



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

No. 44

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 12, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE LESKO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JAMES "SLIM" WHITLOCK

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

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable leader and cherished member of my district and the community from the Village of Hatch, the chili capital of the world, Mayor James "Slim" Whitlock.

Last year, I had the privilege of meeting Mayor Whitlock. In our dis-

cussions, it became evident that Slim wasn't just a mayor, he was a family man, a community member, and dedicated public servant of the people.

His passion for Hatch and its residents radiated through every word, and his genuine commitment to the well-being of his constituents was truly commendable.

Slim's impact reached far beyond the duties of his office. He was a pillar of strength during celebrations, a comforting presence in times of need, and a beacon of positivity with a smile that could light up a room.

The phrase "doing extra good" embodied his values, reflecting a man who consistently went above and beyond for his community.

As we mourn the loss of Mayor Slim Whitlock, let us remember him not only as a leader but as a symbol of selflessness and devotion.

The love he had for his community was reciprocated manifold, creating a bond that will forever endure in the hearts of the people that he served.

May his legacy inspire us to continue the work he started and embrace the service and community he exemplified.

Mayor, you will be missed.

### BOLSTERING OUR RURAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Mr. VASQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the critical importance of federally qualified health centers, especially in rural communities like mine.

I had the privilege of visiting La Clinica de Familia in my district and also recently visited Rio Grande High School's school-based health center and the Socorro Mental Health Clinic.

These centers are lifelines for countless New Mexicans who would otherwise lack access to essential healthcare services.

Federally qualified health centers not only provide primary care but also offer mental health services, dental care, and preventative care. They address the holistic needs of our communities.

However, health centers face significant challenges, particularly in rural areas where one in five rural New Mexicans face serious issues accessing healthcare.

That is why I proudly stand as a co-sponsor of H.R. 834, the Rural Physician Workforce Production Act.

This legislation aims to bolster our rural healthcare system by incentivizing the training and placement of physicians in underserved areas.

By investing in health centers and supporting initiatives like the Rural Physician Workforce Production Act, we can ensure that all New Mexicans, regardless of their ZIP Code, have access to the quality healthcare that they deserve.

We must prioritize the health and well-being of our rural communities by adequately funding these vital centers.

### DISCONNECTED STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, last week, the President stood in this Chamber and declared the state of the Union is good and that our lives are better.

For the sake of our country, I wish that were so, but, unfortunately, we know it couldn't be further from the truth.

After 3 years of one self-inflicted disaster after another—border, crime spree, cost-of-living crisis, a more destabilized and dangerous world because of the weakness, the weak posture, the feckless foreign policies—we are supposed to believe somehow that life is better in America.

President Biden wasn't able to suspend reality even in a State of the Union speech. Why? Because the American people know better. They know

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 under the reckless spending and failed policies of this President, their country has become weaker and more vulnerable, both at home and abroad.

Madam Speaker, if you think that the State of the Union speech was disconnected from reality and the needs of the American people, read his budget. He just introduced it yesterday.

In the midst of record spending-induced inflation, interest rates, and the cost of living that is crushing working families, and a fragile and uncertain economic future for the American people, and the slide toward socialism, the slide toward a sovereign debt crisis, here is his answer:

Double down on the borrowing and the spending and the taxing.

In fact, his budget proposes the highest sustained levels of spending, borrowing, and taxing in the history of the United States of America.

Adding \$16 trillion to the debt over 10 years, \$5 trillion from hardworking tax-paying Americans to attempt to pay for it, taxes on energy and agriculture producers, taxes on working families, taxes on our job creators who are competing not just here at home but in the international marketplace.

Then he expands mandatory spending. Understand that we have 75 percent of our budget on auto-spend. That is the driver of the debt. If we don't rein in mandatory spending and grow this economy, we will never get out of this dangerous and unsustainable fiscal path that will end with irreparable harm to this country, that will end with our children being robbed of their freedom and their opportunities.

