bill.

None of these are about what we pay. I will argue there is an incredible mo-

rality out there that could be bipartisan taking on obesity, taking on diabetes being 33 percent of all healthcare spending in this country. What would happen if we could actually make a huge dent in that? It would be the most powerful thing you could do for U.S. sovereign debt, income inequality, family formation, and just the morality of society. But instead, we don't talk about fixing health, we talk about how we are going to raise taxes to finance more of it.

Is this place completely void of the ability to think?

Let's get into a couple of these charts that I have only had a little glimpse at because we were building these off the President's budget that was delivered today. Look, you have all seen the press coverage; oh, the President proposes, the Congress disposes. But that is not the point. What is in there is they give you the latest baselines. They are supposed to be honest about the baselines. I started with showing the chart and then actually showing that 7 months ago, we are actually now six, \$700 billion more in borrowing, and every time they update it, it keeps going up.

Comparing debt held by the public projections in CBO's baseline estimate to 2025 budget resolution, you know, from the budget resolution and the 2025 President's budget, we have got a math problem. We are basically missing each other's numbers. If you do it over a decade, understand the baseline looks like at the end of the decade we are going to be well over \$48 trillion.

That makes sense. If we are clicking off a trillion dollars about every 125 days, you really think the credit markets are going to keep loaning us money at favorable interest rates when we are staring down \$50 trillion at the end of this decade? Remember, we are supposed to be working on the 2025 budget.

Comparing revenue projections in the CBO baseline estimates for the 2025 resolution and the 2025 President's budget. And then you take that, and you stretch it out over 10 years, so take it out to 2034. The President's FY budget projects \$70 trillion in deficit spending through 2034.

Look, that is just stunning because, believe it or not, that is like \$7 trillion higher than the Congressional Budget Office. We are just now starting to break in. All I can tell you is they have a number on there that is just stunning. We are trying to figure out: Where did it come from? How is that possible?

That is \$7 trillion higher. That is what it is.

Look, we keep going over and over and over, and we are going to do another presentation in a couple weeks where we will actually try to make this much more understandable. But the point I am going at—and when I get through these, I will try to close on this, Madam Speaker—the President promised us lots and lots of new taxes.

No one has begun to do the estimations of what it does to the economy, yet there was almost no discussion of what we are going to do to make healthcare actually more affordable. We are going to play the con job of we are just going to raise taxes from one group, put it over in the other group, and we are going to pretend that you can shore it up by taxing rich people.

Okay. Fine. I am not bleeding for rich people. What I am bleeding for is the fact that once you use their wealth to shore up the Medicare trust fund, how do you plan to take care of Social Security, which is three-quarters of the problem, so three times bigger? You were willing to talk about the one quarter. I guess that is called good politics. I am sure they polled it all before they got there.

You start looking about the total cumulative receipts—and, remember, we don't actually have tax collections, we call them receipts. That is actually the proper term in the tax world. You know, we actually have a mismatching problem where the President's budget basically keeps saying somehow they are going to have \$7 trillion more in tax receipts than the CBO baseline.

We are going to dig into this and try to understand where it comes from because it is not only CBO, it is also the fiscal budget, and somehow there is this magic money that appears over the rest of this decade.

All right. Two more of these, and it always helps if you put it right-side up.

Total difference in receipts. We start to understand they expect substantially higher income taxes. Okay. Everybody needs to get ready. Corporate taxes are also higher. Payroll taxes, now that is the one that has stayed fairly flat in the way of these new projections, and that is what actually finances our Social Security. That is actually what finances—up until recently—our Medicare Part A. The numbers just don't line up.

I am not even going to make you suffer through this.

Madam Speaker, back to the point at hand. In 9 years, maybe 8 years, we double senior poverty. The President said he wants to raise taxes rather dramatically on people with \$100 million, because apparently if you have \$100 million, you are a billionaire.

Okay. That may be enough money to shore up part of the Medicare trust fund, but once again, the vast majority of Medicare spending is general fund spending. That is actually the single biggest driver—that and now interest—of our debt and deficits.

□ 2000

Did you all see the stunts last year and now again this year of, "Well, you are not allowed to talk about Social Security"? So, they are willing to double senior poverty.

My simple projection is that this Congress has decided to put the bond market in charge of this government because the first moment the bond

market doesn't want our borrowing—remember, \$95,000 a second is what we are borrowing. That is about \$9 billion a day that we are borrowing. Understand, we have actually had a couple of months so far this year when we had to borrow money to pay the interest.

Madam Speaker, I am going to yield back because I am bewildered. I am not sure anyone cares anymore, but these numbers are going to wipe us out, and making up crap to win the next election is immoral.

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject matter of the Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor the CBC's Special Order hour with Member JONATHAN JACKSON from the great Chicago, Illinois.

For the next 60 minutes, we have the chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans—the health and well-being of Americans, American Black men and boys.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), my honorable colleague.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, let me first thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) for allowing me the opportunity to speak today and also the gentleman from Illinois, her great partner, the Honorable JONATHAN JACKSON, who comes from a lineage of great service to this Nation.

I am here tonight because of the topic. I was once a Black little boy, and so the topic is very important to me because, you see, in this Nation, Madam Speaker, it seems that there is a race going on. It appears that sometimes the young men in my community don't receive the same consideration, the same opportunities, the same benefit of the doubt that other young men are allowed to have. So, I am here to talk a bit about that.

The young lady that has brought us here today, the honorable gentlewoman from Florida, FREDERICA WILSON, has been a consummate advocate for Black

men and young boys. I thank my good friend, Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, for tonight.

She is a strong supporter of efforts to improve the health of Black males. She created and now serves as chairwoman of the House caucus on the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. She founded this caucus to uncover these social disparities that affect Black men's health in our country, and the caucus does exceptional work to address these issues that lower the life expectancy of Black men, such as gun violence, mental illness, and the lack of access to quality healthcare. In fact, Congresswoman WILSON has done more to improve Black men's health than most Black men.

That is why I am honored to be here today to support her. The health of Black males is particularly important to me for two reasons.

As a Black Congressman, I want to do everything I can to improve the health and well-being of Black men. I am the co-chair of three different congressional caucuses that deal with healthcare: the Congressional Men's Health Caucus, the Congressional Colorectal Cancer Caucus, and the Congressional Peripheral Artery Disease Caucus.

I understand the disparities in healthcare that exist for Black men and all Black Americans. Studies show that Black Americans do not get the same healthcare, on average, as our counterparts in this country, and that causes too many members of our community to die from preventable diseases.

Today, Black men born after 1960 have a life expectancy of 61. To quote Congresswoman WILSON: "They do not even live long enough to collect their Social Security."

The second and most important reason is that I am diabetic, and I have to monitor my health on a daily basis. Unfortunately, too many Black men do not monitor their health on a consistent basis, and that is one reason the life expectancy of Black men is so low.

They fail to get regular checkups and health screenings. They wait to see a doctor until they have a reason, and that can allow a minor health issue to become a major one.

I could go on about this issue because it means so much to me as a Black man, but I would love to give my colleagues here the opportunity to express their concern about this very important issue.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON).

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I am honored to be here on the floor of the U.S. Capitol to kick off this Special Order hour on Black men and boys.

I am Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, chair of the U.S. Commission on

the Social Status of Black Men and Boys and the Congresswoman representing Florida's 24th District, but you can call me FREDERICA "Prevention" WILSON because that is what I do.

I believe, as Frederick Douglass said: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Thus, as a woman and even during Women's History Month, I want to take a moment to talk about our fathers, our brothers, our uncles, and our sons. We have wasted far too much time allowing conditions to fester that work to break Black men and extinguish the lives of Black boys before they become men.

I refuse to allow Black men to be among the highest mortality rates, who, on average, are dying before they can collect their Social Security checks. I refuse to let this happen on my watch. I have to speak up.

As Members of Congress, we have to speak up. So, those of us who are here tonight are here to speak up for Black men and boys.

This is such an important topic near and dear to my heart because of what we are doing, committing to make 2024 the year of Black men and boys.

Let me take a moment to thank my fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys for being here tonight because we have so much work to do.

Developing strong Black men is my life's work. Thirty years ago, I started the 5000 Role Models of Excellence, a mentoring organization committed to supporting all boys, but particularly Black boys.

The 5000 Role Models of Excellence had an event just last month where we continued our work to improve the relationship between Black boys and our Miami-area police because we all know of the tension that exists between the police and Black men. We all know that, no matter how many laws we pass, they can only work when we change the tenor, hearts, and compassion of both sides because the tension has always existed long before we have all been alive. Since slavery, it has existed.

Oftentimes, I ask people to raise their hand if they want to change places with a Black boy in America, and no one ever raises their hand. Why? Because we all know and see the issues they face.

That is why I am so grateful to be standing on the floor of the House, talking to the people of the United States about how to break those tensions between our youth and the police. The relationship with police is one of the many issues that uniquely affect Black men, and it is something all of us, whether that be the White House, Members of Congress, or leaders in our community, must never stop addressing.

At the start of my career as an elementary school teacher, I remember watching how my fellow teachers treated Black boys. I vividly remember

that if a Black boy accidentally knocked a book off the desk, the teacher would be livid, scold him for knocking down the book, and punish him with detention. If anyone else other than a Black boy knocked a book off the teacher's desk, the teacher's response was completely different. They would say: "It is okay. I am sure you didn't see it." Afterward, class would proceed. It was crazy.

Then, Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander came to my school at the behest of President Bush to declare that the 5000 Role Models of Excellence was a model for the Nation. It was a great day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. They labeled it a break the mold program.

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, President Clinton honored the program as part of America's Promise Alliance, and all the living Presidents were there. We were declared a teaching example for the Nation, and I went on to record commercials for HBO, explaining the importance of Black men becoming mentors for Black boys. The commercials were shown all over the world.

□ 2015

The 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project is a program that we must all remember. We are all over Florida; in Detroit, Michigan; headed to The Bahamas; Birmingham, Alabama; and Los Angeles, California.

To date, the 5000 Role Models of Excellence has funded full college scholarships for nearly 2,000 young men and has uplifted many Black men who are now doctors, Capitol Police officers, lawyers, city commissioners, county commissioners, college presidents, members of our Federal agencies, and the leaders of today and tomorrow, and we have receipts.

This is what I want for all Black men and boys: to level the playing field and open the doors of opportunities for them.

I invite Members of Congress, other politicians, universities, school systems, philanthropists, artists, entertainers, and cities to start their own chapters of 5000 Role Models because I have a dream.

I have a dream, just like Martin Luther King, Jr., had a dream. I have a dream that we can end mass incarceration. I have a dream that we can end gun violence. The list goes on and on. In my mind, I don't see an issue more important than this one because we can uplift Black men and boys and put them on a path to success. We can change the course of this country.

I believe that if the Black voters of this country, especially the men, knew that there is a Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, we would not be talking about their vote.

Just a couple of weeks ago, I met with the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, including Councilwoman Kristen Clarke, who serves as United States Assistant At-

torney General, Reverend Al Sharpton, and our new Gen Z Congressman MAXWELL FROST, who all eagerly put forth ideas, bringing the weight of their essential work to this issue of Black men and boys.

One thing was clear in that meeting. It is long overdue for us to address the disparities affecting Black men and boys. The crime bill, welfare reform, it is long overdue. Education, college scholarships, access to jobs and housing, and the number one issue is prevention. We must remember, prevention.

My name is Congresswoman FREDERICA "Prevention" WILSON, and I approve this message. I thank all who have joined us this evening, and we look forward to them working with us and the Congressional Black Caucus to uplift Black men and boys.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON. I yield now to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank my colleague, Representative FREDERICA WILSON from the great State of Florida, for conceptualizing, dreaming up, thinking up, and putting into play not only the opportunity for a discussion, but the tremendous work and the great record she has achieved on behalf of African-American boys and men as she continues to represent her entire district.

I trust that those who are watching are in good health and good spirits because our country is facing one of its most difficult periods in the history of America. There is tremendous friction, anxieties, different approaches to doing things, and I think about that every day as I try and represent the 759,000 individuals who live in the very diverse area called the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois.

Some of the wealthiest people in America live along the Gold Coast, the Magnificent Mile. Some of the most disadvantaged individuals live on the south and west sides of Chicago, areas that were devastated during the period of movement action, especially after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As an elected official, I try to balance the concerns of all these different individuals, all of their hopes, their aspirations, recognizing their issues, their problems, and their concerns. While I represent every aspect of the district—Chinatown; what used to be called Jewtown; Little Italy, an Italian community; Ukrainian Village, a Ukrainian community; a large African-American community; suburban areas—lots of issues, lots of problems, tremendous needs, lots of hopes and aspirations.

African-American males are at the forefront of these issues and these problems for many various reasons that I won't even attempt to really characterize or go into. Oftentimes,

when you look at quality of life and those things that are indicators of quality of life, the most disproportionate number of individuals incarcerated, African-American males; the individuals who drop out of school without graduating, African-American males; the unemployed. We brag about less than 4 percent unemployment in our country, but the highest level of unemployment is African-American males.

Something has to be done beyond the average, beyond the norm. We need programs, but we really need to keep working on reducing poverty. Many of these individuals live in poverty-stricken areas, poverty-stricken homes, single-parent homes, areas where the schools are not as good as they might be in other areas.

Therefore, we need special consideration, special treatment. We need to make sure that low-income families can get a real child tax credit like we enacted for the year 2021 where individuals who earned \$75,000 or less were able to achieve for their children under 6 \$300 a month. That helped a great deal. Of course, if they were 6 and over, under 17, it was \$250. That helped a great deal.

What can we do that relates to the needs of African-American men and boys? We can enact a serious child tax credit. We have institutions called PBIs as well as historically Black colleges and universities. I attended one. I credit it with saving my life, my being, or putting me in a position.

However, we can also do some things ourselves. Put more focus on reading. I think if a child, a young person learns to read and likes it, they then can fly as high as their understanding and imagination will take them. One of the reasons that I stand here tonight as a Member of the House of Representatives is because I learned to read when I was a little boy, and I loved it.

The more I read, the more I wanted to read.

The more I learned, the more I wanted to learn.

Of course, my father used to tell us, the more you learn, the more you realize how little you know.

Education is the cornerstone, the key, and that is one of the reasons that I just love Representative FREDERICA WILSON, because she has been an outstanding educator and has taken what she knew, brought it here to us in the House of Representatives, brought it from Florida to Washington, and now people all over the country are trying to emulate her 5000 Role Models of Excellence for African-American males; boys who were put into special programs and special activities. I commend her for that.

The last thing that I will say is in order to deal effectively with the problems associated with being an African-American male, I have been told that where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. Meaning, that if there is righteousness

where we make decisions here in Washington, D.C., our activities will follow that righteousness. We will come up with the laws, appropriate the money, and make sure that every individual in our country has the opportunity to grow, develop, to become whatever their manhood/womanhood, hard-working ambition combines to make them. That is the promise of America.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman DAVIS for his words. I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK and Representative JONATHAN JACKSON for presiding over this critical hour this evening.

I thank my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus as well as the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, but in particular, our chairwoman, FREDERICA WILSON. As a proud commissioner and a founding member, I am always grateful for the opportunity to speak in support of the vital work that this commission is undertaking.

Just last week, President Biden stood in this very Chamber, and he spoke of the transformational moment that happened 59 years ago in Selma, Alabama, as brave, nonviolent activists marched for justice and equality. We remembered our late friend and former colleague John Lewis, whose presence and influence this legislative body just really, really misses every single day.

The world has changed for Black men and boys in America since John Lewis was beaten and bloodied on a bridge in Selma, Alabama, but it is no secret that Black men and boys continue to face unjust hurdles in this country.

The reality is that life expectancy for Black men is among the lowest in the country. Most Black men do not live long enough to even collect Social Security. Black men are incarcerated at the highest rates, and Black men suffer disproportionately from income and education inequality, unemployment, health disparities, police violence, and gun violence.

I know these realities all too well. My son, Jordan Davis, was a victim of a culture of implicit bias and racism, a culture that teaches to shoot first and ask questions later, a culture that claimed the life of my son before he was even 18 years of age.

□ 2030

I think about the trajectory of my son's life and what his future was supposed to look like. I dreamed of watching him graduate from high school, going on to college, and starting a family of his own. Jordan should be living out his life and shaping his own legacy right now. I should never have had to bury my son.

I never should have had to bury my child and carry out a legacy in his name that works to save as many lives as I possibly can, but that is why I am here as a Congresswoman—to fight for

the rights of young boys that look just like my son Jordan, to provide policy solutions that will keep them safe and allow them to grow into adulthood, to prevent mothers from having to answer the same phone call that I did when I was told that my son would never ever come home again. That is why I am a founding member of this commission.

Since its inception, the commission has searched for ways to address these inequities, from education to employment, housing to healthcare, justice to civil rights. I am very proud of the work that we are doing, lifting up the stories of Black men and boys who desperately need our support.

In particular, I am heartened by the progress that we are making on gun violence prevention and accomplishments that I helped to pass such as the historic Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the first comprehensive gun violence prevention package passed in almost 30 years in this country.

That package included aspects of my Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act, and it also includes \$750 million in crisis prevention funding over 5 years and \$250 million for community violence intervention funding to give our communities the resources that they have been crying out for.

Millions of dollars have already been provided to nonprofits and community groups to keep our neighbors safe and whole, but we need to continue to do so very much more.

Last fall, I was honored to speak from the White House Press Briefing Room the day after President Biden announced the creation of the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which is overseen by Vice President HARRIS. This is a direct result of our sustained advocacy to President Biden and members of this administration. I am very pleased that I was able to advise President Biden and his administration on two close allies to help lead this office: Rob Wilcox with Everytown for Gun Safety and Greg Jackson with Community Justice Action Fund.

I have held many roles in my life. I am the daughter of civil rights leaders. I have been a flight attendant. I am a wife and a mother. At this moment, I am still a mother who is deeply concerned about the future generations of Black men and boys, and this cause, I will say, belongs to all of us.

Just last week, as distinguished guests arrived to hear the President's address, I was heartbroken and disheartened to hear firsthand from a young Black man being discriminated against in his school over his locs. For those of you who don't know what locs are, that is hair. He has not been allowed to learn alongside his peers in the classroom and is instead being separated and held for in-school suspension.

Even with the progress that we have made, our young Black boys face increasing hate on the streets and in our communities every single day. Places

that should foster learning and help them to flourish are attempting to break down their souls and tell them that they are not worthy of their own bright futures.

This is absolutely unacceptable. We must work harder than ever before to speak in one voice and demand the change that is so desperately needed in this country.

I am grateful to my colleagues in this Congress. I am so grateful to the Congressional Black Caucus and the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys to stand in the gap as elected lawmakers and loving parents and aunts and uncles of young Black men.

One thing I do know: There is nothing more powerful than a Black mother on a mission. As a Black mother, I will never falter in our work.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MCBATHE for her remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), my honorable colleague.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank my honorable colleague from the great State of Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK).

I thank the Honorable FREDERICA WILSON for her outstanding work. I thank my honorable friend from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his consistency and caring for this truly significant cause.

Madam Speaker, tonight, as we gather to discuss what is, for me, a most important area of concern, I am reminded of how overdue and necessary the concern for Black men in this Chamber happens to be.

If it is true that Black women are the most marginalized, overlooked, and economically oppressed group in America, then it is the case that Black men are, without question, the most criminalized and misunderstood.

No other community in America has had to deal with the detrimental effects of the prison industrial complex as Black men have.

Let me remind my colleagues that one in three African-American children, boys born after the year 2001, will spend time in prison over the course of their lifetime in America.

It is still the case that 1 in 230 Black boys are detained in juvenile facilities across this country. It is still the case that 1 in 1,000 Black boys will die at the hands of the police in our country. It is still the case that one in three Black children live in poverty.