It will upend the Republic and our leadership in the world. The whole world order will change, and China won't have to fire a single shot. Madam Speaker, he expands mandatory spending because he wants more climate subsidies and clean energy, green energy tax giveaways to corporations. It is more cradle-to-grave welfare without work, trapping more people in dependence on government and generations in poverty.

This is his vision for America.

One thing that is not in there is any consideration for this current fragile economy or our children's future.

Madam Speaker, I am concerned as the budget chairman of the United States House Budget Committee. I am concerned as a family man with three children, who are hoping to have the American experience that we have had.

Madam Speaker, the Republicans put forward their budget, their blueprint, that would put this Nation on a path to balance. Instead of adding the \$16 trillion in debt over 10 years, we take that debt away. We reduce trillions of dollars in debt, we reduce our debt-to-GDP which, by the way, is the highest indebtedness in the history of our country, surpassing World War II when we were fighting Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany. We are in relative peace and prosperity, and we have higher indebtedness than we did in World War II, and it is going to get exponentially worse.

Today, our debt is 25 percent higher than the total economic output of the greatest and biggest and most robust economy in the world. It will be twice that in 30 years—\$120 trillion on top of the \$34 trillion debt that we are in now.

Now, if you can look at those CBO projections, if you can look at the unfunded liabilities 30 years in the future and not shudder to your core for the future of your country, then you are not reading from the same documents I am reading from.

Madam Speaker, look at the contrast between Biden's budget and the Republican budget. He says, show me your budget, I will show you your priorities. Look at his priorities and look at ours. I think you will understand that we choose economic freedom and fiscal responsibility and a bright future for our children.

God bless America and go west Texas.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF ITAY CHEN

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in sorrow, one that sears me not only as a Member of Congress, not only as a supporter of the State of Israel and its people, not only as an American, but as a parent.

Since October 7, I have become close with Ruby and Hagit Chen. They are the parents of Itay Chen, a brave American who was serving in the IDF when he was taken hostage by Hamas on October 7.

When last I saw Ruby and the other families of the American hostages held in Gaza less than a week ago, I repeated the refrain: "Send not to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Sadly, Madam Speaker, we know that bell tolls for Itay.

Just this morning, intelligence emerged indicating that shortly after Hamas took Itay hostage on October 7, they executed him; an unarmed, defenseless hostage. It was an act of supreme cowardice, terror, murder.

Theirs was a crime that violates every international law, every rule of war, every moral ideal, and every principle of basic human decency.

His murder satisfied only one tenet, the one Hamas laid out in its own charter, which states their terrorist organization was put on the Earth to "fight Jews and kill them," and to eliminate Israel.

These terrorists robbed Itay of his future. He was only 19 years of age. They robbed Roy and Alon of their brother. They robbed our Nation of a great American, a young American, an idealistic American, an American who loved his country, the United States of America, and loved his family's homeland, Israel. Crucially, they robbed our world of a generous soul.

Madam Speaker, there is no sequence of words, no order of syllables that

exist in any language that can dull the pain that Itay's family feels this hour, but they ought to know that our commitment to secure their son's return is unbreakable.

We will not yield until we have recovered his remains, for his family cannot put him to rest and sit shiva until his body is returned. We will not relent, Madam Speaker, until we get every last hostage returned home.

Madam Speaker, I wish Itay's family strength as they grieve this terrible loss—the same strength that they have shown throughout this grueling ordeal. Many of you have met him, and Hagit, his mother, and maybe his aunt.

Indeed, the bell tolls for them and their son today, but it tolls for all of us, all of us who are vulnerable to the acts of terrorists and murderers and those without conscience.

May the Chens take comfort in knowing that bell's peal resonates in the hearts of every person who cherishes the human decency, courage, and generosity that Itay displayed.

May Itay's memory be a blessing.

□ 1015

#### AMERICANS CANNOT AFFORD PRESIDENT BIDEN

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, during President Biden's State of the Union Address, we saw a desperate attempt to jump-start a failing Presidency.

After 3 years of weak and ineffective leadership, the American people continue to suffer under soaring inflation, increased crime, and a wide-open southern border.

Now is not the time for more empty promises from a President who is unable to deliver. It is time to address these challenges head-on by cutting back on spending, giving law enforcement the tools they need, and returning to border policies that keep our Nation safe.

Pennsylvanians cannot afford a President who cannot rise to meet these challenges, and Americans cannot afford a President who continues to rely on the far-left policies of his radical base.

#### CONSISTENT INFLATION

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, just this morning, it was reported that consumer prices rose by more than 3.2 percent in the month of February alone.

This consistent inflation is continuing to force American families to make difficult decisions about what they can afford and what they cannot afford.

Right now, a gallon of gas in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, costs \$3.66. Instead of addressing these rising prices, President Biden has continued to attack American energy producers, stifling new development and making it more difficult to open new refineries.

Energy prices now cost Americans over \$3,000 more each year than when Joe Biden first took office.

It is clear that the President's failed policies are to blame for the skyrocketing cost of gas, oil, and electricity. It is time to rein in these runaway prices by returning to the energy that is underneath the feet of my constituents.

#### COMMUNITY FUNDING PROJECTS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, President Biden signed a government funding package into law. This bipartisan slate of bills will make meaningful investments in Federal programs that North Carolinians rely on. It will help lower the cost of living, create good-paying jobs, and grow our local economy.

I am particularly proud to have secured over \$14 million in Federal funds for 15 community-supported projects throughout North Carolina's 13th District. This will go a long way in getting local priorities moving, and I am proud to have gotten this funding across the finish line.

For transportation infrastructure, I secured nearly \$1.8 million for two different projects. This funding will help GoTriangle purchase 16 zero-emission vehicles and will also allow the city of Raleigh to make streetscape improvements to enhance connectivity and public safety on Tarboro Road.

For economic development, I secured \$2.2 million for three different projects. This funding will help the I-95/I-40 Crossroads of America Economic Development Alliance complete an advanced manufacturing and biotech training center, getting North Carolinians back to work. It will help the city of Goldsboro to demolish and dispose of the Herman Park building, which was closed due to contamination issues and safety concerns. It will help the town of Garner with the partial removal of a deteriorated dam and facilitate a lake and stream restoration improvement project at Meadowbrook Park.

For water infrastructure, I secured nearly \$7.3 million for six different projects. This funding will help the city of Raleigh to install stormwater infrastructure within the Cottages of Idlewild Affordable Housing Project and bring the project closer to completion. It will help the town of Apex to complete a sewer interceptor project, which will improve service delivery and reduce maintenance costs for public utilities.

It will allow the town of Benson to make pipe repairs and water system upgrades as part of its water system improvement plan. It will help the town of Cary to improve stormwater management and water quality in the Walnut Creek watershed. It will help

the town of Fuquay-Varina purchase a new 1-million-gallon elevated water storage tank to improve water quality, quantity, and pressure. It will help the town of Holly Springs to make water infrastructure improvements, specifically a water conveyance system that is so needed in the region.

For public safety, I secured \$1.3 million for three different projects. This funding will help Wake County purchase body-worn cameras, radars, and other technology upgrades for the Wake County Sheriff's Office. It will help the town of Smithfield to purchase body cameras and more data storage resources. It will help the town of Selma purchase police equipment and make technology upgrades. In the fight for justice, body cameras aren't just accessories; they are tools of accountability.

For agriculture, I secured nearly \$1.5 million for North Carolina State University to continue corn and soybean research at the Central Crops Research Station in Clayton.

Madam Speaker, I came to Congress to get things done. This funding will alleviate the burden and expense on our local cities and towns and get these projects closer to the finish line by putting our Federal dollars to good use in North Carolina. I am going to continue to work across the aisle to find solutions and deliver for the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

#### RECOGNIZING JAYLENE EVERHART

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jaylene Everhart of Centre County, Pennsylvania. I had the privilege of meeting with Jaylene last week while she was in Washington, D.C., for the national Agriculture's Promise forum.