The vulnerabilities abound. The misunderstandings amalgamate. The suffering continues. There is simply no other group in America more commodified and policed than the bodies and souls of young Black men.

Yet, compared to almost any other group, Black men have been some of the most dedicated devotees to the principles of America. Black men have fought and died in every war this country has ever had. From the Revolu-

tionary War in 1776 to the war in Afghanistan, Black men have stood up for what it means to be an American. Black men have died on the beaches of Normandy and in the killing fields of Vietnam. Black men gave their lives in Korea and in both World War I and II.

Let us not forget the recent deaths of three U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, men and women who were killed in Jordan near the Syrian border.

Most of the time, when Black men were dying for America, America was about the business of denying them both their humanity and their rights. For most of the 248 years of this country, the relationship between Black men and America has been one of unrequited love.

When Black men stood up for American independence, America persisted in keeping Black men in slavery and counted them as three-fifths of a person.

When Black men fought for the western expansion of this country, America rewarded Black men by then denying them 40 acres and a mule and access to the homestead grants.

When America went off to war in Europe to fight for liberation of England and France against the demonic assault of Hitler and the Nazis, Black men fought for the liberation of other people—and then came home to segregation, Jim Crow, and second-class citizenship.

America rebuilt Europe but did nothing for Black communities. America rebuilt Japan and left Black men and boys suffering without a national agenda. America defended South Korea but left Black men completely defenseless in the face of unregulated racial violence and Jim Crow economics.

After the Holocaust, America rightly supported the creation of Israel and a homeland for persecuted Jewish people but left the South Side of Chicago, Harlem, parts of Detroit, and all throughout the South, all the places where Black men seek refuge and live, without proper political and economic consideration.

The single greatest factor in the creation of the middle class in this country was the GI Bill, but even after Black men fought in the same war that made White men eligible for the GI Bill, Black soldiers were consistently denied and impeded from receiving what they deserved as a result of their sacrifice.

This is the unbroken chain of disappointing events. This predictable pattern of historical contradictions of unrequited devotion has peppered and persecuted the humanity of Black men unjustly.

Today, Black men and boys stand as the lone group in America still waiting for the Nation to understand their development to be an indispensable part of the future of this Nation.

As I stand here tonight, I ask my colleagues: Where is the national development plan for Black men and boys? If the Nation made a concerted effort to

lock up two generations of Black men and boys in the criminal industrial complex, then surely this Nation should dedicate intentional efforts to the restoration of Black men from that kind of brokenness. It is unnatural.

I think it is about time that the Federal Government intentionally put Black men on the agenda. How is it that the Nation can have a plan for everyone else, but it is completely bereft of ideas when it comes to the restoration of Black boys?

Black children are the only people in America who live in a country that has second-class schools, first-class prisons, and third-class water infrastructure.

We need a legislative agenda that will enhance the lives and future of Black men and boys. We need to set aside resources and enact policies that will facilitate the uplifting of a community, the community of Black men.

We need to enforce an agenda that will prosecute those who use their power, status, and influence to harm and criminalize those without justification or cause and one that will recognize the dignity and safety of Black men as a national priority.

We can start by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. We can start by passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020.

I call on every Member of the United States Senate to stop playing with the future of Black men because Black men are not pawns to be played with on the battlefield of identity politics but are, rather, the children of God, just like everyone else in this country.

Thankfully, because of President Biden's stewardship of the economy, Black unemployment is the lowest it has ever been, but more needs to be done.

Madam Speaker, one out of three Black families still has negative wealth—or no money, meaning they are in debt, living paycheck to paycheck. One out of every four Black children born in 1990 will experience the incarceration of their fathers in their lifetimes. One out of every six Black boys is suspended from school. It is still the case that one in nine Black children will enter the foster care system and have to live with the devastation that comes along with that.

This should not be done at the expense of any other community but should happen in concert with how we address the needs of the disinherited and marginalized amongst us.

We have already seen what Black men can do when the game is fair and the rules are made public. Black men can excel at sports, not merely because we are physically gifted but, rather, because the game cannot be rigged. When the rules are clear and everyone has the opportunity to play by the same standards, we can win. When the playing field is even and nobody gets to tilt the game in their favor, Black men can thrive.

Madam Speaker, I say to my friends today that we need Black men to

thrive in America. We need all the genius and creativity that Black men have to offer.

This Nation would be unlivable without the genius of Frederick Douglass and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

□ 2045

What would America be without the literary power of James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison?

This Nation would be an incomplete project without what Black men have given to this country. Let us recommit ourselves to the expanding future of Black men and boys. In doing so, let us reaffirm our commitment to one another.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER), my honorable colleague.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the treatment of Black men and boys in our society is not a new issue. It demands our urgent attention and decisive action. The statistics paint a grim picture.

The life expectancy of a Black man in our country remains staggering low. Black men are disproportionately affected by mass incarceration, trapped in a vicious cycle that perpetuates inequality and injustice.

Our boys are funneled into a school-to-prison pipeline at an alarming rate, their futures stolen before they can flourish.

Gun violence, health disparities, police brutality, unemployment, educational and income inequalities. These are just some of the burdens that Black men and boys disproportionately shoulder in our society.

Despite these challenges, we have shown remarkable resilience. We have risen as icons in culture, education, fashion, sports, music, and politics, proving that our potential knows no bounds. However, we cannot be complacent. We must confront the systemic injustices that continue to oppress us and work tirelessly to dismantle the chains of racism and inequality. We must invest in education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and criminal justice reform to ensure that every Black man and boy has a chance to survive and, more importantly, to thrive.

I fought tirelessly to end healthcare inequities for Black Americans, and part of that is taking care of our mental health in the same way we take care of our physical health.

I introduced the Medical Health Workforce Act to increase the number of culturally competent mental health care providers in the United States, and I will keep fighting to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health care.

It is okay to sometimes not be okay. You are not alone. Stand firm and know that if you need help, help is there for you.

Recognize that we are a people and we all have a responsibility to care for each other.

Additionally, I am an original cosponsor of the PSA Screening for HIM Act. This bill requires health insurance providers to offer screenings without any cost-sharing requirements for Black men or men with a history of prostate cancer between the ages of 55 and 69; those individuals that are at the highest risk.

Prostate cancer affects Black men in the United States at an alarming rate but it does not have to be a death sentence.

Every year, the Black community is disproportionately affected by prostate cancer. Moreover, Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer as White men, but when we are diagnosed early enough, the survival rate is 97 percent. When diagnosed early enough, 97 percent survival rate.

When the engine light in your car goes off, you pull over. You check the oil. You check the fluids.

You make sure your car is all right because you don't want your precious engine to be damaged. But when our bodies tell us something is going wrong, we ignore it, whether it is mental or physical. We have to learn to pay attention to that light that indicates something is wrong, and then we have to be bold enough and bad enough to seek help and to know that sometimes it is okay to not be okay. There is nothing wrong with it.

The stigma associated with mental health is too great, and we as a community have to build beyond it. We saw what happened with the young people after COVID. Isolation, our babies, sitting at home with nothing to do but the internet and the dangers, and what we see happen as a result of that.

You are not alone. The attack is real, and we as a community must do something about it.

The Congressional Black Caucus is doing just that.

When we stand up and we fight for our young men and boys to tell them that: You will not be a lost cause, that are not alone, that we believe in you. We know that you can be successful, and we know that you can be great. We are going to stand with you through thick and thin.

We know erasures are on pencils for a reason because sometimes we make a mistake. It is not the mistake; it is how you recover from it.

Our society must do better. We must provide better educational opportunities, better economic opportunities and higher wages so people can enjoy a greater quality of life.

Supporting Black men and boys is not just a moral imperative, it is essential for the prosperity and well-being of our entire Nation. Together, let's advocate for change and build a future where every Black man and boy could reach their full potential and their God-given talents.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Madam Speaker, today I rise to discuss a pressing issue that has long lingered in the shadows of society, which is the reality of health disparities that disproportionately impact Black men and boys in the United States.

It is of grave concern that requires our collective attention, empathy, and most importantly, action.

The staggering health disparities faced by Black men and boys in the United States demands concrete legislative action.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to fight tirelessly to end these disparities through comprehensive and long-term policies that address the root causes of these injustices.

We cannot ignore the profound and harsh truth that health and well-being of Black men and boys are in jeopardy. We see this truth manifest in the life expectancy gap that persists between Black and White men in America.

Studies have shown that Black men are more likely to experience significantly shorter lifespans than their White counterparts. This is both at birth and at the age of 65.

According to the CDC, for White men, life expectancy at birth is about 6 years longer than at 65. However, for Black men, that gap is over 9 years, showing that Black men are more likely to die prematurely. This is not merely a statistical anomaly but a symptom of a system that does not address the root causes of these disparities.

Such studies have shown that the burden of chronic disease, such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease, disproportionately affect Black men and boys. This is not a result of a mere circumstance but, rather, a consequence of systemic issues, including limited access to quality healthcare, economic disparities, and racism.

Furthermore, diseases like obesity impact Black men and boys at alarming rates. Obesity-related health disparities are felt most acutely by underserved populations, including populations and communities of color, low-income communities, and those who live in rural areas.

That is why I introduced H. Res. 1047, a resolution alongside my CBC colleague, GWEN MOORE, recognizing the urgent need to prevent and treat obesity as a disease to reduce the risk of related diseases and comorbidities amongst the Black community.

We must acknowledge that healthcare is a fundamental human right, not a privilege dictated by one's racial or ethnic background. To bridge the gap in life expectancy and to address the prevalence of chronic diseases, we must prioritize this issue and allocate resources for preventive care and community health programs in underserved areas.

The mental health crisis amongst Black men and boys is also of major concern. The stigma surrounding mental health in the Black community often prevents individuals from seeking the health they desperately need.

As a result, Black men and boys are more likely to suffer in silence, leading to higher rates of untreated mental health issues and, tragically, a greater risk of suicide.

We must champion comprehensive legislation, expanding access to mental health services by allocating funds for mental health awareness campaigns, destigmatization initiatives, and community-based mental health clinics. We can create an environment where Black men and boys feel comfortable seeking help when they need it.

We cannot turn a blind eye to these horrific disparities any longer. It is our moral imperative to confront the root causes of this crisis and work collectively toward a more equitable and just healthcare system.

We must advocate for policies that address socioeconomic inequalities, improve access to education, increase employment opportunities, and eliminate the racial biases that exists within the healthcare system.

All these things are possible if Members of Congress commit to changing the trajectory of our Black men and our boys.

I have been fortunate to raise a Black boy, and I pray every day that he can actually live beyond the odds. That is going to take more than prayer. That will take actions from all of our colleagues to make sure that all of our children have the same opportunities, regardless of their race, where they live, and where they are from.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to start supporting, allocating funds, and taking affirmative steps to change the trajectory of our Black men and boys, starting with health inequalities, specifically mental health and obesity treatments and comorbidities.

Madam Speaker, you have heard from my distinguished colleagues on Black men and boys, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

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

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 on Friday, March 8, 2024:

H.R. 4366. An Act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker, on Friday, March 8, 2024, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

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 purpose.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on March 8, 2024, the following bills were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 4366. Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-3348. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reauthorization of Dairy Forward Pricing Program [Doc. No.: AMS-DA-23-0085] (RIN: 0581-AE27) received February 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-3349. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Joint final rule — Form PF; Reporting Requirements for All Filers and Large Hedge Fund Advisers [Release No.: IA-6546; File No.: S7-22-22] (RIN: 3235-AN13) received March 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-3350. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Rural Development Innovation Center, Rural Development — Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Notice of funding opportunity — Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural eConnectivity Program for Fiscal Year 2024 [Docket Number: RUS-23-Telecom-0022] received February 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-3351. A letter from the Director, Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Minimum Sound Requirements for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles [Docket No.: NHTSA-2022-0061] (RIN: 2127-AL93) received February 28, 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-3352. A letter from the Director, Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exemptions From Average Fuel Economy Standards; Passenger Automobile Average Fuel Economy Standards [NHTSA-2022-0048] (RIN: 2127-AM29) received February 28, 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-3353. A letter from the Director, Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Child Restraint Systems; Child Restraint Systems—Side Impact Protection, Incorporation by Reference [Docket No.: NHTSA-2022-0051] (RIN: 2127-AK95) received February 28, 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-3354. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3355. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination and accompanying documentation, pursuant to Public Law 117-328, Sec. 7034(l)(5); (136 Stat. 5033); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3356. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination and accompanying documentation, pursuant to Public Law 117-328, Sec. 7034(l)(5); (136 Stat. 5033); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3357. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 23-9987, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3358. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 23-9987, pursuant to 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3359. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to the Darfur Sanctions Regulations received March 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3360. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updating contact information and grammatical terminology in OFAC regulations received March 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3361. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-406, "Strengthening Traffic Enforcement, Education, and Responsibility ("STEER") Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3362. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-407, "Uniform Commercial

Code Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3363. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-408, "Housing Subsidy Contract Stabilization Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3364. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 25-409, "Litter Control Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3365. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's summary of the inventories of commercial and inherently governmental activities for fiscal year 2023, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3366. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisiton Regulation; Removing Small Disadvantaged Business Program Requirements to Align with the FAR [GSAR Case 2022-G519; Docket No.: 2024-0006; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 3090-AK78) received February 26, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3367. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Secretariat Division, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Updated Guidance for Non-Federal Entities Access to Federal Supply Schedules [GSAR Case 2020-G511; Docket No.: GSA-GSAR-2023-0019; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 3090-AK21) received February 26, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3368. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Certification of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses [FAC 2024-03; FAR Case 2022-009; Item I; Docket No.: FAR-2022-0009; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AO46) received February 27, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3369. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation:Trade Agreements Thresholds [FAC 2024-03; FAR Case 2023-012; Item II; Docket No.: FAR-2023-0012; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AO62) received February 27, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3370. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Small Entity Compliance Guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-03; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAR-2024-0051, Sequence No.: 1] received February 27, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3371. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-03; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2024-0051, Sequence No.: 1] received February 27, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3372. A letter from the Management Analyst, Division of Regulations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments [NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0037190; PPWOWPADU0/PPMPRLE1Y.Y00000] (RIN: 1024-AE85) received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3373. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties received March 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3374. A letter from the Director, Rule-making Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Civil Penalties [Docket No.: NHTSA-2021-0001] (RIN: 2127-AM32) received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3375. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31531; Amdt. No.: 4100] received March 8, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3376. A letter from the Director, Rule-making Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Bus Rollover Structural Integrity [Docket No.: NHTSA-2021-0088] (RIN: 2127-AK96) received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3377. A letter from the Director, Rule-making Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Rear Impact Guards, Rear Impact Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA-2022-0053] (RIN: 2127-AL58) received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3378. A letter from the Legislative Director, Legislative Division, American Legion, transmitting The American Legion's 102nd Annual Report, The American Legion's Proceedings Of The 102nd Annual National Convention, And The American Legion's Proceedings Of The 103rd Annual National Convention (H. Doc. No. 118-15); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-3379. A letter from the Legislative Director, Legislative Division, American Le-

gion, transmitting The American Legion's 103rd Annual Report, The American Legion's Proceedings Of The 103rd Annual National Convention, And The American Legion's Proceedings Of The 104th Annual National Convention (H. Doc. No. 118-16); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-3380. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expansion of the Red Hills Lake County Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0012; T.D. TTB-190; Ref. Notice No.: 217] received February 26, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7521. A bill to protect the national security of the United states from the threat posed by foreign adversary controlled applications, such as TikTok and any successor application or service and any other application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Ltd. or an entity under the control of ByteDance Ltd. (Rept. 118-417). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS OF Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7520. A bill to prohibit data brokers from transferring sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-418). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MASSIE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1071. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) to direct the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify the utilization rate of certain public buildings and federally-leased space, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies (Rept. 118-419). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CURTIS: H.R. 7608. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons that operate in a sector of the People's Republic of China's economy in which the person has engaged in a pattern of significant theft of the intellectual property of a United States person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Ms. KUSTER): H.R. 7609. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide for the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers under the

renewable fuel program for electricity from renewable biomass, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 7610. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to clarify that utility line technicians qualify as emergency response providers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 7611. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide loans to manufacturers of energy grid products and components; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 7612. A bill to affirm and protect the First Amendment rights of students and student organizations at public institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. McGARVEY):

H.R. 7613. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a limitation on the amount of entitlement to educational assistance payable for flight training under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7614. A bill to prohibit the payment of the salaries of the President and members of the cabinet if the President fails to submit the annual budget to Congress before the first Monday in February of any year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 7615. A bill to allow States to elect to observe daylight savings time for the duration of the year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 7616. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide assistance for building in, or rebuilding Gaza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 7617. A bill to prohibit no-knock warrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 7618. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include physical therapists and occupational therapists as health professionals for purposes of the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 7619. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States on strategies under Medicaid and CHIP to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider education, training, recruitment, and retention; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. MACE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 7620. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to re-

quire the acceptance of cash payments for entrance fees at units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 1072. A resolution recognizing the 65th anniversary of the Tibetan Uprising Day of March 10, 1959, and condemning human rights violations related to the hydropower dam construction project in Derge; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H. Res. 1073. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to deny the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House to former Members who have been expelled from the House; to the Committee on Rules.

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. ISSA:

H.R. 7597.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7608.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To impose sanctions on CCP officials and persons that engage in intellectual property against U.S. persons

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 7609.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide for the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers under the renewable fuel program for electricity from renewable biomass, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 7610.

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

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to clarify utility line technicians qualify as emergency response providers.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 7611.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for

carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide loans to manufacturers of energy grid products and components.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 7612.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To affirm and protect the First Amendment rights of students and student organizations at public institutions of higher education.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 7613.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill relates to veteran's flight training education.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7614.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the payment of the salaries of the President and members of the cabinet if the President fails to submit the annual budget to Congress before the first Monday in February of any year.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 7615.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow States to elect to observe daylight savings time for the duration of the year, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 7616

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

Article I, Section 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Would prohibit the use of Federal funds for building in, or rebuilding the Gaza Strip.