Jaylene is a junior at State College Area High School and currently representing Pennsylvania for the National Young Farmers Education Association. Her passion for agriculture started at a young age as she grew up going to her grandparents' farm for chores before heading to school.

As a member of the Little Lions FFA Chapter and 4-H, she advocates for agricultural education on a wider level, encouraging educators to include agricultural education in classrooms.

In December, Jaylene was one of two high school students from Pennsylvania selected to compete at the National Young Farmers Education Association Institute and Agriculture Communications competition in College Station, Texas, at Texas A&M University.

The association works with local FFA chapters and 4-H organizations to help raise the next generation of agricultural leaders and advocates.

During the event, Jaylene attended educational tours to learn about the

variety of agricultural opportunities and what Texas agriculture is all about and competed in a variety of agriculture advocacy and communication competitions against college- and high-school-age students from across the country.

Jaylene placed first in the Agriculture Expressions contest, which consisted of a 500-word essay on a current agricultural topic, a personal biography, and a release statement for publication. She also participated in the Agriculture Communications contest, where she created social media posts, radio, TV, and newsprint submissions throughout the week to exemplify the impact and education of the institute.

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I take great pride in meeting with our next generation of agricultural leaders. Jaylene has an incredibly bright future ahead of her, and she is an inspiration to other young farmers looking to get involved with the industry.

Without students like Jaylene, who have such a passion for the agricultural field, we risk our future food supply. I am also looking for ways to lift the voices of her generation in Congress and encourage our next agricultural leaders. We must encourage their participation in the agriculture industry.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Jaylene on her accomplishments. They are truly outstanding. She is a talented young lady, and I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish for the agricultural community and beyond.

#### TIJUANA RIVER POLLUTION NEAR SAN DIEGO

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise once again to address what could very well be one of the greatest ongoing environmental disasters in the United States. I am referring to the billions of gallons of raw sewage, industrial waste, and other pollutants that flow down the Tijuana River and into San Diego's coastal waters.

These flows sicken our communities, shutter our local businesses, harm our tourism industry, endanger wildlife, and threaten our servicemembers and Border Patrol agents stationed in San Diego.

Just last month, researchers at San Diego State University released a report that shows that this pollution also poses a massive public health threat. The studies they cite reveal extremely troubling findings, like the fact that cancer-causing chemicals banned in the United States decades ago, including DDT and PCBs, have been found in the soil.

Waterborne contaminants include viruses like SARS-CoV-2, salmonella, listeria, hep B and C, and pathogens carrying antibiotic-resistant genes.

The report cites a recent study of bottlenose dolphins that had become stranded and died in San Diego waters. The dolphins died from sepsis caused by water contaminated by feces. This is the same water our troops train in and our kids swim and surf in.

Avoiding the water alone will not make you safe. Air quality monitors that were recently installed in the region have confirmed what residents have known for years, that the air itself is also polluted. Sewage that washes up on land dries, sending dangerous levels of hydrogen sulfide into the air around people's homes.

The solution is simple. The United States owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant on our side of the border that has not been maintained. It is in desperate need of repair and expansion to handle the flows. President Biden included \$310 million in his supplemental funding request that would make those repairs and upgrades possible. This is a small price to pay for the health of our community, our brave servicemembers, and our environment.

Many of the communities hit hardest by this pollution are low-income communities of color. I can't help but think if this was happening somewhere that wasn't 3,000 miles from here, like the Chesapeake Bay or even the Great Lakes, it would have been taken care of long ago.

We know that Mexico must also do its part. Much of their infrastructure has also fallen into disrepair. The good news is that Mexico is bound by a treaty we signed in San Diego in 2022 to spend nearly \$150 million to fix their treatment plant.

Mexico, to its credit, has made great strides in the last year. They have repaired and replaced key infrastructure, like sewage pipes that redirect the contaminated water, and they have broken ground on a new wastewater treatment plant.

Madam Speaker, this is a public health, business, and national security disaster. The more we delay in addressing cross-border pollution, the more costly and difficult it will be to fix. I urge my colleagues to support this funding and ask that congressional leadership and appropriators include this funding in any upcoming spending package.

#### HONORING TEXAS RANGER ROBERT “BRANDON” BESS

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of a longtime Texas lawman, constituent, and good friend, Texas Ranger Robert “Brandon” Bess.

On February 29, 2024, he hung up his signature Stetson cowboy hat, and he unpinned the legendary Texas Rangers cinco-peso badge for the last time.

#### □ 1030

Brandon is a native of Kirbyville, Texas, and graduated from Kirbyville High School in 1990. He earned a degree in criminal justice from Kilgore College before attending East Texas Police Academy. After he graduated from the academy, he served as a patrolman for the Henderson Police Department and as a deputy in the Rusk County Sheriff's Office.

In 1995, Brandon joined the Texas Department of Public Safety where he served as a highway patrol trooper from 1995 to 2005 and as a sergeant and special agent in criminal intelligence from 2005 to 2013.

In July 2013, he joined the prestigious Texas Rangers, the oldest law enforcement organization on the North American Continent with statewide jurisdiction. Since April 2021, he has served as the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program Ranger, “cold case,” for Texas Ranger Company A, encompassing 35 southeast Texas counties, where he has done a marvelous job.

Brandon worked on countless criminal investigations throughout the Lone Star State for the ranger division during his distinguished career. He perfected the use of DNA tracing and other cutting-edge technologies to bring multiple criminals to justice finally, often many years after the case was considered cold. It has been a great privilege to assist him in cutting through the Federal bureaucracy for several of those cases.

Brandon married his wife, Mary Beth, on March 13, 1999. Together they share children, Marshall, Walker, and Mattie. The Bess family are active members of Anahuac Methodist Church, where Brandon has served as a Sunday school teacher, on multiple committees, and currently chairs the church's board of stewards. Additionally, he is a cancer survivor and a veteran of the United States Army Reserve and the Texas Army National Guard.

Madam Speaker, in its 200-year history, only the very finest law enforcement officers have had the great honor of calling themselves Texas Rangers. I am proud that Ranger Brandon Bess is among them.

I wish him, Mary Beth, and their family the very best in the next chapter of their lives, and I look forward to working with him in the future as well.

#### SUPPORTING UKRAINE

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

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Subcommittee on National Security, I rise in strong support of our international ally, Ukraine, and the more than 37 million Ukrainians who remain determined to defend their independence in the face of more than 2 years of state-sponsored terrorism at the hands of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

In submitting his annual budget request to Congress just yesterday, President Biden again appealed for immediate emergency funding for Ukraine—a request the administration first made back in October of 2023. According to the President, absent congressional action on this emergency request, the United States will not be able to continue to provide support to Ukraine to meet their battlefield needs as they defend against Russian attacks each and every day.

Ukrainian armed forces are already enduring the direct impact of this congressional impasse on Ukraine aid. While Russia is dropping guided bombs on Ukraine's positions and firing 10,000 artillery shells per day, Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines have been left to ration munitions and other critical supplies.

It is not surprising that the past several weeks have witnessed the fall of the strategic Ukrainian city of Avdiivka and additional Russian advances in eastern Ukraine. Only through their steadfast will and courage have the Ukrainian people been able to effectively resist the brutal Russian onslaught.

Beyond the battlefield, the United Nations and the World Bank recently estimated that the total cost of reconstruction in Ukraine and recovery after 2 years of war now stands at almost \$500 billion.

Russian attacks against Ukrainian civilian population centers have caused devastation and loss of life and damage across several critical areas, including the housing, energy, and transportation sectors. Moreover, nearly 40 percent of the Ukrainian population, or almost 15 million people, are in dire need of basic humanitarian assistance.

Last month, the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan national security funding bill that includes more than \$62 billion in security and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Inexplicably, the House Republican leadership has refused to consider this legislation, even though I believe the majority of Members have indicated that they would vote for it.