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 7617.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Policing

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 7618.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health care

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7619.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States on strategies under Medicaid and CHIP to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider education, training, recruitment, and retention.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 7620.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to require the acceptance of cash payments for entrance fees at units of the National Park System.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 17: Mr. LANDSMAN.
 H.R. 41: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
 H.R. 148: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 214: Mr. OGLES.
 H.R. 233: Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 303: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 472: Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H.R. 539: Mr. CISCOMANI.
 H.R. 694: Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 766: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 789: Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 798: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 830: Mr. LAWLER and Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 871: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 882: Ms. SALINAS.
 H.R. 895: Ms. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 898: Mr. ARMSTRONG and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 907: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 1078: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
 H.R. 1083: Mr. LAWLER and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 1097: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 1110: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 1179: Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 1191: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 1255: Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 1293: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 1310: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 1321: Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 1359: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 1403: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 1472: Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 1477: Mr. WALTZ.
 H.R. 1478: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER.
 H.R. 1509: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 1572: Mr. BACON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 1668: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 1705: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 1785: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 1787: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 1815: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 1826: Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 2370: Mr. NEAL.
 H.R. 2394: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 2447: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 2449: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 2548: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
 H.R. 2552: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 2560: Mr. MFUME and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2584: Mr. GALLEGOS.
 H.R. 2601: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 2662: Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 2693: Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. SALINAS, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H.R. 2713: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 2736: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
 H.R. 2849: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 2852: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 2941: Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 3005: Mr. CISCOMANI.
 H.R. 3012: Mrs. BICE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 3032: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 3037: Mr. NEAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 3170: Mr. AMO, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 3350: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 3380: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 3409: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 3413: Mr. COLLINS and Mrs. BICE.
 H.R. 3433: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3481: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 3539: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 3656: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 3698: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 3787: Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 3875: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
 H.R. 3933: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. YAKYM.
 H.R. 4054: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 4111: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 4157: Mr. BARR, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 4185: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
 H.R. 4188: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 4189: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
 H.R. 4293: Mr. GOODEN of Texas and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 4334: Mr. KILEY.
 H.R. 4448: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 4566: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 4757: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
 H.R. 4758: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 4769: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. BOST.
 H.R. 4845: Ms. JAYAPAL and Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 4893: Mrs. HAYES, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
 H.R. 4916: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 4927: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 4949: Ms. LEE of Florida.
 H.R. 5035: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 5064: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 5077: Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 5163: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5212: Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 5247: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5266: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 5290: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 5291: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 5292: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 5293: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 5294: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 5295: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 5403: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
 H.R. 5420: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 5443: Mr. MOYLAN.
 H.R. 5625: Mr. LAWLER and Ms. SALINAS.
 H.R. 5633: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 5717: Mr. CISCOMANI.
 H.R. 5748: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 5757: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 5798: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 5813: Mr. HOYER.
 H.R. 5829: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 5840: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.R. 5864: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 6030: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 6049: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.
 H.R. 6053: Mrs. MCBATH.
 H.R. 6054: Ms. PORTER and Mr. RUPPERS-BERGER.
 H.R. 6087: Mr. MAGAZINER.
 H.R. 6090: Mr. ALLEN.
 H.R. 6153: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 6155: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 6160: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 6161: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 6201: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 6203: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
 H.R. 6271: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.R. 6283: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK.
 H.R. 6342: Mr. MOYLAN.
 H.R. 6368: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
 H.R. 6388: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 6421: Mr. JORDAN.
 H.R. 6425: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. LALOTA, and Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 6608: Ms. BUSH.
 H.R. 6612: Mr. DAVIDSON.
 H.R. 6659: Mr. LANDSMAN.
 H.R. 6683: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
 H.R. 6720: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 6775: Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 6925: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 6951: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. YAKYM.
 H.R. 6959: Mr. HOYER.
 H.R. 7014: Mr. ROY.
 H.R. 7025: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 7046: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. YAKYM.
 H.R. 7107: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 7145: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
 H.R. 7148: Mr. CAREY.
 H.R. 7153: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 7165: Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Ms. PETTERSEN.
 H.R. 7171: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 7222: Mr. CAREY and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 7242: Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 7248: Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 7274: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 7297: Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 7299: Mr. MORELLE.
 H.R. 7322: Mr. CRANE.
 H.R. 7338: Mr. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 7343: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. STAUBER.
 H.R. 7365: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.R. 7373: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 7398: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 7438: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 7450: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mrs. SPARTZ.
 H.R. 7457: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
 H.R. 7471: Mr. PFLUGER.
 H.R. 7472: Mr. COMER.
 H.R. 7494: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. MANN.
 H.R. 7520: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ALLEN, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 7521: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MFUME, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mrs. SPARTZ.
 H.R. 7525: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 7555: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 7563: Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 7574: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
 H.R. 7580: Mr. BABIN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
 H.R. 7581: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
 H.R. 7600: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H.J. Res. 54: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.J. Res. 82: Mr. SWALWELL.
 H.J. Res. 103: Mr. HUDSON.
 H.J. Res. 117: Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. BAIRD.
 H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H. Con. Res. 82: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana,
Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. STEIL.
H. Res. 105: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 152: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 389: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H. Res. 578: Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 709: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia
and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 729: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 808: Mr. LAWLER and Mr.
AUCHINCLOSS.
H. Res. 861: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 901: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H. Res. 946: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 955: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 1031: Mr. CRANE.

H. Res. 1047: Mr. LAWLER and Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 1050: Mr. NADLER and Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 1053: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H. Res. 1063: Mr. BEYER.
H. Res. 1064: Mr. BABIN.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024

No. 43

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray. God of love, whose Spirit is known by those with thankful hearts and who makes cheerfulness a companion of strength, lift our hearts to a joyous confidence in Your care. Lord, give us opportunities to tell of all the marvelous things You have done in our Nation's history, as we seek to glorify Your Name.

Lord, guide and protect our lawmakers. Teach them to find and trust You as they grow in grace and in a knowledge of Your providential leading. Remind them that when they feel overwhelmed, You stand behind the dim unknown to deliver them from doubt. May they claim Your promise to provide them with mercy and grace to help them in their time of need.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on Friday, the Senate completed its work on annual appropriations for six major areas of the Federal Govern-

ment: agriculture and rural development; commerce, justice, and science; energy and water development; interior and environment; military construction, veterans' affairs; and transportation, housing, and urban development.

The Senate's vote was a major milestone in a process our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee began the better part of a year ago. Thanks to Senator COLLINS and Senator MURRAY's commitment to operating in good faith and adhering as much as possible to regular order, a significant portion of the Federal Government's discretionary budget is complete.

As I mentioned last week, the agreement before the Senate includes a number of conservative accomplishments that Vice Chair COLLINS fought for upfront. I am especially pleased that it will advance priorities near and dear to the hearts of my fellow Kentuckians—from rural transportation to military readiness to stopping the flow of illegal drugs.

I am proud to represent three military installations in Kentucky that are vital to America's national defense strategy. And the bill the Senate passed last week will fund critical construction projects at each of them. It green-lights the construction of top-of-the-line training and operational capabilities at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell, both home to a number of our Nation's most storied Army units. And it resurrects resources from a National Guard training range in Greenville, KY, a long-overdue project that has fallen by the wayside for nearly two decades.

Hundreds of millions of dollars will also go toward helping rural Kentuckians and the rest of Middle America: urgent funding to overhaul aging roads, bridges, and river ports that hold back Main Street; investments for clean, reliable water infrastructure; funds to continue environmental cleanup efforts in Paducah; and resources to

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



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expand broadband access to every corner of the Commonwealth. It also empowers law enforcement with new resources to combat the opioid crisis that has devastated my home State and remains a top killer of young Kentuckians.

So I was glad the Senate finished the job on a major portion of our government funding responsibilities, and I was especially proud to deliver on some of my fellow Kentuckians' top priorities.

SWEDEN

Madam President, on another matter, last week, I was proud to welcome the Prime Minister of Sweden to the Capitol on a historic day in his Nation's history and a great day for America and fellow members of the transatlantic alliance.

Earlier today, the flag of Sweden was raised over NATO headquarters for the first time. Sweden is our newest NATO ally, and the Prime Minister's visit to Washington marked the culmination of a process that began more than 2 years ago. As Russian forces amassed on Ukraine's border in the winter of 2022, Putin's aggressive ambitions clarified the thinking of some of Europe's strongest security partners.

From outside NATO, Sweden and Finland had already built advanced economies, capable militaries, and impressive defense industries. But in the face of an axis of revisionist powers, our Nordic friends decided it was time to cast their lot with the most successful military alliance in history.

Their path to accession is a clarifying reminder that NATO has always been a defensive alliance. Its members first undertook the responsibility of collective security to defending against growing Soviet aggression. Central and Eastern European members pursued membership after the fall of the Iron Curtain to protect their newly reclaimed sovereignty and democracy.

NATO's expansion has always been linked to the threat posed by outside forces; and today, it is no different. I have been proud to walk with our newest allies at every stop of the process. I will never forget standing with them 2 years ago in Stockholm and in Helsinki on the very day the Swedish and Finnish Parliaments voted overwhelmingly to launch their NATO axis bills.

Russia's escalation in Ukraine has unified Swedish and Finnish leaders. In both countries, strong support for NATO and a willingness to share the burden of collective defense literally transcends party lines.

Today, America's newest treaty allies are poised to make significant, immediate contributions to the transatlantic alliance. With highly trained forces equipped with cutting-edge capabilities, their commitment to NATO is a tremendous vote of confidence in the enduring importance of collective defense.

With Sweden and Finland in our ranks, the West stands even more united against autocrats with imperial

designs. With two new frontline allies, America's interests are more secure.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Madam President, on another matter, this week, the Senate will get yet another chance to put the emergency brakes on a particularly harmful piece of the Biden administration's Federal regulatory state.

The Federal Highway Administration finalized a rule late last year that would force States and local planning agencies to set declining greenhouse gas emissions targets and require them to meet those targets. The idea is to make the entire country build its infrastructure the way the bluest coastal cities, like San Francisco, do. Subway stops, electrical vehicle chargers, and bike lanes in rural places like North Dakota? It is a one-size-fits-all mandate. In other words, it forces Middle America to say goodbye to urgent projects on the sort of transportation infrastructure that actually makes sense for them.

What is more, FHWA lacks the authority to implement this rule. Congress explicitly debated and rejected language to authorize this type of target during the lead-up to the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

So I am very grateful to my colleague Senator CRAMER for taking the lead on this CRA, and I would urge all of our colleagues to support him on the floor this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

COMMUNICATION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Senate regarding a message from the President received during the adjournment of the Senate.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Dear Madam President, on Saturday, March 9, 2024, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate dated March 9, 2024, said to contain a message regarding the designation of funding as an emergency requirement in H.R. 4366, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. The Senate not being in session on the day which the President delivered this message, I accepted the message at 12:05 p.m., and I now present to you the President's message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate. Respectfully, Sonceria A. Berry, Secretary of the Senate.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today, President Biden released his budget for fiscal year 2025. President Biden's budget can be summarized in three words: bold, optimistic, responsible.

President Biden's budget highlights the sharp contrast between the Democrats' positive, proactive vision and the Republicans' negative, regressive vision for our country.

Democrats are focused on growing the economy in a responsible way, while making smart investments in the American people and our future. That is why a centerpiece of President Biden's budget focuses on creating opportunity for working Americans by ending the reckless Trump-era tax scam, which overwhelmingly cut taxes for the wealthiest few and large corporations and added trillions to the national debt.

It was recently confirmed that the Republican tax law did not pay for itself, as we heard over and over again from our Republican colleagues. Democrats know that we can and must do better.

As the President pointed out during his State of the Union Address last week, a fair Tax Code is how we can better invest in things like healthcare, education, and economic opportunity for more Americans. President Trump's tax scam proved everything but fair. It rewarded the wealthy and well-connected, while leaving working families with the tab.

Time has shown that this tax scam was a dud for our economy and a political loser for the Republican Party because the American people saw it for what it was.

Republicans also talk a big game about lowering the deficit, but President Biden's budget actually proposes measures to do it. It proposes measures to reduce the deficit by nearly \$3 trillion over the next decade.

That budget will help improve the solvency of vital programs like Medicare and Social Security, which tens of millions of Americans rely on every single day.

It will reinstate the child tax credit we passed in the American Rescue Plan, which greatly reduced child poverty before expiring.

That is not all. President Biden's budget builds on the progress Democrats have made to help grow America from the middle out and the bottom up. From the infrastructure law, to the CHIPS and Science Act, to the Inflation Reduction Act, to the PACT Act, and more, Democrats made a lot of good investments that are already paying off for the American people. Inflation is cooling down. Manufacturing is surging. Consumer sentiment is growing. The cost of insulin and other drugs

is falling. We have created a record 15 million new jobs since President Biden took office. President Biden's budget will help ensure we continue to make good on the investments from our agenda and build an economy that works for everyone.

Here is the bottom line: President Biden's budget shows there are two clear choices for America's future and highlights Democrats' vision for a better America.

Democrats want to keep taxes low for middle-class families and make the ultrawealthy pay their fair share, while Republicans fight to make it easier for wealthy tax cheats to pay less than middle-class families. Democrats will protect Medicare and Social Security, while Republicans look to cut these hard-earned benefits. Democrats want to make investments so every American family can do better, while Republicans want those who have already done very well to do even better.

So I thank President Biden for releasing a bold, optimistic, responsible budget for the Nation.

HEALTHCARE CYBER ATTACK

Madam President, now on the healthcare cyber attack, after last month's devastating, unprecedented cyber attack on tens of thousands of hospitals, pharmacies, and doctors' offices in New York and across America, I am proud that last week HHS and CMS heeded my call to provide healthcare providers immediate relief to help get their systems back up to speed.

This weekend, we received more good news: CMS expanded its response to the cyber attack to include Medicare Part B providers. This new action by CMS will directly help our doctors on the frontline of this crisis continue to stay open and provide care for their patients. Because of the cyber attack, people weren't getting the dollars they had to expend to do their jobs. I commend CMS for continuing to heed my call for an all-hands-on-deck approach to this crisis.

For over 3 weeks now, providers—including hospitals, doctors, and pharmacies big and small—have all been unable to submit medical claims as a result of this cyber attack, leaving many facing imminent insolvency. I met with Rome Health in Rome, NY, and Cayuga Health in Ithaca, who told me they are losing hundreds of thousands of dollars a day and have stacks of claims nearly 2 feet high that they are unable to file.

The American people are feeling the pain of this cyber attack too. Many are struggling to refill prescriptions, some are having their care delayed or denied, and others are unable to use patient assistance programs they rely on.

Had CMS not stepped up to the plate, hospitals and pharmacies—especially the smaller ones that don't have large cash reserves—faced the risk of laying people off or even shutting down entirely because they were not being reimbursed.

So this new action by CMS to expand its response and include Medicare Part B providers in relief efforts is an encouraging step, but this crisis is far from over. I will continue working with the administration, my colleagues in Congress, CMS—I talked to the Administrator just a few hours ago—and others in the healthcare industry to get providers the relief they need and to protect our healthcare system from future attacks.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Madam President, now on the American Rescue Plan anniversary, today is the 3-year anniversary of President Biden signing the American Rescue Plan into law, which I was proud to lead here in the Senate.

After Congress passed the ARP plan, I said, "Help is on the way." That was the promise of the American Rescue Plan—to put shots in arms, to put money in people's pockets, and to propel our country out of the COVID crisis. Three years later, it is safe to say these investments have paid off and that the American Rescue Plan put America and our economy on a path toward the historic recovery we are witnessing today. Before the American Rescue Plan, job growth was unsteady, and millions were at risk of losing their jobs. Three years later, we have seen the strongest 3-year job growth in American history—in American history—over 15 million new jobs since President Biden took office.

Before the American Rescue Plan, the United States was losing manufacturing jobs by the day. Three years later, manufacturing investment—something that plagued America even before the pandemic—is near an all-time high, more than double its highest point during the previous administration.

Critics argued that the American Rescue Plan would cause excessive inflation. Well, 3 years later, inflation has cooled down to the lowest levels since the start of the pandemic, from 9 percent to just below 3 percent, meaning the prices of things like groceries, appliances, car rentals, and airfares have all come down.

In the American Rescue Plan, we secured significant pension reform through the passage of the Butch Lewis Act, which has helped millions and millions of American workers receive the financial security they earned through their labors.

I was proud to bring Deborah Hartman from Buffalo, NY, as my guest to President Biden's State of the Union last week. She called this critical plan "the best thing that has happened to labor in I don't know how many years." It means the world to working people.

We also included a dramatic expansion of the child tax credit, which helped millions and millions of families afford the cost of childcare and other needs. We provided billions in rental relief to help people keep a roof over their heads; billions in fiscal relief for

States, cities, and localities to help them stay afloat; billions for education and broadband access to help kids get back in the classroom; and much more.

The bottom line is this: Three years after President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan, it is proving to be a historic win for American families, workers, and the economy. And it is thanks to the American Rescue Plan and other landmark legislation we passed—like the infrastructure law, Chips and Science, and the Inflation Reduction Act—that today the U.S. economy is the envy of the world. Of course, our work is far from over, but we can look back and be very proud of what we accomplished in the ARP.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SUNSHINE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, every year, at this time of the year, Sunshine Week is held around the birthday of James Madison—not only a former President but one of our greatest Founding Fathers and the acclaimed "Father of the Constitution."

Sunshine Week is a critical reminder of the need for transparency and open government. And our government is not as open as it should be.

President Madison famously said that a great difficulty in forming a government operated by imperfect people was that you must oblige it—meaning the government—to control itself. Well, amen to what Madison said.

As a conservative, I have worked especially hard on Madison's challenge, making sure that the government controls itself. One way to do that is to limit the size and scope of the government. It is hard to control a government that does everything but make your bed and tuck you in to sleep.

Another check on out-of-control government is separation of powers—the same separation of powers when you study the essentials of American government. Congress doesn't execute laws. The President and the executive agencies shouldn't try to make laws. And neither should our courts.

To control a government as big as ours, it takes a lot of very bright light shining on every Agency and Office. And instead of 1 week called Sunshine Week, we ought to have 365 days a year in which we have sunshine on our government's operation.

I have long supported the Freedom of Information Act. And that act urges Agencies to be more responsive to record requests. That is essential to open government because it gives citizens access to information. As the old saying goes, knowledge is power.

Congress also has a solemn constitutional duty to conduct strong oversight to ensure that the executive branch executes the laws as Congress has intended. You learn that in eighth grade civics class, called checks and balances of government. I call it oversight. But it is a constitutional responsibility.

We can't legislate effectively unless we in Congress know what is going on behind the scenes, and most of that behind-the-scenes is in the executive branch of government. That is why whistleblowers are so very important and why I rely on whistleblowers to give me a lot of information I would not have other access to. So I consider them a very important part of doing my role, my constitutional responsibility of oversight to see that a President does what the Constitution says, and his oath says to faithfully execute the laws.

These whistleblowers are patriots and our most powerful tool in rooting out waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct. Despite their vital contribution to good government, they are often targeted for retaliation and harassment. That should stop. In so many speeches, I have come to the floor of the U.S. Senate to point out specific examples of where these patriotic people we call whistleblowers are retaliated against and retaliated in a way that—the law says that retaliation is not lawful.

There is a growing trend among Federal Agencies to place a blanket of silence over whistleblowers. The Agencies do this by violating whistleblower disclosure laws, including withholding notice of what we call anti-gag provisions. In other words, if you are the head of an Agency and you have a whistleblower, you can't tell them they can't talk to Congress.

The law requires all Federal Agencies to include an anti-gag provision in their nondisclosure policies and forms. This provision notifies employees of their rights to report misconduct to Congress, to inspectors general, and to the Office of Special Counsel.

Without knowing of the anti-gag provision's protections, employees who see government wrongdoing often stay in the shadows. If people are notified that they can talk to Congress and the law protects them, we are more apt to get information on wrongdoing, the misexpenditure of money, or laws not being carried out as we intended that Congress wouldn't even know about.

The reason they don't speak is they fear the retaliation if they do speak out, and this is what I have spoken about so many times on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The fact that they are retaliated against is something that I say over and over again is unacceptable. That is why this week I wrote to all of our inspectors general of the executive branch of government, requesting they ensure this provision is included, as required by law, which will make it harder for Federal Agencies to conceal their wrongdoing.

This year, whistleblowers have helped to let the sunshine in where it matters most. They are helping me track down vulnerable migrant children the Biden Department of Health and Human Services has failed to protect against potential trafficking. As we speak, law enforcement is working through information I provided to hopefully bring their own special kind of sunshine to the criminals taking advantage of these young kids.

I have also sought information from government contractors who receive billions of taxpayer dollars to care for unaccompanied children but whose practices and failures are largely shielded from public knowledge and scrutiny. We need a full accounting of how contractors spend the taxpayers' hard-earned money.

That is why last year I also launched an investigation into one of the Environmental Protection Agency's grant programs. That exposed significant waste. It turns out that the EPA doesn't even require the program's grantees to submit financial documents during the grant that show how taxpayer money is being spent by those various organizations.

You would think Agencies would be very grateful when these failures are exposed. Instead, you know what—I was met with delay and obstruction by this administration's EPA. Accountability can be uncomfortable, and bureaucrats don't like it. After I reported that obstruction to the EPA Office of Inspector General, it agreed to audit the program and look into how EPA influenced grantees to obstruct my oversight.

Then we get to the Justice Department and the FBI. Recently, the Justice Department indicted an FBI confidential human source who served as the basis for what is commonly known as the document 1023. That is the FBI-generated document that Chairman COMER in the House and I made public alleging criminal bribery schemes between the Biden family and a foreign national. Embarrassingly, for 3 years, the 1023 collected dust—until Congress and Justice Department whistleblowers forced the FBI and U.S. Attorney Weiss to interview that FBI source.

The Federal indictment doesn't explain the full set of facts and leaves many questions unanswered. Those questions include how the Justice Department and the FBI could use this confidential human source for approximately 13 years, pay him hundreds of thousands of dollars, use his information in investigations and prosecutions, and then ultimately determine after 13 or 14 years that this guy is a liar. According to government documents in the court case, the FBI source was reporting information to the FBI as late as December 2023.

This is a matter that requires extensive sunlight.

If not for whistleblowers, my securing the document 1023 and releasing that document, do you know what? The

FBI would still be believing the lies of their confidential human source, and they would still be paying taxpayer dollars to this confidential source for the lies he was giving to the FBI. Now, they have arrested him because of my oversight work. So what is the government doing to get all the money back that they paid him?

In addition to my investigative efforts, I have worked with a bipartisan set of colleagues to strengthen attorney misconduct oversight at the Justice Department. For example, I co-sponsored bipartisan legislation to close a loophole that prevents the inspector general at the Department of Justice from investigating alleged Justice Department attorney misconduct. Now, understand, in the Department of Justice, the inspector general, who is supposed to sort out wrongdoing, can't even investigate the lawyers of that Department when they do misconduct.

My consistent efforts to let in sunshine continue across our government, whether it is asking the FBI to explain a memo targeting Catholics based on biased sources, ensuring our immigration officials follow the law and collect DNA from illegal migrants they encounter at the border, or even exposing flaws at the Veterans' Administration that endangered the privacy of our veterans.

So we all ought to be thankful for Sunshine Week, which is an opportunity for us doing our constitutional duty of oversight to highlight these efforts and to remind us that shining a consistent light is essential to make government accountable to "we the people."

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

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am here to talk about flood insurance, an issue facing Louisiana, and, I am sorry to say, an issue now facing the Presiding Officer's State.

Floods can occur anywhere—for example, on the top of a mountaintop. People don't realize that, but you have this gully going down from the top to the bottom, and if it gets a big rain—boom—going down from the top of that mountain, you will have a flood.

And that has occurred, unfortunately, in California. I spent several years in Southern California, and I can relate to that.

But it happens regularly in my State. Now, why in my State? Well, folks think of hurricanes as wind, rain, and lightning, but one of the greatest threats is actually the risk of flooding.

And these floods can destroy homes, businesses and leave them—if they don't destroy them right away, they can leave them moist. And when it is moist, it begins to rot from the inside. And homes that families have lived in for over 50 years that have never flooded before can become uninhabitable.

So if you come down to Louisiana or California or Pennsylvania or West Virginia or other things, and you ask folks in the bottom of a riverbed, for example, if a flood can upend their life, they will say emphatically yes.

So if we know the answer is an emphatic yes, then what can Congress do about it, if anything? Well, we have a mechanism to address it, the National Flood Insurance Program which currently ensures 4.7 million American families. It is a Federal program, and we are the ones that can change it to make it more reliable, more affordable, more sustainable.

But the challenge is that it is a tough topic. A lot of folks in Congress just don't understand the issue. And so we need to have the understanding, but then we also need the political will.

Now, this has just kind of—boom—up, up, up in urgency. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently implemented a new risk assessment called Risk Rating 2.0. Now Risk Rating 2.0 affects Louisiana, the Gulf Coast—frankly, all coasts and anyplace where there is a river or stream that can overflow, and it particularly affects folks who are lower income.

Sometimes people say that the flood insurance program is a program for rich people. Not true; 62 percent of all NFIP policies are in parishes or counties where the median household income is below the national average of \$54,000. And truth be told that, as we again just saw in California—what you think of as a desert State—flooding can occur in any State.

So if we look here, here are NFIP claims by cost: 44 out of 50 States have had over \$50 million of National Flood Insurance Program claims from 1978 to 2021. And there are only 6 States that have less than \$50 million in claims; 13 States have had over a billion in damage, and they are all over the map. It is Virginia—and not just the coastal states—it is Missouri; it is the States on the gulf; it is California; it is going up the northeast. This is geographically distributed.

And, by the way, these are the States hit hardest, but they are not the only States. Every State has had at least an NFIP claim somewhere, sometime, because every State is affected by flooding.

Now, the way the program is currently being conducted, however, is putting it into what is called an actuarial death spiral. Rising premiums mean fewer can afford the insurance. So let's set this up. Right now, you have people at high risk; and the way insurance works is it spreads it over plans over homes that have a lower risk. But if you raise everybody's pre-

miums dramatically, the people who are at lowest risk will drop their coverage. And so you have the same amount of risk, but now it is concentrated upon a smaller pool of homes. That concentration raises the rates even more. And those who are the lowest risk in that pool drop their insurance, which further concentrates. That is called an actuarial death spiral.

I hate to put it this way, but it is visual. Think of when you flush the toilet and it begins to spin, and then that spin goes down. Well, that spinning is that death spiral, and the water in the pool gets smaller and smaller and smaller until it is gone and there is no one left who can afford the cost for the insurance, and it ceases to exist.

Now, by the way, this is true of every insurance program. I am describing the National Flood Insurance Program, but this actuarial death spiral is actually known to be just an insurance—that is just how insurance works. If your pool gets too small, risk too concentrated, the whole thing goes away.

But the problem is, what is happening to the National Flood Insurance Program ignores the fact that the program is actually a bargain. And this is the real problem: When I have telephone townhalls and meeting with constituents, they tell me that their property—their property insurance, their casualty insurance—if you add that to their flood insurance, it is now more than their mortgage. So they are making the tough decision: Do I either leave my home, or do I drop my coverage?

So let's just talk a little bit more about Risk Rating 2.0. First, recognize that this rate hike that we are currently going under could have been stopped with the stroke of a President's pen. Either President Biden or President Trump could have told FEMA to delay or cancel the implementation.

In 2019, my staff worked with and my office worked with the Trump administration to successfully delay the implementation because of concerns about how FEMA was calculating costs. The concern remains, but the Biden administration has decided to go forward, ignoring the concerns of people in Louisiana and elsewhere.

The results are that about 900,000 people have dropped their insurance because they cannot afford it—900,000. That is the beginning of this death spiral we spoke of.

Now, there is some promising news. The Banking Committee recently had a hearing on the National Flood Insurance Program that I put forward, and we got excellent input. There is a consensus that no family in America should be forced to move because of unaffordable flood insurance premiums, that flood insurance premiums should remain affordable, accessible, and accountable to the taxpayer and sustainable to the future.

So my challenge to my colleagues: Designate somebody on your staff. This

is a complicated topic. But whether a Californian, a Virginian, a Missourian, you name a State that is in yellow of some tint, ask somebody on your staff to become familiar with the flood insurance program. Then let's come together and move the legislation that will reform it.

The first issue is to gain understanding, then the second issue is to have the political will. If we do this, we can maintain a program which has meant so much to Americans in every State—but certainly in 43 out of 50 States—to enable them to maintain the coverage to protect them should their home flood, that they would be able to build back.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I ask that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

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. 543, Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HAS-SAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Tester
Carper	Manchin	Tillis
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	McConnell	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—10

Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sinema
Cramer	Kennedy	Stabenow
Cruz	Menendez	
Hassan	Shaheen	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 38.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am back again with the old battered “Time to Wake Up” graphic here. The Smithsonian can’t have it quite yet.

This “Time to Wake Up” climate report starts with the unfortunate proposition that we are in terrible danger on climate. Obviously, a critical part and an essential explanation of the danger is that the Republican Party has been turned, by fossil fuel industry dark money, into little more than the political wing of the fossil fuel industry, slavishly dependent on the fossil fuel polluters to fill up its super PACs and shameless about parroting the polluters’ obnoxious lies.

But all that happens in the political world; where the danger gets real is in the physical world. And a recent study suggests that we have, perhaps, already blown through the 1.5 degrees of world heating safety limit.

That 1.5-degree limit was always just an estimated upper bound. Unlike many estimates, it could have been too high. It could be that the true safety barrier was always below 1.5 degrees.

But in any event, assume that it actually is 1.5 degrees, which is sort of the midpoint of the estimates. Well, it is starting to look like we may be losing even against that metric.

Here is a chart that summarizes over a thousand different projections that have been done from different sources as to where our CO₂ emissions are going to take us. It is actually more than 1,200 different scenarios.

Some of them take global temperature increase over 5 degrees of increase, which will lead to disruption on an astonishing scale that leaves many parts of the planet uninhabitable, as presently experienced.

So there are an awful lot of them. Some of them, we have already made decisions that make them impossible to achieve. Some of them are essentially dead letters. If you look at the ones that are still viable and at the ones that—this is the 1.5-degree safety barrier. If you look at those 1,200 scenarios and you look at the ones that are still viable and get us, at some point, back under 1.5 degrees, do you know how many of them there are? Eleven. Out of 1,200 predicted scenarios, 11 are all that is left to keep us at some point below 1.5 degrees. Almost all of them blow significantly over 1.5 degrees and then come back down, which makes investments in carbon capture extremely important.

But that is not a whole lot of shots out of 1,200 scenarios that we started with. And each of them is ranked by where we are on the different components that get us there: carbon removal technology, carbon removal with land interventions—planting trees and so forth—carbon intensity reduction, energy demand adjustment, and less methane. In every single one of those categories, these are ranked as challenging. None of this is easy. All of it is going to require real effort, real diligence, and serious attention to the problem.

So we are not in good shape. And that is the sad and bitter news. We could have been in good shape. Back in 2007, 2008, and 2009, there was bipartisan work happening on climate change in this Chamber all the time. And then came the Supreme Court’s wretched decision in Citizens United and the instantaneous response by the fossil fuel industry to flood politics with its money and the instantaneous response by Republicans to abandon all of their bipartisan climate work and pitch us into a lost decade-plus on climate action.

That is where a lot of these that could have gotten us out of trouble disappeared in that lost decade of fossil fuel dark money blocking American democracy’s ability to respond to this problem.

So to stay below the 1.5-degree safety threshold requires two measures. Again, these are estimates. It could well be that we need to do more than this, but these are the ones we are working with. One is reducing emis-

sions by roughly half by 2030. And the other is reaching net zero by 2050.

So here is the latest estimate of how we are doing with respect to the 2030 50-percent reduction goal. That is what this line is. That is 50-percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. And here is where we are. And here are a bunch of different scenarios and how they end up.

The only one—the only scenario that gets us to this goal by 2030—here is 2030, if you can’t see it from the television—the only thing that gets us there is a carbon fee, putting a price on carbon emissions so that it is no longer free to pollute.

Let’s say we go ahead with a carbon fee but part of the IRA gets pulled away—that is this purple line—we miss by a little. Let’s say we go with the clean electricity standard instead of a carbon fee; we miss by more.

Let’s say that we expand the IRA—do more of that positive investment through the IRA but without a carbon price—we miss by even more.

Here is where we are under current law—this red line. Here is where we are under current law if the EPA’s proposed emission rules go into effect. That is our current likely outcome. And as you can see, that is a long way from 50 percent by 2030. That blows through it sometime after 2035.

If there are no new emissions rules just under the IRA, we are all the way out to 2040 before we cross that safety threshold. And if we do what our Republican friends, at the behest of the fossil fuel industry, are threatening to do, which is to repeal the IRA and block the new emissions rules, you are out here. And who knows when you get to 50 percent.

So to hit that first target, we have to wrap our minds around carbon pricing—pricing polluter emissions. Polluters should pay for the pollution they cause. It is not complicated. But they have been able to get away with it.

Of course, if you are living in a polluter money la-la land, none of this is real to you. And the numbers that matter to you are how much money get poured into your super PACs by polluters, not what the scientists are carefully analyzing and saying and modeling.

But if you are out of climate-denial polluter la-la land, and you are trying to grapple with this as a real problem in the real world, carbon pricing is essential.

So where are we on that? Well, I have two bits of good news. One is that, just like many major corporations do, the Biden administration has put an internal price on carbon at a very respectable \$190 per ton. And the Office of Management and Budget—the OMB—has given guidance to executive Agencies to build that internal price on carbon into all their relevant decision-making.

What is an internal price on carbon? It means that the government’s decisions have to bake into their decision-making—the \$190 per ton price on carbon. If you are buying fleets of cars,

you compare the emissions, and that goes into the cost equation. If you are setting the price on land use of various kinds—like drilling wells—you bake in the \$190 per ton. In regulatory decisions, of course, you would do that.

So it is a big deal, and it is part of the good news. Of course, the question is: How will the executive Agencies comply? The OMB has issued its guidance—boom, done. It was issued in September of last year. The \$190 per ton went active in December—boom, done. But it is time now for all the executive Agencies to react and respond and comply. And that is what we haven't seen yet.

So we are looking into that as an oversight matter to try to make sure that the executive Agencies are doing their best to comply with the OMB guidance as to the internal price on carbon. So that is good news item 1, assuming implementation is not ineffective.

The second good news item is that the European Union—our friends across the pond in our Atlantic alliance—are locked in to a carbon border adjustment mechanism, a tariff mechanism called CBAM, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

The further good news is that the United Kingdom has announced that it has made the decision to join the EU in that same CBAM program. Why is that good for us? It is good for us because this will create significant pressure here at home for a price on carbon in the United States because without one, if we don't have a proper price on carbon here in the United States, it will be very, very, very difficult for American companies exporting to the United States and to the UK to avoid those carbon tariffs. We will be paying tariffs to the UK and to the EU whenever our production of goods is more carbon-intensive than theirs. One of the ways you solve that is by adopting a carbon price. Then you get into the club, and you don't have to pay the tariffs any longer.

So the tariff pressure on American businesses ought to disrupt significantly the general political indifference of the American corporate sector about the fossil fuel industry's political hegemony over Republicans. That could open a potential pathway when the steel industry, the aluminum industry, the chemical industry, the cement industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and others are coming to their elected representatives and saying: Why am I paying this tariff? What is up with that? Why do I have to do that?

The answer from our Republican friends is that it is so the fossil fuel industry can keep polluting for free.

I don't think that is going to sell well in other board rooms. So that creates a little bit of industry-on-industry counterpressure. With any luck, that will be good enough to help us pass a proper carbon fee.

By the way, I happen to have a bill for that. It would do all of those

things. It is called the Clean Competition Act. I would commend that to the administration's attention.

The Biden administration seems to be shedding what was initially anti-CBAM skepticism. It has seemingly abandoned an effort to undercut the CBAM with a weak so-called steel and aluminum arrangement that deservedly belongs in the bin as a climate response. I hope very much the administration will begin developing a positive response to the CBAM, and there is my bill as a model for them to take a look at.

If we do this right, it spares American exporters paying these tariffs. That is a good thing. It also supports a global pressure against carbon pollution that puts us on a potential path to climate safety that we are not on now.

Together, those two pieces won't match a full, proper price on carbon, as proposed in my separate pollution fee bill, which I also commend when we get to a full, proper price on carbon, but it will get us a good ways there.

While we are at it, we could add carbon pricing on luxury aircraft travel emissions to reduce those pollutants. There is no reason that somebody sporting around in a private jet shouldn't be picking up the tab for the pollution they are leaving behind. We could add carbon pricing on shipping, which many of the leading shipping lines actually support. So we have a constituency to get this done in the industry. Those two things would help make more progress, and, yes, I have bills on each.

But ultimately, we need to stop the fossil fuel industry's dangerous and fraudulent pollute-for-free business model by making them pay to pollute, which is what they should be doing as a basic economic market theory principle. But instead of obeying economic market theory, they are floating on a subsidy that the International Monetary Fund has estimated at over \$600 billion with a “b”—billion dollars—every single year. It makes it tough for renewables to compete against a \$600-plus billion subsidy every single year. By the way, it also makes it easier to throw a few million dollars into controlling Congress if you are protecting a subsidy of \$600-plus billion every single year.

So there is this conflict between free market principles and fossil fuel subsidies. Unfortunately, our Republican friends inevitably resolve that conflict in favor of fossil fuel subsidies, while conveniently taking billions of dollars in fossil fuel political money.

Let me close by turning to methane. This graphic talks about economy-wide CO₂ emissions in various climate policy scenarios, but methane is over 80 times as dangerous in the short term as a greenhouse gas than CO₂ is.

Folks, we have been disastrously bad at handling those methane emissions. Indeed, for years, EPA collected and reported artificially low methane numbers that were not real—were not even

close to real. The EPA methane effort was half-baked, ill-informed, and hapless.

But something has changed. Now, we can spot methane emission sources from satellites. We can measure the intensity of the methane leakage. And there is a new methane fee on industry methane leaks from my bill, which got into the IRA, and there is a new methane reg from EPA. The administration has announced a methane enforcement task force to use that new technology and find and fix and finish major methane leaks. If we can do that in this country, then we can go to the next COP with a program to have all international methane leaks found, fixed, and finished. If we do that globally, that is a very big step towards a pathway to climate safety.

Like the social cost of carbon, this plan—the methane enforcement task force—is set, but the implementation is still unknown. A rapid, robust, and efficient enforcement group could really make a difference in getting dangerous methane leaks plugged. A sloppy and indolent group that follows the “inter-agency process” rule of moving at the speed of the slowest bureaucracy would be a real disappointment. So here again, we are doing oversight.

Put these things together—a proper and well-implemented internal social cost of carbon made effective across all relevant Federal Agencies for all relevant Agency decision making; plus a positive response, not a weak sister response, to the EU-UK CBAM carbon border tariff; plus a tough, multi-Agency crackdown on industry methane leaks—and this trajectory towards climate safety begins to get more possible.

Unfortunately, we just had bad news from the EPA on their powerplant pollution rule. If you can believe it, their rule, which has been months and months and months in the making, will regulate coal-fired powerplants, which are dying out on their own, under their own sheer dead economic weight, and they will regulate new gas-powered powerplants, which aren't built and therefore don't have any emissions, but they won't be regulating in this rule the part of the powerplant market that this year and in all future years will produce the majority of the emissions from that sector. It is the biggest piece of the powerplant emission sector, and they are simply not going to regulate it. That piece is the existing fleet of gas-powered powerplants.

It is really hard to see the logic of giving that free pass to the major polluting sector of the powerplant emitters, and it sends a terrible signal about the seriousness of the Agency. So let us hope that rule is a unique embarrassment and not a broader signal of weak, even pusillanimous, EPA administrative effort on climate.

The diligence with which the methane task force and social cost of carbon are implemented and the positivity of the U.S. response to the CBAM need to

send a much more serious signal, as should all future EPA rulemakings on powerplants, vehicles, and other large sources of carbon pollution.

We are at a tipping point right now. When you get down to 1,200 different scenarios where only 11 remaining ones still get you near a climate safety pathway, you have to cut the loaf mighty thin. Making sure that we get this right, that we get onto one of those pathways, is going to require a carbon fee. It just is.

By the way, that is what conservative economics tells you should be done. You can go to Milton Friedman, the high priest of free market economics, and he will say that if you are involved in making a product that involves polluting or some other what they call negative externality in economics-ese, you have to bake that pollution cost, bake that negative externality into the price of your product. If you haven't done that, you are being subsidized. If you are being subsidized, that ain't market economics.

So the principle is right for this. Fairness is right because you should not be able to pollute for free, particularly like the fossil fuel industry does, particularly creating the kind of harm they are creating. And, of course, there is this other question of making sure that our planet remains habitable in the manner that we are used to for our children and our grandchildren.

Again, all of that is doable. All of that is doable with a price on carbon emissions. And there are not scenarios to take us down that pathway to climate safety without that carbon price.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Rhode Island.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING THE DIKE-NEW HARTFORD WOLVERINES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, it is no secret this U.S. Senator for Iowa loves history. And I love rooting for our Iowa student-athletes who put in the work at practices and in the off-season to play hard and walk off the court as champions, whether or not they win or lose the game that day.

Today, I would like to toot the horn for my hometown team and its victorious, history-making season. The Dike-New Hartford Wolverines won the 2A State basketball title at the Iowa Girls State High School Basketball

Tournament in Des Moines on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Getting to play in the historic and storied annual Iowa Girls State High School Basketball tournament is a privilege sought by 7,500 basketball players across Iowa every year. This was the team's fourth consecutive State basketball title, and with it, the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines became the second program in State five-on-five history to take that crown four times in a row, 2021-2024. The Dike-New Hartford Wolverines now tie with the Ankeny Hawks who won four State titles from 2002-2005. A century earlier, Audubon took home the title 4 years in a row at the six-on-six tournament, 1921-1924.

In an interview after the Wolverine's four-peat State title, the leading scorer in the championship game, Payton Petersen summed up the victory with a hot tip to her teammates and community. "We worked so hard to get where we are. Sometimes you take things for granted, but just knowing you put blood, sweat, and tears into this, we're working hard every day in practice and every summer. That's a testament to what our team is, how our coaches coach and our community."

March is Iowa History Month and National Women's Month, both fitting themes to honor the accomplishments of the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines. Over their career, Barbara and I had the chance to see the team play and enjoyed every minute of it. We congratulate the players, managers, trainers, coaches, cheerleaders, fans, and family members for their history-making season. It is a thrilling achievement that will bring these young student-athletes a lifetime of memories and lessons for years to come, from the pageantry of the tournament to the teamwork it takes to overcome obstacles, build confidence, and lead to succeed.

From the varsity starters to the bench players and fans in the stands, this was a team effort the entire community can take pride in celebrating. Congratulations to the coaches who devoted countless hours of time and preparation, led by head coach Bruce Dall and assistant coaches Matt Dove, Ashley Beninga, Craig Chapman, and Mandy Danner. Notably, Coach Dall has been named a finalist for the 2024 National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year. To all the athletes on the roster, keep up the good work. #RollBlue:

PLAYERS

Abby Jensen, Addy Joslin, Autumn Meester, Izzy Norton, Jadyn Petersen, Josey Syhlman, Joy Eilderts, Kailyn Meester, Keely Kauten, Kennedy Syhlman, Madde Buskohl, Mallory Petersen, Mariah Asche, Maryn Bixby, Miranda Tyler, Payton Foster, Payton Petersen, Rylee Reicks, Sophia Bennett, Seeri Smith, Silvey Fuller, Sydney Anema.

COACHES

Bruce Dall, Matt Dove, Ashley Beninga, Craig Chapman, Mandy Danner.

MANAGERS

Will Huck, Reedlynn Kannegieter, Zari Jones, Ashton Schmitz.

MALPHINE FOGEL AND MARC FOGEL

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I would like to talk about two Pennsylvanians, Malphine Fogel and Marc Fogel. Today, Malphine turned 95 in her Butler, PA, home. She has lived a long and fulfilling life, with a successful career and a loving family. But today, one key part of her life is missing: her son Marc. Vladimir Putin has held Marc as a political pawn for more than 30 months on extreme charges for bringing into Russia less than an ounce of doctor-prescribed medical marijuana to treat his chronic pain. Instead of a nice dinner with Marc and his wife Jane at Malphine's house and the knowledge that they drove safely down Route 8 and the Turnpike back to their Oakmont home, Malphine will be lucky to get a timed call from Marc. Instead of the joy of celebrating her 95th birthday, Malphine woke up and spent her day with the stress of not knowing if she will ever be with her son again.

As Marc Fogel sits in prison after conviction by a kangaroo court, it is critical to highlight not only his plight and treatment by the Russians, but also those affected by it, like his 95-year-old mother. Malphine was born to Italian immigrants Guilliano and Celeste Andreassi on March 11, 1929, in Brady's Bend, PA, just west of Butler. Malphine was always a hard worker and earned valedictorian honors of the 1947 class at East Brady High School. She then worked for many years as a proofreader at the local paper, the Butler Eagle. In 1957, Malphine married Maurice "Cubby" Fogel. Seven years later, they had three thriving children—Mary Elise "Lisa," Marc, and Anne—and Malphine had a bachelor's in economics from Grove City College. While raising her kids, Malphine continued to work periodically at the Butler Eagle and the local elementary school, later joining Nationwide Insurance Company.

All the while, Malphine devoted herself to her family and her community. Every Sunday for over 60 years, she has driven the half hour to Brady's Bend to visit the rest of her family; now, her sisters Lydia, Josephine, and Helen and her brother Silvio. In the midst of raising the family and still today, Malphine has tirelessly volunteered at her church to serve the needs of her local community. Malphine and her husband Cubby's marriage lasted a happy 57 years, until 2014, when Cubby passed away from cancer related to his asbestos exposure while serving in the Navy during the Korean war. Malphine and Cubby's three children all grew up to have successful and engaging careers and families. From meeting her and feeling the warmth of her home, I know why. At 95, Malphine is the proud grandmother of 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren and an aunt to 51 nieces and nephews. We can all learn a lot from Malphine about living a good life. I am thankful to her example for the 13 million Pennsylvanians across

the Commonwealth, even as she deals with unimaginable adversity. Given her absolute devotion to her family, it can be no surprise what anguish she must feel now knowing that her own son faces an uncertain, and possibly deadly, future in a Russian penal colony.

As public servants, we have a solemn duty to address the root cause of Malphine's adversity, to advocate for the release of Malphine's son Marc. We must approach the task of bringing Marc safely home with the same commitment, consistency, and patience that Malphine has lived the last 95 years—for Marc does not deserve the 14 years at a remote Russian penal colony which the Russian court leveled on him.

In August 2021, Marc chose to return for a final year of teaching at the Anglo-American School in Moscow, after 9 years at that school and a 35-year career as an international educator. Yes, Marc made a mistake. Russia has not come to accept marijuana as a medical treatment as in the United States. And yes, according to the Russian penal code, Marc's possession of less than an ounce of marijuana warrants a short prison sentence, the same sentence leveled on Russian citizens who have committed similar offenses. But no, justice does not allow, much less require, Marc to spend his sixties and almost half of his seventies in a remote Russian penal colony. Clearly, Marc's 14-year sentence is a bargaining chip for Putin against the United States.

No family deserves to be torn apart, much less Malphine's family. That is why I call on the President to continue to do everything in his power to give Malphine the chance to see her son again. Today, we honor and celebrate Malphine, but we also must recommit to bringing Marc home.

RUSSIA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, an article in the February 29 New York Times, entitled “5 Convicts Familiar With Navalny’s Prison Confirm Hellish Conditions,” describes the horrifyingly cruel treatment of political prisoners in Russia. Anyone who reads the article could easily mistakenly assume that they were reading about the shocking ways that prisoners were dehumanized, brutalized, starved, and murdered in the Middle Ages, except this is 2024.

What the article describes is not new, but it has received renewed attention since the murder, on February 16, of Aleksei Navalny, who bravely challenged Putin’s corrupt and ruthless crusade to destroy any semblance of democracy and freedom in Russia today.

I want to quote a few passages from the article for the benefit of those who have not read it:

Locked in an Arctic prison, Aleksei A. Navalny is likely to have spent his final days

in some of the most inhumane conditions within Russia’s extensive penitentiary system, according to five men who have served sentences in the same penal colony as the Russian opposition leader.

The men described in phone interviews unbearable cold, repulsive food, unsanitary conditions, and beatings in Penal Colony No. 3 of the remote Yamalo-Nenets region, where Mr. Navalny arrived in December to serve out the remainder of his 19-year prison sentence. The former inmates said the conditions were especially brutal in the solitary cells where Mr. Navalny is believed to have been confined on the day he was pronounced dead.

But what made the prison, known as IK-3 or the Troika, dreaded even by Russia’s hardened inmates was the exceptional psychological pressure and loneliness, they said. It was a system devised to break the human spirit, by making survival depend on total and unconditional obedience to the will of guards.

“It was complete and utter annihilation,” said a former inmate named Konstantin, who spent time in the prison’s solitary confinement cells. “When I think about it, I still break into cold sweat,” he said, adding that he has struggled with mental illness since his release.

Set in the tundra, the Troika is built to hold about 1,000 prisoners in some of the most remote, strict and harsh conditions in Russia, which former convicts say can cross into torture.

“You had to make peace with the fact that no one will help you, that you’re on your own,” Aleksandr added.

The article includes a photograph of a sign at the entrance to the penal colony, reminiscent of Auschwitz, with the words “Happiness not far off.”

According to a former inmate, “You could spend 10 years there, and not see and not know anything about anyone else.”

When asked about the convicts’ reaction to Mr. Navalny’s death, he said: “No one gives a damn about anyone else there, because everyone only thinks about themselves and when they can get the hell out of there.”

Still, he noted that any disruption of routine, such as the arrival of federal officials to the prison following an inmate death, would be welcome as a small respite. He recalled a time in 2022 when another inmate had died.

“It may sound callous, you know, but his death stopped the beatings and somewhat lightened the daily routine,” the person said.

Vladimir Putin, who Donald Trump has praised for being a strong leader, is today’s version of Joseph Stalin, who killed millions of his own citizens and destroyed any vestige of freedom or prosperity in Russia. Aleksei Navalny was Putin’s latest victim. Navalny possessed all the attributes that Putin lacks: honesty, charisma, an inspiring vision for Russia’s future, and of course, the admiration, love, and gratitude of millions of Russian citizens.

Countless other Russian prisoners who have dared to stand up for democracy and human rights, like Vladimir Kara-Murza, are at risk of the same fate as Navalny, at any time.

In many respects, the people of Ukraine are no better off. Every day, if they survive the night, they wake up not knowing if it will be their last, the latest casualties of Putin’s relentless attacks against civilian targets.

Vladimir Putin reminds us of the massive death and destruction that a

single cruel individual, devoid of morality and motivated by ideology, greed, and a lust for power, can inflict on millions of innocent people. That is not a sign of strength. It is the worst form of criminality. It is what Putin will be remembered for. It will be his legacy.

VENEZUELA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, indigenous people in Latin America and around the world are facing unprecedented threats to their communities and cultural survival. Faced with increasing intrusions of settlers, illegal miners, loggers, ranchers, wildlife traffickers, narcotics traffickers, and explorers for oil and gas, coupled with woefully inadequate police protection, they are among the world’s most vulnerable people.

This crisis is illustrated by the alarming situation facing the Yanomami people in the Upper Orinoco region of Venezuela, an area that is being destroyed by illegal gold miners. It is reminiscent of the decimation of Native American Tribes in past centuries in our own country, when millions were forced off their land, murdered, or infected with smallpox, measles, and other fatal diseases brought by White settlers.

The Venezuelan Government has an obligation to guarantee the right to health, as part of the right to life, enshrined in the country’s Constitution. In the case of indigenous people like the Yanomami, this includes the adaptation of health services and programs to their unique circumstances and needs.

After the “Haximu Massacre of the Yanomami” in 1993, when 16 Yanomami were killed by a group of illegal miners, was brought before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Venezuelan Government signed a settlement agreement that established commitments regarding surveillance and control of illegal mining and healthcare for the Yanomami people. Although the Yanomami Health Plan yielded positive results between 2005 and 2010, it began to decline due to lack of resources and is now almost completely defunct. Currently, there is no healthcare available in the Yanomami territory in the Upper Orinoco region.

This crisis has resulted in a sharp increase in the prevalence of and death from preventable and curable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, among others. Malnutrition is also a pervasive problem, especially among children. Patients who require emergency treatment must be flown to Puerto Ayacucho, the state capital. The Yanomami in the border zone of Sierra Parima must go to Brazil to obtain health care.

The Government of Venezuela has repeatedly failed to protect the Yanomami people from violence, child

labor, and forced labor and sexual exploitation from illegal miners. The increased flow of Brazilian wildcat miners, coming into Venezuela in partnership with the Venezuelan military and corrupt civilian authorities to mine for gold and cassiterite, is contributing to the transmission of infectious diseases for these vulnerable communities due to their lack of immunity. Malaria, sexually transmitted infections, and mercury poisoning are closely linked to illegal mining.

According to the Yanomami's own records, between 2022 and mid-2023, 35 people died from malaria and tuberculosis in different sectors of Sierra Parima, which comprises only a portion of the Upper Orinoco region. The Yanomami reported 350 deaths due mainly to malaria between November 2023 and February 2024. The serious epidemic and negligent inaction of the Venezuelan Government have forced the Yanomami to abandon their villages and flee into the forest to escape the malaria epidemic.

Since 2021, the Venezuelan Government has received support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Venezuelan Ministry of Health, through the U.N. Development Program, receives the supplies that are part of the malaria elimination strategy—mosquito nets, rapid diagnostic kits, medical treatments, and other equipment. But sorely lacking are the transportation logistics, infrastructure, and personnel to carry out malaria control and prevention activities in remote indigenous communities.

Anyone who has seen photographs of the devastation caused by illegal mining in the Upper Orinoco region cannot help but be appalled by the capacity of human greed to destroy the natural environment and the people and wildlife that depend on it. The Yanomami are responsible stewards of the forest who are being threatened, attacked, and infected by deadly diseases contracted from those who are illegally extracting resources from their territories.

While the Venezuelan Government has contributed to their plight by allowing and even profiting from the illegal mining in that sensitive region, the United States has a positive role to play. The Barbados Accords, signed by the Maduro regime and the opposition Unitary Platform, were the result of negotiations between the Biden Administration and Mr. Maduro. They required the Venezuelan Government to create conditions for a free and fair election in 2024, and in return, the U.S. would grant licenses to relax sanctions on oil, bond, and gold transactions.

Like many, I had hoped the Barbados Accords were the beginning of a path for Venezuela to move beyond the years of internal division, repression, corruption, and misery that have caused millions to flee the country. But Maduro reneged on his commitments and arrested leading opposition candidate Maria Corina Machado, and

on January 29, the administration announced that the sanctions on gold will be snapped back in April.

Perhaps Maduro will reverse course again and do what he agreed to do under the Barbados Accords. But whether he does or not, absent strong action by the international community to make it more difficult for illegal miners and their profiteers to launder the proceeds, the suffering of the Yanomami people is likely to continue unabated.

TRIBUTE TO MISSIE LAMBERT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Missie Lambert, who has been a valuable member of my staff and an incredible resource for the people of Arkansas for more than 15 years. With her compassion, dedication and trademark southern charm, she has helped thousands of people and set a standard for constituent service.

Missie is a 1980 graduate of Decatur High School in Decatur, AL. She attended Auburn University, where she was a cheerleader and graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications. She first used her talents in the business world, nonprofit sector, and as a wonderful wife and mother.

In 2009, she joined my staff in the U.S. House of Representatives to take what she thought was a small, part-time job assisting with veterans' issues. Her tremendous compassion and organizational skills soon made her an invaluable constituent service representative. She worked to create partnerships with veterans' agencies and organizations, quickly becoming a subject matter expert and authority people across the State were eager to consult.

During her time working for the U.S. House and Senate, Missie has handled more than 7,000 cases to help veterans, servicemembers, and their families navigate difficult processes with the Federal Government.

As a caseworker, she is best known for her persistence, never taking "no" for an answer on behalf of a veteran and exhausting every option or resource available. Countless times, it has been her diligence that helped track down a lost record and made the difference for a veteran and their family.

In addition to handling a large caseload, Missie took on the challenge of leading my office's nomination process for young people applying to the U.S. military academies. She spent months each year making sure every candidate would get the best possible consideration. In addition, she provided leadership for the entire Arkansas congressional delegation to improve the process for these youth across the State.

Missie is a multi-talented person with a great singing voice, a green thumb, and the gift of hospitality as she shares her famous cooking with friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Her kindness and expertise helped change

countless lives, comfort numerous families, and set a standard of excellence. Her friendship and counsel will be greatly missed. Although she is leaving us to be with her family in Alabama, Missie will always have a home in Arkansas.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MARTIN HILDRETH COMPANY, INC

- Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, I am privileged to recognize Martin Hildreth Company of Rockwell City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Martin Hildreth founded the Martin Hildreth Company in 1954 to provide excavation contracting services in Rockwell City and the surrounding counties. Martin started the company after serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean war. He began his civilian career working with his father Ben in the petroleum industry at Hildreth Mobile Oil and Hildreth Super Service before embarking on his entrepreneurial journey. In 1990, Martin's son Tom joined the company full-time and currently serves as the president. Martin Hildreth Company has remained in the same location on High Street in Rockwell City since its inception, offering excavation services to the telecommunication and utility industries and gravedigging for cemeteries throughout Calhoun and the surrounding counties. In 2009, Tom's wife Theresa joined Martin Hildreth Company as their chief financial officer. In 2023, Martin Hildreth passed away, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and service to the Rockwell City community.

Martin Hildreth Company is truly a family-owned and operated business. Tom and Theresa's son David serves as vice president, marking the third generation of the Hildreth family legacy. David Hildreth started at the company part-time at the age of 14 and plans to lead it following Tom's retirement. In the near future, David's son Collin will be the fourth generation to join the family company.

The Hildreth family is actively involved in both the Rockwell City and Calhoun County communities. Tom Hildreth is a legend in the sport of wrestling. After a decorated college career at Westmar College, Tom coached wrestling at the high school and middle school levels and was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Iowa High School Athletic Association Wrestling Hall of Fame. In addition to serving as chief financial officer for the Martin Hildreth Company, Theresa also serves as executive director of the Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation. Service to the

country is also integral to the Hildreth family. Three of Tom and Theresa's children have served in the armed services. Martin Hildreth Company was awarded the ESGR Patriot Award for their dedication to supporting employees who are serving in the military. Due to their hard work, the Martin Hildreth Company celebrated their 70th business anniversary in 2024.

I want to commend the Hildreth family for achieving their American dream and operating a fantastic small business. Congratulations to the Hildreth family and the entire Martin Hildreth Company team on their incredible commitment to our communities. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Iowa.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS ALL FUNDING (INCLUDING THE TRANSFER AND REPURPOSING OF FUNDS) SO DESIGNATED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(b)(2)(A) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, AS OUTLINED IN THE ENCLOSED LIST OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 9, 2024—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 6 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (H.R. 4366; the “Act”), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 9, 2024.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 8, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

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.

H.R. 4366. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bills, except S. 992, were signed on March 8, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2799. An act to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2799. An act to make reforms to the capital markets of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration 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” and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Jon Tester, Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Sherrod Brown, Catherine Cortez Masto, Joe Manchin, III, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Kyrsten Sinema, Mike Rounds, Jerry Moran, Kevin Cramer, Cynthia M. Lummis, Pete Ricketts, Roger Marshall, Maria Cantwell, Tina Smith, Angus S. King, Jr., Jeff Merkley, Mark Kelly, Jon Ossoff, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Patty Murray, Tammy Baldwin, Amy Klobuchar, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 62. 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”.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 7511. An act 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.

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-3749. A communication from the Legal Advisor, Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Executive Office of the President, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3750. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjustment to Premium Processing Fees” (RIN1615-ZC05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3751. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementing Rental Housing Assistance for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program” (RIN2577-AD13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3752. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjustment to Sector Annual Catch Entitlements Under the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan” (RIN0648-XD485) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3753. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pacific Island Fisheries; 5-Year Extension of Moratorium on Harvest of Gold Corals” (RIN0648-BM34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3754. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director for Financial Management, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalty Adjustments for Inflation” (RIN0605-AA66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3755. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Ohio River, Mile Markers 46 to 46.5, St. Albans, WV” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No.

USCG-2023-0648)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3756. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Child Restraint Systems - Side Impact Protection; Incorporation by Reference” (RIN2127-AK95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3757. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Rear Impact Guards, Rear Impact Protection” (RIN2127-AL58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3758. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Consumer Information; Standard Reference Test Tire” (RIN2127-AL92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3759. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Minimum Sound Requirements for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles” (RIN2127-AL93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3760. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Penalties” (RIN2127-AM32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3761. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exemptions From Average Fuel Economy Standards; Passenger Automobile Average Fuel Economy Standards” (RIN2127-AM29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3762. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Uniform Procedures for State Highway Safety Grant Programs” (RIN2127-AM45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3763. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2020 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2020” (RIN2127-AM41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3764. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Uniform Procedures for State Highway Grant Programs” (RIN2127-AM45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3765. A communication from the Director of Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Bus Rollover Structural Integrity” (RIN2127-AK96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 29, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3766. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” ((FCC 24-24) (CG Docket No. 02-278)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3767. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Location-Based Routing for Wireless 911 Calls Report and Order” ((FCC 24-4) (PS Docket No. 18-64)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3897. A bill to require the Election Assistance Commission to develop voluntary guidelines for the administration of elections that address the use and risks of artificial intelligence technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 3898. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permanently prohibit operations at Reagan Washington National Airport for air carriers that provide, or facilitate the provision of, transportation of any alien using the CBP One Mobile Application for the purposes of identification; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3899. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide for the generation of Renewable Identification Numbers under the renewable fuel program for electricity from renewable

biomass, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3900. A bill to prohibit no-knock warrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINA, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3901. A bill to provide employees with a minimum of 2 consecutive hours of paid leave in order to vote in Federal elections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3902. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to ensure compliance with the existing appraiser education and competency requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VANCE (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 3903. A bill to strengthen reporting requirements for United States assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3904. A bill to establish a pilot program to improve the family self-sufficiency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3905. A bill to amend title I of the National Housing Act to increase the loan limits and clarify that property improvement loans may be used for construction of accessory dwelling units; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. Res. 586. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of “Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 161

At the request of Mr. KAINA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 161, a bill to extend the Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans’ disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 528

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 528, a bill to require a standard financial aid offer form, and for other purposes.

S. 590

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to allow the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into agreements with private and commercial entities and State governments to provide certain supplies, support, and services.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1274

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) 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. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1565

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes.

S. 1931

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1931, a bill to direct the United States Government to support extending the mandate of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela until a resolution of the Venezuelan crisis is achieved.

S. 1937

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1937, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on indoor tanning services.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Cali-

fornia (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving age discrimination.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2843

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2843, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day voter registration.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 3264

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3264, a bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3308

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the number of local wage areas allowable within a General Schedule pay locality.

S. 3348

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3348, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 3526

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) 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. 3732

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3732, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a study on the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and

Technology to convene a consortium on such environmental impacts, and to require the Director to develop a voluntary reporting system for the reporting of the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes.

S. 3819

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3819, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations to establish shrinkflation as an unfair or deceptive act or practice, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 3904. A bill to establish a pilot program to improve the family self-sufficiency program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I am introducing the Helping More Families Save Act with Senator BRITT. This bipartisan legislation would help more families in HUD-assisted housing build savings and improve their financial security by creating a pilot program for Family Self-Sufficiency, FSS, universal escrow accounts.

The FSS Program was established under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 to help low-income families boost savings and improve their professional, educational, and financial standing. In 2018, I worked with then-Senator Roy Blunt to expand the program to cover more households. Today, millions of public housing residents, Housing Choice Voucher Program participants, and residents of project-based rental assistance, PBRA, housing are eligible for FSS.

FSS provides two key tools for its participants. First, households work with FSS coordinators to develop long-term financial, professional, or educational goals. FSS coordinators also help connect participants with resources, training, and employment opportunities. Second, the program encourages FSS families to save by providing them with an interest-bearing escrow account. Participants who increase their incomes deposit a portion of their additional earnings into their escrow account instead of paying higher rent, as is typically required under federally subsidized housing programs. Upon graduation from the FSS Program, families can use their escrowed savings to pay for job-related expenses, move to private market housing, buy a home, or save for the future.

After more than 30 years, FSS has become a proven financial independence program. Indeed, in 2021 27 percent of FSS graduates no longer needed Federal rental assistance within 1 year of leaving FSS, while 11 percent of graduates were ultimately able to purchase their own home, FSS graduates with

escrow savings, on average, had approximately \$9,495 in their account upon leaving the program—a substantial sum for low-income families.

Despite the program's success and broad eligibility, program participation was effectively capped at about 70,000 enrollees in 2023 because there is simply not enough Federal funding for the required FSS coordinators.

The Helping More Families Save Act would help more Americans access the program by creating a new universal escrow pilot. Under the bill, public housing agencies, PHAs, and PBRA property owners could offer a limited number of additional households escrow accounts identical to those under the current FSS Program without having to wait for an FSS coordinator to be funded by the Federal Government. Although PHAs and PBRA property owners would not be required to offer Coordinator services to these participants, we expect many will work to offer appropriate counseling and support on their own or with outside partners. Moreover, we expect that this pilot will show that those enrolled in the program will be successful and make wise decisions.

If successful, the pilot program could help more low-income families improve their financial security, achieve economic independence, and even purchase their own homes, all with minimal cost to the Federal Government.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan proposal that has the potential to help lift more American families out of poverty. It is a win for families, the Federal budget, and our economy. I thank Senator BRITT for coleading this legislation and Compass Working Capital and LISC for their support. I urge our colleagues to cosponsor the Helping More Families Save Act and support its passage.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3905. A bill to amend title I of the National Housing Act to increase the loan limits and clarify that property improvement loans may be used for construction of accessory dwelling units; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I am introducing the Property Improvement and Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act with Senator LUMMIS. This legislation would strengthen the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, title I loan program to both help more families find and own an affordable home and better preserve our existing housing stock.

Like its better known title II sister program, FHA title I expands access to housing and boosts affordability for families by insuring private market loans. However, title I is targeted towards two underserved portions of our housing market—manufactured homes and property improvement.

For decades, title I has provided low-cost loans that help more families af-

ford a manufactured home or make necessary improvements to their existing home, while expanding and preserving critical portions of housing supply. Indeed, manufactured homes are the largest source of unsubsidized affordable housing in the country, and property improvement loans help prevent more single-family homes and apartments from falling out of our housing stock.

These loans should be a central tool helping to close our nationwide housing shortage, which Freddie Mac estimates at 3.8 million homes. However, outdated loan limits and statutory restrictions have weakened title I's effectiveness and turned the program from success to a missed opportunity.

From the mid-1980s, through the early 1990s lenders offered 15,000 to 25,000 title I manufactured home loans each year, but in 2021, only 3 loans were issued. Similarly, lenders have gone from making more than 70,000 title I property improvement loans annually in the 1990s to making fewer than 1,000 in 2022. That is a 99-percent drop in loan volume. In other words, as many as 99,000 fewer homes being bought, preserved, and included in our housing stock each year.

The Property Improvement and Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act would refurbish title I and return it to our housing toolbox. It would expand loan limits and loan terms for all title I loans—making the program fit market demand and needs. Perhaps more importantly, the bill would finally allow FHA to index property improvement loans for inflation and expand the data it uses to set manufactured home loan limits, ensuring title I will remain a crucial tool as home costs rise in future years.

Finally, our legislation makes accessible dwelling units, ADUs, which are small housing units added to a single-family property often for use by a family member, eligible for title I financing. In other words, our bill will make the revamped title I program an even more powerful home-creation program than it was during its prior peak years and will particularly help families who want to provide a safe, comfortable place for aging parents or young adult children to live.

Collectively, these improvements would help more families own a home, remain in homes they have spent decades in, and find an affordable place to live. I urge my colleagues to join Senator LUMMIS and myself, cosponsor this bill, and support its passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolu-

tion; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 586

Whereas deep vein thrombosis (referred to in this preamble as “DVT”) is a condition that occurs when a blood clot forms in the deep veins of the body, such as in the arm, abdomen, around the brain, and most commonly in the leg;

Whereas a potentially life-threatening complication of DVT is a pulmonary embolism (referred to in this preamble as a “PE”), where a blood clot breaks off, travels through the blood stream, and lodges in the lung;

Whereas DVT and PEs are serious but often preventable medical conditions;

Whereas DVT and PEs affect as many as 900,000 individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas DVT and PEs kill an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 individuals in the United States each year, and 1 out of 4 individuals who have a PE die without warning;

Whereas deaths caused by DVT and PEs are often preventable;

Whereas DVT and PEs are among the leading causes of preventable hospital deaths in the United States;

Whereas DVT and PEs are common complications faced by cancer patients, and survival rates are lower for individuals with cancer who also have blood clots;

Whereas pregnancy increases the risk of DVT and PEs, and that risk remains elevated for up to 3 months after giving birth;

Whereas immobility, surgery, older age, and a family history of clotting and thrombophilia increase the risk of DVT and PEs;

Whereas DVT and PEs contribute to up to \$10,000,000,000 in incremental medical costs each year in the United States; and

Whereas the establishment of March as “Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month” would raise awareness about these life-threatening but preventable conditions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month”; and

(2) recognizes the importance of raising awareness of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolisms.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an open hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7511

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. In order to place the bill on the Calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS AND PULMONARY EMBOLISM AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 586, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 586) supporting the goals and ideals of “Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that its preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 586) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive

session to resume consideration of the Yoon nomination postcloture; further, that all time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that following the cloture vote on the Harjani nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Harjani nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the DuBose nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; that upon disposition of the DuBose nomination, the Senate execute the order of March 8, 2024, with respect to the Maloney nomination; and, finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING DR. JULIE GAFNEY

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a celebration of Women's History Month, I want to highlight the work and life of Dr. Julie Gafney. She has pushed both inclusive and equitable learning environments as well as environmental justice forward by leaps and bounds throughout her long career in both public policy and higher education.

Dr. Gafney began her own educational journey at Tufts University and earned a Bachelor's in English Language and Literature. She then enrolled in the prestigious University of Chicago to pursue a Master's in Comparative Literature, and later completed her doctorate in English Language and Literature at The City University of New York. Dr. Gafney would later return to the University of Chicago to serve as a Project Manager for the Dean of Students and served as both an Adjunct Professor and later as a Senior Advisor to the President at the City University. Dr. Gafney has spent much of her life in higher education as both a student and administrator, making her work uniquely situated to bridge gaps in educational access.

Dr. Gafney currently serves as the Assistant Vice President for Strategic Mission Initiatives at Fordham University, where she also teaches in the English department. Dr. Gafney and her team plan to soon launch the Bronx Research Institute for Community Solutions, a public think tank dedicated to leveraging higher education as a means for effecting change in the Bronx through partnerships with local policymakers and community leaders. Dr. Grande has also spearheaded many of Fordham's environmental justice initiatives and serves as the Chair of Fordham's Sustainability Council. Her work in sustainable development led to her role as the Thriving Communities Grantmaker Project Lead and Principal Investigator, where she spearheads Fordham's newly acquired \$50 million dollar grant program that will focus on environmental justice across New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In addition to her role as Assistant Vice President for Strategic Mission Initiatives, Dr. Gafney is also the Executive Director of the Center for Community Engaged Learning (CCEL) at Fordham University. She focuses on student success, faculty development, and enhancing the University's levels of engagement within its own community, as well as with the wider Bronx and New York.

Dr. Gafney is proudly recognized as a changemaker and pioneer, and her work will continue to inspire others to greater heights. I know that her work, especially the grant maker program, will be extremely transformative for so many communities across the region.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 FAIRFAX COUNTY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-DEES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2023 Fairfax County Design and Environmental Achievement Awards.

This annual event celebrates Environmental Excellence awardees, Friends of Trees awardees, as well as James M. Scott Exceptional Design awardees. Each of these three awards celebrate dedicated individuals, county employees, and organizations or businesses who have made a lasting impact in our community.

The Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individual county residents, county employees, and organizations or businesses who advance or support the county's environmental goals and policies, dedicate personal time and expertise beyond their normal fiscal and civic responsibilities, and demonstrate leadership within the community. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following:

Individual County Resident Category: Mei Torrey, Langley High School

County Employee Category: Craig Carinci, Director of Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Stormwater Planning Division (retired); Joseph Gorney, Principal Environmental Planner with the Department of Planning and Development, Environmental Policy and Plan Development Branch; Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forest Management Division (retired)

Organization and Business Category: Trace—The Zero Waste Store, Vienna; Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association, Grounds Committee

Since 1999, the Friends of Trees Awards have highlighted exceptional, outstanding, and innovative tree conservation actions in Fairfax County that meet one or more criteria: to protect and preserve existing trees and associated habitats, to increase the urban tree canopy and its related habitats, to educate and inspire people to plant more trees and properly maintain them, and to convey an understanding of the value and benefits of trees. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following recipients:

Individual County Resident Category: Steve Lagerfeld, McLean Trees Foundation; Jim McGlone, Virginia Department of Forestry (retired); Bob Vickers, Tree Commission

Non-profit Citizens Group Category: McLean Citizens Association, Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee

Non-profit Business Category: Inova Health Systems Office of Sustainability

Schools Category: Fairhill Elementary School, FCPS; Liberty Middle School, FCPS Development Awardee: Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States

Established in 1984, the James M. Scott Exceptional Design Awards recognize achievement in the total design of a building and its site. The awards aim to raise awareness of outstanding planning and design projects among design professionals and the general public. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following recipients:

Honor Award: G+G House, Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect; Capital One Hall, HGA, Architect

Merit Award: Spring Mill House, Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, Architect; The Residence at Colvin Run, Architecture, Incorporated

Honorable Mention: 1800 Tysons Amenity, WDG Interior Architecture; Lorton Community Center and Library, Grimm + Parker Architects; The Crossroads Building at the Langley School, CGS Architects

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2023 Fairfax County Design and Environmental Achievement awardees and thank them for their impact on our community. Their efforts, which are deserving of our highest praise, provide immeasurable benefits to their fellow residents and serve as a reminder of why Fairfax County remains such a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING MARY ESTHER RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the life and legacy of Mary Esther Rodriguez, who passed away on Sunday, March 10, 2024, in the town of Losoya, Texas.

Mary Esther Rodriguez was born October 4, 1944, in San Antonio, Texas. The oldest of ten children, she was a devoted wife, mother, and community servant who enjoyed volunteering her time to help those in need.

As a young woman right out of high school she began working as a nurse's aide at the San Antonio State Hospital and later focused her energy as a Home Health Aide for the sick and elderly.

A woman of deep faith she began teaching religious education at 19 years of age and eventually became the Director of Religious Education at El Carmen Catholic Church in Losoya. She was moved to instill and strengthen the role of faith in the lives of children in the same manner that faith guided her life.

An active member of The Ladies of Charity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, she lived by their motto "to serve rather than be served, in humility, simplicity and charity." As a member she visited parishioners in nursing homes and the homebound, offering assistance to the poor in the community. She

● 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.

helped run their community service programs including the thrift store and wellness center.

She leaves behind her husband, Ramon Rodriguez, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, whom she shared a life of love, joy, and many blessings over more than 57 years. She will be remembered by her daughters Rosalinda and Elizabeth, her sons-in-law Henry Macias and Estuardo Rodriguez and her most treasured grandchildren, Maria Isabella, Valencia Lael, Nicolas, Fidel, Abram, and Emilio. She will forever remain the heart of the Rodriguez family and serve as an unyielding call to charity and service for those she leaves behind.

RECOGNIZING JENNIFER BERNSTEIN

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the work of Jennifer Bernstein during this Women's History Month. Jennifer is a distinguished leader renowned for her exceptional management prowess and commitment to philanthropy within the realms of culture, education, and environmental advocacy. As the CEO and William C. Steere Sr. President of the esteemed New York Botanical Garden, she has orchestrated transformative initiatives that underscore her visionary leadership.

Upon assuming her role in 2021, Jennifer spearheaded the launch of a groundbreaking master site planning process, resulting in the formulation of "Branching Out: A Strategic Plan for 2024–2030." This blueprint, which was ratified by the Board of Trustees in November 2023, charts a course for the Garden's evolution by revitalizing over 100 acres of its property, reinforcing its stature as a global scientific hub, and enriching programs dedicated to empowering the Bronx community.

Jennifer's deep-rooted passion for environmental conservation drew her to NYBG, with its rich legacy of plant research and preservation. Prior to her tenure at the Garden, she served as the Chief Development Officer and interim Chief Operations Officer at the Natural Resources Defense Council. At NYBG, she champions the institution's mission to educate others on the pivotal role of plants in sustaining a vibrant ecosystem and nurturing a healthier planet.

Jennifer's dedication extends beyond her professional career, as evidenced by her active involvement in organizations such as the Women's Forum of New York and the board of the City University of New York's Lehman College Foundation. Earlier in her career, she honed her fundraising abilities in leadership roles at institutions such as Pace University, Playwrights Horizon, and Roundabout Theatre. Her impressive resume exemplifies commitment to leveraging expertise in fundraising and board development to effect positive change on the cultural, educational, and environmental landscape of New York City and beyond.

I would like to wish her continued success at the NYBG and am excited to see all the projects and programs she successfully leads at the garden.

RECOGNIZING INGLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor Inglewood Baptist Church in Nashville as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

First meeting on November 18, 1923, Inglewood Baptist was officially "called to order" on March 18th the following year. In the late 1920's, its congregation moved to its current location on Gallatin Road, meeting in a basement auditorium on the site where it still meets today. Its seventh and current pastor, Dr. Kevin Shrum, has shepherded his community since 1995.

Existing to "make known the Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Inglewood Baptist seeks to edify believers in their personal and saving relationship with their Lord. Over the past century it has continued to grow and build its community, completing its current auditorium in 1948 and finishing a four-story educational complex in 1955. In addition to its other ministries, it has instituted the Allegro School of Music, which provides an opportunity for music education and skill development for those living in the Nashville area.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Inglewood Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary and wishing it well as it starts its second century as a congregation.

HONORING CHIEF MIKE WAGNER OF SILER CITY, NORTH CAROLINA FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chief Mike Wagner on his retirement from the Siler City Police Department and to honor his years of faithful service to the people of Chatham County, North Carolina.

Wagner began his career in law enforcement with the Albemarle County Police Department, in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1991, retiring on May 31, 2019, after 28 years of service. Subsequently, Wagner was appointed Chief of Police for Siler City, North Carolina on June 3rd, 2019, a position he has held up until this day. While serving as chief, Wagner served on the Board of Directors for the Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA) and remains a member of the Chatham Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and Chairman of the Animal Appeals Board.

Wagner has earned numerous degrees and academic accolades over the course of his career. Some of these include an associate degree in Police Science from Piedmont Virginia Community College, a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Bluefield College, a Master's Degree from Liberty University along with various leadership credentials from such institutions as the University of Louisville and at the University of Richmond.

On top of this, Wagner served honorably in our nation's military. He is a veteran with 13 years of service in the United States Army and the Virginia Army National Guard. During his time in the service, he was deployed overseas as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2010.

Chief Wagner is a dedicated public servant, husband, father, and patriot. I know I speak for the whole community when I wish him well in this next chapter of his life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Mike Wagner on his retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to both our state and country.

RECOGNIZING SPRING GARDEN GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM WINNING THE AHSAA 1A STATE TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Spring Garden High School Girls Basketball Team for winning the AHSAA 1A State Title for the second time.

On February 29th, the Spring Garden Panthers beat Marion County 63–31 to secure their title win. The game was played at Legacy Arena in Birmingham.

The Spring Garden girls have won back-to-back state titles just like they did in 2004 and 2005.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Ricky Austin, the Spring Garden Girls Basketball team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Panthers.

RECOGNIZING DENISE ROSARIO ADUSEI

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I want to honor some of the amazing and powerful women who live and work in the Bronx. Women like Denise Rosario Adusei, the Executive Director of the Bronx Children's Museum. Denise has left an indelible mark on the Bronx and in the greater New York area since beginning her journey in social entrepreneurship, authorship, and early childhood education leadership. Armed with a Master of Business Administration from Columbia Business School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University, she embarked on a journey inspired by a fervent desire to foster the growth of future generations. She assumed leadership of the Children's Museum in 2023 and has since spearheaded efforts to provide inclusive learning opportunities for Bronx children and families centered around transformative arts and science programs.

Prior to joining the Children's Museum, Director Adusei founded the PearTree Preschool in Harlem, which stands as a testament to her dedication to innovative and collaborative education for children in New York City. Over the past twelve years, her initiative has aided the

educational and emotional development of more than 1,500 students, as well as provided over 58 million dollars in tuition assistance for families pursuing education with private, competitive programs. Director Adusei's influence has also extended beyond the classroom: her work as an author and creative have led to the founding of Latinx Pitch and Black Creators HQ, a platform that provides resources and support for Black and Latinx authors and illustrators looking to bring diversity into children's literature. She is also a published author, with many of her books highlighting parts of her own identity and experience. Director Adusei's initiatives amplify underrepresented voices and have helped positively shape the world of children's literature.

Denise Rosario Adusei's life is a testament to the transformative power of community, education, and cultural heritage. Her multifaceted background and educational pedigree serve as the bedrock for her remarkable career, and her dedication to building up community around the youth has shaped many young lives. I am thrilled she is part of the Bronx community and am excited to continue watching her amazing work.

**RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER
GENERAL FRED A. HOCKETT, JR.**

HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Promotable Fred A. Hockett, Jr., a constituent of Michigan's 13th District, on his promotion to Brigadier General in the United States Army Reserve.

His military career started in 1987 as an Army Reserve Infantryman with the 70th Division. He later transitioned to active duty with the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado. After attending the United States Military Academy Prep School and the United States Military Academy at West Point, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. Serving in various leadership, command, and staff positions, he currently serves as the Deputy Commanding Officer for Support for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Colonel Promotable Hockett has been recognized for distinguished performance of duty that represents exemplary achievement in the finest traditions of the United States of America.

Throughout his career, his leadership has positively impacted the lives of countless service members. There is no doubt that his service and achievements will have a lasting impact on the Army's future ability to protect and defend the freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution. I am humbled to offer him the thanks and congratulations of a grateful Nation.

**WAKING UP TO THE IMPORTANCE
OF SLEEP FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, as our nation confronts political chaos, the civilizational emergency of climate change, and existential threats to our democracy, I have found myself unable to sleep. This is an experience that it turns out I share with millions of Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that more than one third of all adults in the United States sleep fewer than the clinically recommended seven hours per night. As we mark Sleep Awareness Week, recognized this year by the National Sleep Foundation between March 10–16, we must elevate the importance of sleep health to our mental and physical health and confront the sleep disparities that closely correspond to racial and socioeconomic inequalities.

Sleep quality, it turns out, has been causally linked to mental health. Researchers from Keele University and the University of Sheffield found that greater improvements in sleep quality led to greater improvements in mental health. Though we have progressed by leaps and bounds in our society's discourse on mental health, we have yet to sufficiently emphasize the links between getting enough sleep and feeling mentally well.

The call to "get more sleep" is a tall order for many Americans, especially in light of the social disparities that already affect sleep health for so many. African Americans are 65 percent more likely and Hispanic Americans are 59 percent more likely to report poor sleep quality than white Americans, even though all groups report a similar ease in falling asleep. Americans who earn enough to make ends meet are much more likely to report a good night's sleep than people who are struggling to get by and living paycheck to paycheck. Closing these divides and achieving sleep equity must be one of our national public health priorities.

Our nationwide quest to get a good night's sleep is inextricable from our work for a more democratic society, where we want everyone to be fully functional and participatory. We need well-rested citizens who can participate and govern themselves, their families, and their communities. Our struggle to create the conditions for a peaceful night's sleep is as much a societal imperative as an individual question. During this National Sleep Awareness Week, we must commit to the fundamental importance of a good night's rest for all Americans.

**RECOGNIZING THE 2024 FAIRFAX
COUNTY STUDENT PEACE
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2024 Fairfax County Student Peace Awards.

The Fairfax County Student Peace Awards began with one high school in 2006 to encour-

age high school-aged students to think about peace as both a means and an end, and to recognize young people who work as peacemakers. By 2013, the program was being offered in every public high school in Fairfax County, as well as in many private schools.

Participating high schools choose one Junior or Senior, or one student group active in promoting peace or removing the causes of conflict. Examples of outreach include committing to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict, either locally or globally, promoting the understanding of divisive issues and situations to bridge differences, and working to resolve conflicts among students or members of the community who feel isolated or alienated.

I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of this year's Student Peace Award winners:

Husna Basiri, Annandale High School
Level the Field, Centreville High School
Ria Jakheti, Chantilly High School
Edison Minds Matter, Edison High School
Tranh Dinh, Fairfax High School
Hienna Hailemariam, Falls Church High School
Ajanae Elise Massenburg, Hayfield Secondary School
Susy Reyes, Herndon High School
Dalya Paka, Justice High School
Jenna Naffa, King Abdullah Academy (KAA)
Mackenzie Craig, Lake Braddock Secondary School
Lina Liakakos, Langley High School
Daniel J. Gonzales, John. R. Lewis High School
Sophie Massoudi, Madison High School
Aymar Ahmed, Marshall High School
Kaiya Amani Williams, McLean High School
Phillip Ha, Mount Vernon High School
Mountain View Mirror, Mountain View High School
Jason Saenz-Hernandez, Quander Road School
Samantha Katz, Robinson Secondary School
Eden Aklog, South County High School
Virginia Banton, South Lakes High School
Namaste, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Eli Kopp, West Potomac High School
Roeen Zahid, West Springfield High School
Westfield Student Ambassadors, Westfield High School
National Art Honor Society, Woodson High School
Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these young people are the building blocks of a more peaceful and tolerant world. I commend them on their efforts and dedication and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating each award recipient and thanking them as well as Fairfax County Public School System and sponsor organizations for all they have done for our community.

RECOGNIZING ASHA MCKENZIE

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, in an era defined by the relentless flow of information and never-before-seen levels of interconnectedness, some of the people we rely

most upon are our journalists. Their dedication to bringing the truth to light, to fostering public discourse and to accuracy and integrity in their reporting is what makes their role that much more pivotal. News 12 anchor and reporter Asha McKenzie embodies these qualities, and I want to recognize her during this Women's History Month.

An Emmy and Associated award-winning journalist, Asha has spent a decade in service to New York, including eight years spent in our own Bronx community, where she dedicated herself to being a voice for the voiceless. Her dedication has helped ensure that quality, fact-based reporting remains accessible to the wider public, and this effort has absolutely aided New Yorkers in staying informed and up to date on the most pressing issues we face. Her commitment to amplifying marginalized voices is admirable, and a trait we should hope to see within more of our media personalities.

Asha's work has centered primarily around providing coverage on pressing social issues. Her award-winning documentary, "No Blind Eye", is a necessary deep dive into the reality of bullying and school violence, a threat so many of our young people sadly face. Her report on the Bronx-based startup "Health in Her H.U.E.", an organization dedicated to ending the racial disparity in healthcare, brought critical attention and awareness to this pressing problem and brought a potential solution to many New Yorkers. Asha leads by example, and her empathetic and insightful contributions have served as a cornerstone for journalistic integrity in her field.

Asha's passion for change and belief that everybody's voice must be heard have made her a leader and icon in our community. I look forward to seeing more of her phenomenal work and cheer her on as she continues to mentor and inspire the youth across New York.

HONORING LINDA MALLON

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Mallon on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Office of the Public Guardian.

Linda has long been at the forefront of providing guardianship and advocating for individuals who experience intellectual, cognitive, and mental health challenges. Her hard work and dedication helped develop the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) from a small group in a borrowed space to a team of over fifty people serving over 1,200 incapacitated adults. From creating standard policies and procedures to budgeting and outreach, Linda fulfilled many different roles to support the office's work and help those in need.

I commend Linda on her retirement after 40 years with the OPG and her unwavering dedication and commitment to helping individuals who face these complex health challenges. On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Linda for her many years of service and for being a part of what makes the Granite State great. I am honored to recognize and congratulate

Linda on her retirement, and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Friday, March 8, 2024, I was unavoidably detained and missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 73.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BIO-MASS FOR TRANSPORTATION FUEL ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Biomass for Transportation Fuel Act," formerly titled the "Biomass and Biogas for Electric Vehicles Act" last Congress. I thank U.S. Senators ANGUS S. KING, Jr. (I-ME) and JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-NH) for sponsoring the companion bill and Congressman JARED F. GOLDEN (D-ME) for cosponsoring my House bill.

In passing the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140), Congress made electricity from renewable biomass—including biogas and waste-to-energy from feedstocks such as separated yard or food waste—eligible under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Despite years of Congressional urging, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has yet to approve a single biomass electricity facility under the program. Some applications for biomass electricity—known as "pathway petitions" under the RFS program—have been pending now for nearly 10 years.

Current law and USEPA regulations already define "renewable biomass" to include biogas, namely methane captured from livestock and agricultural byproducts, food waste, or residential yard waste. As such, our bicameral bill complements the significant investments California is making under the state's successful Dairy Digester Research and Development Program.

Currently, the USEPA requires facilities to prove with near-perfect traceability that the electricity generated is used as a transportation fuel to participate in the RFS program. Most renewable biomass facilities are selling electricity into the grid and, therefore, cannot prove definitively that each electron generated is used exclusively by electric vehicles.

The "Biomass for Transportation Fuel Act" would enable biomass facilities generating renewable electricity to finally participate in the RFS program. Instead of requiring that biomass facilities meet the impossible task of proving that the electricity generated and sold into the grid is used directly as a transportation fuel, our bill directs the USEPA to finalize the long-overdue federal regulations necessary for renewable biomass electricity producers to participate in the RFS program.

Our bill would also authorize USEPA to collect a reasonable fee from industry to cover the costs of reviewing any applications for renewable electricity submitted under the RFS program. In a 2016 "advance notice of proposed rulemaking," the USEPA cited inadequate agency resources as a major impediment to approval of renewable electricity under the RFS program. The USEPA could waive these application fees for municipally or tribally owned biomass facilities under our bill. This fee-for-service model is based on the USEPA's regulatory regime under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003 (title V of Public Law 108-199), which is widely regarded as successful and enjoys broad-based support in Congress.

Lastly, our bill would make biomass from federal forests eligible under the RFS. Current law only allows biomass collected from non-federal lands, including privately-owned land, state- or locally-owned public lands, and tribal land held in trust by the federal government, to qualify as renewable biomass under the RFS. This restriction is arbitrary and hampers market-driven incentives to reduce the overload of hazardous fuels for wildfires on our National Forests and other federal forestlands. However, I want to be clear that our bill would not open federal forestland to timber harvests or commercial hazardous fuels removal where such activities are prohibited currently.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to cosponsor the "Biomass for Transportation Fuel Act." As California and other western states face increasingly severe and year-round fire seasons due to the climate crisis, we must create a market for forest byproducts to incentivize commonsense hazardous fuels reduction. Renewable electricity from biomass also helps to reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a clean energy economy. While these measures alone will not solve the climate crisis or prevent all catastrophic wildfires, they are undoubtedly part of the solution.

RECOGNIZING SUREY I. MIRANDA-ALARCON

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, to celebrate Women's History Month, I want to highlight the life and work of Surey I. Miranda-Alarcón. Born in Puerto Rico in 1989. Surey Miranda-Alarcón would grow into a passionate community organizer and equal-opportunity policy advocate across her home island and within the Bronx. She was educated in public schools in Hatillo, Camuy and Lares, then later earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Puerto Rico and a master's in economics from The New School in New York City. Surey began a career in public policy while still in university, working in both the United States House of Representatives and the Puerto Rico House of Representatives.

Surey's upbringing would continue to inform and influence her work: while living in New York, she played an integral role in forming a coalition dedicated to supporting beneficial initiatives for Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans living in the United States. She is the founder

and President of Diaspora for Puerto Rico, which aided at-risk Puerto Ricans arriving in New York after the devastation of Hurricane Maria. She later worked in the New York Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and the Mayor's Community Affairs Office under former Mayor Bill De Blasio. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Surey worked to ensure that resources and information made their way through all of New York's communities, dedicating the strenuous years of the pandemic to aiding her fellow New Yorkers through distributing more than three million vaccines and PPE within the Bronx. Our community had one of the highest rates of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19, making her work essential.

Her dedication and ambition continue to inspire students to greater heights: she currently serves as a professor of economics at the State University of New York and works as the Director of Campus and Community Engagement at Fordham University. Her work at Fordham has centered around fostering initiatives and partnerships with neighboring communities, and under her leadership, Fordham University received a \$50 million dollar grant that will go towards aiding communities in New York and Puerto Rico affected by climate change. Surey's work will positively impact communities in both New York and Puerto Rico for generations to come, and her dedication to community outreach and influential, impactful policy makes her an inspiration to many.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MR. GARY NELSON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Nelson for his many years of public service to our community as he enters his retirement. As the Executive Director of the Port of Grays Harbor for nearly 24 years, Mr. Nelson has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and advocacy for the Grays Harbor community.

Mr. Nelson joined the Port of Grays Harbor in 2000, when there were only 21 vessel calls handling 85,000 tons of cargo. When Mr. Nelson stepped into leadership, the Port of Grays Harbor, like many other communities in my district, had fallen on hard times when the timber industry took it on the chin. Some folks feared that good things couldn't happen in Grays Harbor County anymore.

But not Gary. Under his visionary leadership over the last 24 years, the number of vessel calls increased nearly 500 percent, and the number of metric tons of cargo was up over 3 million in 2023.

During his tenure at the Port of Grays Harbor, Mr. Nelson oversaw the diversification of the Port's revenue streams and business ventures. This includes the operations at Satsop Business Park and recreational facilities at Friends Landing. He oversaw more than \$275 million in private investment throughout Port facilities, as well as millions of dollars in federal and state grants to modernize and improve the Westport Marina, Marine Terminals

in Aberdeen, and the Bowerman Airport, positioning the Port to accommodate current and future economic growth.

Gary's leadership will continue to impact the entire region for years to come. Put simply, because of Gary Nelson, there are people in Grays Harbor who now have jobs. Because of Gary Nelson, there are families that can now put food on the table. Because of Gary Nelson, the future for our region is brighter.

Beyond his local impact, Mr. Nelson is a nationally recognized leader in the industry. He served as the Chair of the American Association of Port Authorities from 2019 to 2020, chaired the Washington Public Ports Association Legislative Committee, and served on the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association Executive Board.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and thank Gary Nelson for his amazing tenure. Gary's passionate and caring stewardship of the Port of Grays Harbor has impacted the future of the community and shown that not only can good things happen in Grays Harbor County—great things can. I wish him the best in his retirement. He will be sorely missed. I am pleased to recognize Mr. Gary Nelson in the United States Congress.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS WOMEN

HON. MELANIE A. STANSBURY

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of New Mexico Press Women. 75 years ago, New Mexico Press Women was founded by women committed to expanding opportunities in journalism for women. New Mexico Press Women is New Mexico's oldest, largest, and most diverse women's press organization.

New Mexico Press Women will celebrate its 75th Anniversary Conference in just a few days. Countless members—both men and women—have left their marks on the communications professions. New Mexico Press Women will honor and profile courageous communicators at its 75th Anniversary Conference.

New Mexico Press Women encourages excellence through its professional communications contest and through its annual Zia Award, which honors outstanding woman authors who personally or whose book has a connection to New Mexico. New Mexico Press Women has provided encouragement and real assistance to college students entering communications professions by awarding thousands of dollars in scholarship funds over the years.

Through monthly luncheons, statewide conferences, and legislative workshops, New Mexico Press Women and its geographic chapters have brought together major players in New Mexico's history. New Mexico Press Women's gatherings have served as a forum for informing communicators and the public about the implications of current events.

New Mexico Press Women's 75th anniversary is a significant milestone, and I am proud to extend my congratulations to all of its members during the 75th Anniversary Conference.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS CONG

HON. MICHAEL LAWLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to recognize a remarkable young constituent, Thomas Cong from Ossining, New York, for becoming a top 40 finalist in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Nation's premier science competition for high school seniors.

This achievement places Thomas among the brightest young minds in our country, continuing a tradition of excellence that has propelled alumni to the highest echelons of scientific honor, including Nobel Prizes and National Medals of Science.

Thomas's success is a testament to his hard work, our community's supportive educational environment, and the potential of our youth to lead us into a better future.

Let's celebrate Thomas's achievement as an inspiration and a reminder of the critical role education plays in unlocking the immense potential of our youth. Congratulations to Thomas for making Ossining and our Nation proud.

HONORING GLENDELL BENNETT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special man, Glendell Bennett of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Bennett celebrated his 100th birthday on March 2, 2024.

Mr. Bennett was born in Chicago and moved with his family to Texas soon after his birth. When he was in high school, World War II broke out. He and a friend heard about the all-Black regiment that was training in Alabama, so they jumped on a train and headed to Tuskegee to volunteer. They worked clearing brush for landing strips and working on aircraft maintenance. Mr. Bennett was later drafted into the Army and sent to Fort Eustis in Virginia, then to Europe. He served with the Quartermaster Truck Company and the Red Ball Express in France, delivering goods and ammunitions to those on the front lines. He served in the Army from 1943 to 1947.

When World War II ended, Mr. Bennett attended Prairie View A&M College in Houston. He farmed and later moved to Chicago. While in Chicago, he worked with civil rights leaders, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to promote equality and justice. Mr. Bennett has nine children and three stepchildren. In 2012, he moved to Lexington, KY to be near his children Glenda Bennett Mulder, Kimberly Bennett, Brian Bennett, and Diane Minniefield. Mr. Bennett worked with the Kentucky Senior Employment Program at the Gainesway Community Center and the Goodwill Industries store for several years.

Mr. Bennett is known as a loving, giving person. He and his fellow veterans are true heroes. As members of the "Greatest Generation", they willingly served to protect and defend the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am humbled to honor Mr. Glendell Bennett and celebrate his 100th birthday before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAISY COCCO
DE FILIPPIS

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, to celebrate Women's History Month, I want to highlight Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis. She is the President and leader of Hostos Community College who has more than earned all our heartfelt admiration and thanks for her tireless work in administration and academia.

Dr. Cocco De Filippis' work in higher education began with her role as Provost and Senior Vice President of Student Affairs at Hostos Community College in 2002, where her unwavering commitment to compassion shaped the lives and academic careers of her students until her departure in 2008, when she took on the role of President at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Connecticut. She served this institution for twelve years, inspiring students to new academic heights.

She inspired these students with her own work and her own academic journey. Dr. Cocco De Filippis herself graduated summa cum laude from Queens College, with a Bachelor's in English and Spanish Literature, and then went on to pursue a Master of Arts in Spanish Literature, again from Queens College. Dr. Cocco De Filippis didn't stop there; she pursued a Master of Philosophy in Spanish Literature and a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature from the City University of New York Graduate Center. She was also the first person of Dominican ancestry to do so, cementing her legacy as a legendary pioneer in Dominican women's studies, Caribbean, and Dominican Diaspora literatures. For her work in these fields, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Santo Domingo, the oldest university in the Americas. Dr. Cocco De Filippis' resume is no doubt an inspiration to her students, just as it is an inspiration to me.

Dr. Cocco De Filippis returned to Hostos Community College in 2020 as President and led the school through the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, navigating the difficult world of online learning and community preparedness with grace and hope. Hostos College reported significant advancements under her leadership. A myriad of impactful initiatives aimed at improving student life and accessibility have been implemented during her tenure, positively impacting both enrollment and retention. In early 2023, Hostos College unveiled a brand-new, cutting-edge research center established due to the generous donations garnered under Dr. Cocco De Filippis' leadership, which has allowed members of the Hostos faculty to explore new and more effective ways of teaching, all with the goal of improving Hostos' learning environment for students and professors alike.

We are honored to recognize Dr. Cocco De Filippis' leadership and her achievements today. Her contributions have been invaluable to the lives of many, and we thank her for her relentless dedication to empowering others through education.

HONORING THE ARC NASSAU'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Arc Nassau's founding. On this remarkable milestone, we commemorate five decades of service and their commitment to enhancing the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental differences in Northeast Florida.

The Arc Nassau's vision of education and motivation is realized through life skills training, vocational opportunities, and long-term employment. These programs provide the individuals with a sense of belonging in their community.

As we celebrate The Arc Nassau's impressive tenure, let us look towards the future with a renewed commitment to their mission. In this spirit, I am pleased to announce that The Arc Nassau and Northeast Florida Advocates for Autism and Related Disabilities have merged to strengthen their long-standing services to the community,

Northeast Florida, let us follow The Arc Nassau's example, and see the able, not the label.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing The Arc Nassau. Here's to another fifty years of impact, progress, and transformation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM
KAMERLING

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a beloved member of our community, Tom Kamerling. On Tuesday, we lost a true legend, a man whose voice resonated through the halls of Arkansas Tech University for many years. Tom's contributions to our community, both on and off the airwaves, will be forever cherished and remembered.

As the public address voice of the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys and Golden Suns, Tom was more than just a broadcaster; he was the embodiment of professionalism and dedication. His voice became synonymous with Tech athletics, guiding fans through countless memorable moments with his unmistakable tone and unrivaled passion for the game.

His impact extended far beyond the broadcasting booth. Tom's kindness and generosity touched the lives of everyone he encountered. Whether as a mentor to aspiring broadcasters or as a friend to those in need, he always went above and beyond to make a positive difference.

His unwavering faith and commitment to serving others serve as an inspiration to us all. Even in his absence, his spirit will continue to guide and uplift our community for generations to come.

My thoughts and prayers are with Tom's family and loved ones during this difficult time. May they find solace in the knowledge that his

legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. In honor of his memory, let us strive to embody the same kindness, professionalism, and unwavering faith that defined Tom Kamerling's life.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
DAVID E. LUCAS AND THE HON-
ORABLE ELAINE HUCKABEE
LUCAS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor two distinguished public servants, community leaders, and dear friends of longstanding, Georgia State Senator David E. Lucas and Macon-Bibb Commissioner Elaine Huckabee Lucas. Their collective service of over more than six decades to the people of Macon-Bibb, the State of Georgia and humankind was recognized on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. during a community celebration at the Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia.

State Senator David E. Lucas was born to the union of the late David Lucas and Beatrice Poole Lucas, both educators on April 23, 1950 in Byron, Georgia. He graduated from Lanier High School in Bibb County in 1968 and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Tuskegee University, attended Atlanta Law School in 1980, and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Mercer University Medical School. At Tuskegee, he was on the 1971 SIAC Championship football team and after graduation in 1973, he returned home to Macon. In 1974, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, becoming the youngest member of that body. He has tirelessly represented Bibb County and Middle Georgia in both the Georgia House and State Senate for almost 50 years, becoming the most senior member.

Throughout his career Senator Lucas has fought for civil rights, voting rights and equal opportunity. He championed policies that uplift Georgia's seniors and improve healthcare access and outcomes in urban and rural communities. In the General Assembly, he has served on committees crucial to the economic development and wellbeing of our state, including Insurance, Energy, Utilities, Telecommunication, Appropriations and Transportation. I was blessed to serve with him for 16 years and can say without reservation, that there is no one who knows how to leverage the inner workings of state government for his constituents better than State Senator David Lucas.

In addition to his public service, Senator Lucas is a self-employed independent Insurance Agent and owner of TBL Inc., an entertainment promotions business. He has been a social studies teacher, football, basketball, and tennis coach; owner of the Macon Chiefs semi-professional football team and the Georgia Titans basketball team; and a charter member of the 100 Black Men of Macon-Middle Georgia. He has been married to the love of his life, Commissioner Elaine Huckabee Lucas for more than 47 years and reared four children—David, Jr., Aris, Leonard and Albert (deceased) with 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Commissioner Elaine Huckabee Lucas is a lifelong resident of Macon and the wife of Senator David Lucas. She is and has been his support and helpmate throughout their marriage, keeping him grounded during his numerous career and life pursuits. But, this “Queen” of East Macon is a monumental public servant in her own right. Born to the union of Ella Appling Huckabee and Leonard Huckabee, she graduated from Miller Senior High School, completed work in English at Macon Junior College and received her BS Degree, Magna Cum Laude from Savannah State College in Elementary Education. She earned a Master’s Degree from Fort Valley State University and an Education Specialist Degree from Georgia College and State University. She is certified in early childhood education, middle grades, data collection and counseling. She taught elementary school for 18 years, was an elementary and high school counselor for 12 years, coordinated counseling and advisement for the Bibb County Teen Parent Center for 5 years, and after retirement, was counselor, graduation specialist and community service coordinator at the Hutching Career Center for 8 years.

First elected to the Macon City Council in 1983, Commissioner Lucas has continued her uninterrupted elective service, making history as the first female commissioner of the Macon-Bibb Consolidated Government. She has served on key committees including Community Resources and Development; Appropriations; and Employee Development and Compensation. She served as President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials; The Macon Bibb Board of Health; Martin Luther King Commission; Cemetery Preservation Board; and the Recreation Planning Committee. Her prolific record portrays a champion for voting rights, civil rights and equal access to services for all citizens. She is a founding member and first president of the Bibb County Voter Registration and Education League, member of NAACP, SCLC, Bibb County Democratic Executive Committee, and Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

In 2011, she opened EL High School Academy where over 1,800 school dropouts have reentered school and earned their high school diplomas. She is a 40-year blood donor, organ donor, and runs E. Lucas Consulting and Lenny’s Handy Services in partnership with her son, Lenny.

Commissioner Elaine Lucas and Senator David Lucas are indeed a power couple and truly icons in the Middle Georgia area. Active members of Steward Chapel AME Church, they are indeed persons of faith. Moreover, they are my trusted friends of longstanding for over 50 years. It has been said that “You make your living by what you get. You make your life by what you give!” David and Elaine Lucas have truly made their lives by giving so much to so many for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the 765,000 people of Georgia’s Second Congressional District in recognizing and honoring the careers, service and legacies of State Senator David E. Lucas and Commissioner Elaine Huckabee Lucas. To God be the glory for the things they have done in support of humanity.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JEROME KERN CHISOLM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, Major Jerome Kern Chisolm. Major Chisolm was born December 5, 1950, in Moncks Corner, South Carolina and passed away on January 17, 2024, in Pensacola, Florida.

Growing up he graduated from my alma mater Mather Academy in Camden, South Carolina where he excelled as a student leader and athlete. Major Chisolm also graduated from South Carolina State University and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. When he retired from the Army, he became principal of an alternative high school for at risk students known as Escambia Charter School in Pensacola, Florida. Major Chisolm was a principal, but he wore many hats, such as teacher, mentor, and coach. He was a strict disciplinarian but was committed to being a positive role model with an emphasis on education. In 2014, his school won the National USA Today Weekend Make A Difference Award. The award was given for community service volunteering. In addition, the Escambia Charter School Board named a building in his honor, The Jerome K. Chisolm Building.

Throughout his life, Jerome Chisolm has been a humanitarian in his community. He and his wife Barbara have helped so many people improve their quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating Major Chisolm’s remarkable career and his dedication to helping the least among us. Jerome Chisolm will remain a pillar in the Mather Academy, South Carolina State University, and military communities forever.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF WHITE HAVEN

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Borough of White Haven, Pennsylvania, in honor of its bicentennial celebration. The Borough of White Haven is situated on the eastern edge of Luzerne County and borders the beautiful Lehigh River at the entrance of the Pocono Mountains.

White Haven was founded as a settlement in 1824, making it the oldest established community in this area of Luzerne County. Incorporated as a Borough in 1842, White Haven was named after Josiah White, an enterprising citizen and builder of the old-fashioned “bear trap” locks that made the Lehigh River navigable.

The early settlers could not have predicted the immense importance of White Haven in Pennsylvania’s—and the nation’s—economic growth and industrialization efforts. By the 1840s, anthracite coal mining was booming in the nearby Wyoming Valley and White Haven

would become a central trade hub. A railroad was built from the Wyoming Valley to White Haven, where the canal system allowed the coal to be carried to market on barges. The Borough also boasted Pennsylvania’s busiest lumber depots at the time, producing 20 million feet of lumber annually at its peak.

Today, White Haven is a quaint town featuring a main street with shops and restaurants and lovely tree-lined streets. It also serves as a recreational hub with the Lehigh Gorge State Park on its border and the Delaware and Lehigh Anthracite Trail in its downtown. With its picturesque views, charming architecture, and friendly residents, it is easy to see why so many choose to call White Haven home.

White Haven played a critical role in Pennsylvania’s history and the industrialization of our nation. Over the past two centuries, the Borough has demonstrated a commitment to persistence and progress, a trend which will no doubt continue and contribute to the prosperity of this treasured community for centuries to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRANDON WILLIAMS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, due to a delayed elevator in the Capitol, I missed voting on Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 2799, the Expanding Access to Capital Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 73.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 13

10 a.m.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV,

TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI,
VVA, NGAUS, and FRA. 10 a.m.
390-CHOB

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture
of United States Northern Command
and United States Southern Command
in review of the Defense Authorization
Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the
Future Years Defense Program; to be
immediately followed by a closed ses-
sion in SVC-217.

SH-216

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the Presi-
dent's proposed budget request for fis-
cal year 2025 for the Department of
Health and Human Services.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine workers
benefitting from new technology and
increased productivity.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine responding
to the increasing wildfire threat.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1306, to
reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT
grant program, and the nomination of
David O. Barnett, Jr., to be United
States Marshal for the District of New
Mexico, Department of Justice.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. strat-
egy in the Pacific Islands region.

SD-419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2335–2349

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3897–3905, and S. Res. 586. Page S2346

Measures Passed:

Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 586, supporting the goals and ideals of “Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month”. Page S2349

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

A message from the President of the United States Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts received during adjournment of the Senate on March 9, 2024; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget. (PM–42) Page S2345

Yoon Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia. Pages S2335–36, S2339–40

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 85), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. Pages S2339–40

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 12, 2024; that all time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture has been invoked on the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District

Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Melissa R. DuBose, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; and that upon disposition of the nomination of Melissa R. DuBose, Senate execute the order of Friday, March 8, 2024, with respect to the nomination of Sean Patrick Maloney, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Page S2349

Messages from the House: Page S2345

Measures Referred: Page S2345

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S2345

Executive Communications: Page S2345

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2346–47

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2347–48

Additional Statements: Pages S2344–45

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2348

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—85) Page S2340

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2349.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

WORLDWIDE THREATS

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine worldwide threats, after receiving testimony from Avril D. Haines, Director of National Intelligence; William J. Burns, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Brett M. Holmgren,

Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research; and General Timothy D. Haugh, Director, National Security Agency, and Lieutenant General

Jeffrey A. Kruse, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, both of the Department of Defense.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 7608–7620; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 1072–1073, were introduced. **Pages H1092–93**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1094–95**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 7521, to protect the national security of the United States from the threat posed by foreign adversary controlled applications, such as TikTok and any successor application or service and any other application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Ltd. or an entity under the control of ByteDance Ltd (H. Rept. 118–417);

H.R. 7520, to prohibit data brokers from transferring sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–418); and

H. Res. 1071, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) to direct the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify the utilization rate of certain public buildings and federally-leased space, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies (H. Rept. 118–419). **Page H1092**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bentz to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1061**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1063**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 3:32 p.m. **Page H1065**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: FASTA Reform Act: H.R. 6277, to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to improve such Act; **Pages H1065–67**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition: H. Con. Res. 83, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; and Lieutenant General

memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; **Pages H1067–68**

Amending title 40, United States Code, to establish an expiration date of certain committee resolutions with respect to leases or projects: H.R. 6316, to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish an expiration date of certain committee resolutions with respect to leases or projects; **Pages H1068–69**

Public Buildings Accountability Act: H.R. 6254, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review on the Public Buildings Service; **Pages H1069–70**

Designating the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the “Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse”: H.R. 532, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the “Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; **Pages H1070–71**

Think Differently About Emergencies Act: H.R. 6249, to provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and the families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters; **Pages H1071–73**

Disaster Assistance Deadlines Alignment Act: S. 1858, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance; **Pages H1073–74**

Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act: H.R. 1752, amended, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 20 nays, Roll No. 79; **Pages H1074–76, H1079–80**

Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act: H.R. 886, amended, to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris

Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 326 yeas to 73 nays, Roll No. 80; and **Pages H1076–78, H1080–81**

Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act: H.R. 4693, amended, to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Pages H1078–79

Recess: The House recessed at 4:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H1079

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed. Designating the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Parks Federal Building”; S. 1278, to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Parks Federal Building”.

Pages H1073–74

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President transmitting a notification of the designation of all funding as emergency requirements in accordance with section 6 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–117).

Page H1065

Senate Referral: S. 3853 was held at the desk.

Page H1065

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H1079, H1080–81.

Quorum—Calls Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1079, H1080–81.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023; DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Committee on Rules: Full committee held a hearing on H.R. 6276, the “Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023”; and legislation on denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of

H.R. 6276, the “Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023”, and H. Res. 1065, Denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 6276, the “Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule further makes in order only those amendments printed in the report. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 1065, Denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of the resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 1065. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. Testimony was heard from Representatives Van Drew, Jayapal, and Perry.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D200)

H.R. 7454, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. Signed on March 8, 2024. (Public Law 118–41)

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,
MARCH 12, 2024***(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)***Senate**

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine global security challenges and U.S. strategy, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025, 10:15 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 3791, to reauthorize the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, S. 3858, to establish within the Office of Land and Emergency Management of the Environmental Protection Agency the Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains, and S. 3891, 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, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine growing U.S. manufacturing through the tax code, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine youth apprenticeships, focusing on building partnerships and strengthening career pathways, 2 p.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine voting rights in America, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine administration of upcoming elections, 3 p.m., SR-301.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in North and South America", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "U.S. and Adversary Hypersonic Capabilities", 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled "Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities Related to the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request", 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions; and Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Develop-

ment, joint hearing entitled "Safeguarding Student-Athletes from NLRB Misclassification", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 619, the "NAPA Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 620, the "Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act"; H.R. 7218, the "Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act of 2024"; H.R. 5012, the "SHINE for Autumn Act of 2023"; H.R. 4581, the "Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2023"; H.R. 2706, the "Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act"; H.R. 4646, the "SIREN Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 6160, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care program; H.R. 6960, the "Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 7153, the "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 7251, the "Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 7224, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; H.R. 7208, the "Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 6829, the "Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Research, and Training in the Schools Act of 2023"; H.R. 7189, the "Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 7406, the "DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2024"; H.R. 3916, the "SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2023"; H.R. 5074, the "Kidney PATIENT Act"; and H.R. 5526, the "Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act of 2023", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, markup on H.R. 2864, the "Countering CCP Drones Act"; H.R. 820, the "Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency Act"; H.R. 1513, the "Future Uses of Technology Upholding Reliable and Enhancing Networks"; H.R. 7589, the "Removing Our Unsecure Technologies to Ensure Reliability and Security", 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled "Mission Critical: Restoring National Security as the Focus of Defense Production Act Reauthorization", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, hearing entitled "Going Nuclear on Rosatom: Ending Global Dependence on Putin's Nuclear Energy Sector", 2 p.m., 2127 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled "Organizational Oversight: Examining TSA's Post-Modernization Efforts", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Three Years Later: Assessing the Law Enforcement Response to Multiple Pipe Bombs on January 6, 2021", 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Hearing on the Report of Special Counsel Robert K. Hur", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1657, the “Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act of 2023”; H.R. 2468, the “Mountain View Corridor Completion Act”; H.R. 4389, the “Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023”; H.R. 4524, the “Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act”; H.R. 5443, the “Accelerating Appraisals and Conservation Efforts Act”; H.R. 5582, the “White Oak Resilience Act”; H.R. 5665, the “Promoting Accessibility on Federal Lands Act of 2023”; H.R. 6235, the “Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2023”; H.R. 6342, the “Military and Veterans in Parks Act”; H.R. 6368, the “Indian Buffalo Management Act”; H.R. 6862, to amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes; and H.R. 7072, the “Wabeno Economic Development Act of 2024”, 10:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “The Power Struggle: Examining the Reliability and Security of America’s Electrical Grid”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “Addressing Real Harm Done by Deepfakes”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Bridging the Valley of Death: ARP’s Role in Developing Breakthrough Technologies”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, hearing entitled “Navigating Regulations: Alternative Pathways to Investing in Small Businesses”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Disaster Readiness: Examining the Propriety of the Expanded Use of FEMA Resources”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Enhancing Access to Care at Home in Rural and Underserved Communities”, 11 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, hearing entitled “2024 Annual Threat Assessment”, 10 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “2024 Annual Threat Assessment”, 2 p.m., 304 Cannon. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meeting

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the fiscal situation of the United States, 2:30 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 12 through March 15, 2024

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Melissa R. DuBose, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Melissa R. DuBose, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Sean Patrick Maloney, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: March 12, to hold hearings to examine global security challenges and U.S. strategy, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 12, to hold hearings to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: March 12, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025, 10:15 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 12, to hold hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 12, business meeting to consider S. 3791, to reauthorize the

America's Conservation Enhancement Act, S. 3858, to establish within the Office of Land and Emergency Management of the Environmental Protection Agency the Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains, and S. 3891, 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, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 12, to hold hearings to examine growing U.S. manufacturing through the tax code, 10 a.m., SD-215.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 14, to hold hearings to examine U.S. strategy in the Pacific Islands region, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 12, Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine youth apprenticeships, focusing on building partnerships and strengthening career pathways, 2 p.m., SD-430.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine workers benefitting from new technology and increased productivity, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 14, to hold hearings to examine responding to the increasing wildfire threat, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 12, to hold hearings to examine voting rights in America, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

March 14, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT

grant program, and the nomination of David O. Barnett, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the District of New Mexico, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Rules and Administration: March 12, to hold hearings to examine administration of upcoming elections, 3 p.m., SR-301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 13, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI, VVA, NGAUS, and FRA, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services: March 13, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies and Innovation, hearing entitled "Too Critical to Fail: Getting Software Right in an Age of Rapid Innovation", 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services: March 13, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Inclusion, hearing entitled "Bureaucratic Overreach or Consumer Protection", 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Joint Meeting

Joint Economic Committee: March 12, to hold hearings to examine the fiscal situation of the United States, 2:30 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

Joint Hearing: March 13, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multiple veterans service organizations: JWV, TAPS, NCHV, MOAA, NACVSO, NCAI, VVA, NGAUS, and FRA, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:30 a.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

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(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, March 12

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 6276—Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H. Res. 1065—Denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies (Subject to a Rule).

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