The House Republican leadership is also sitting on bipartisan legislation that would provide President Biden with the authority to confiscate and transfer frozen Russian Central Bank assets to Ukraine for its reconstruction. The bill would also establish an international framework to facilitate the transfer of Russian assets frozen in other Western countries. In total, \$300 billion worth of foreign holdings that Russia stashed across the globe could immediately be diverted to support the Ukrainian people.

Importantly, President Biden and his administration have already expressed support for this transfer of funding. As underscored by Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen's statement to the G20 world leaders last month: “This would be a decisive response to Russia's unprecedented threat to global stability.”

It would “ . . . support Ukraine’s continued resistance and long-term reconstruction.”

There is also a precedent for such action. In 2003, the U.S. seized \$1.7 billion in frozen Iraqi Government assets under Saddam Hussein and transferred those funds toward the benefit of the Iraqi people.

Madam Speaker, Vladimir Putin once said: “The borders of Russia do not end anywhere.” He recently threatened the “destruction of civilization” and warned NATO countries that the consequences for potential interventionists will be much more tragic.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge the House Republican leadership to act on these bills before it is too late for the Ukrainian people and U.S. national security. Our democratic allies around the world hang in the balance.

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN’S STATE OF THE UNION APOLOGY

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, last week the President gave a campaign kickoff speech on the House floor masquerading as a State of the Union Address.

Over the weekend, the mainstream media praised the President’s speech, although the speech failed to address the skyrocketing crime impacting our cities, our overrun southern border making every town in Tennessee a border town, and rapidly rising energy and grocery costs. The only thing the President did do following this speech was apologize to an accused murderer.

It is a shame that the President of the United States took the time out of his day to say that he regretted calling an illegal immigrant and accused murderer an illegal.

The President continues to embarrass not only himself but our entire Nation when he cowers to the extremely far-left base of his party in an attempt not to offend an illegal immigrant who allegedly murdered a U.S. citizen.

Instead of this embarrassing, groveling, and apologetic display of regret, the President should have taken the time over this weekend to call the family of Laken Riley, the murder victim whose name, not on his teleprompter, he misstated during his campaign speech on the House floor. I am sure there were many others he could have called and apologized to for his open-border policies that have allowed massive amounts of fentanyl into our country, leading to the death of thousands of Americans.

Unfortunately, an apology won’t bring those lives back. Even when presented with a solution to the President’s self-created and self-inflicted border crisis, he has denied it. House Republicans like myself passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, almost 10 months ago which would enact

the strongest border security measures our country has ever seen.

This was in direct response to the border crisis caused by the President’s disastrous decision to end the remain in Mexico policy, to end title 42, to end border wall construction, and to abuse parole authority.

Madam Speaker, we can only hope the President’s State of the Union Address was the last of his tenure as President of the United States because the Tennesseans I represent cannot afford another 4 years of the catastrophes caused by this President and his administration. They would much rather have a secure border, strong national security, and a lower cost of living so that they can enjoy their lives as God intended them to do.

It is because of this and many other examples that are far too many to mention in just one 5-minute speech that we must denounce these policies, Madam Speaker.

That is why I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H. Res. 1065, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), who delivered, frankly, a phenomenal rebuttal speech in Spanish to the President’s speech that denounced the Biden administration’s feckless immigration policies.

H. Res. 1065 condemns President Biden and his administration for their disastrous open-border policies and holds them accountable for creating the worst border security crisis in U.S. history.

#### RELEASE THE HOSTAGES HELD BY HAMAS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on the morning of October 7, 2023, Keith Siegel and his wife, Aviva, were abducted from their home in Kibbutz Kfar Aza during the Hamas terrorist attacks.

Aviva was later released, but Keith, a native of North Carolina, remains in Hamas captivity as one of six Americans still being held hostage.

Siegel family members attended this year’s State of the Union Address at the invitation of North Carolina Senators THOM TILLIS and TED BUDD. I gladly join in to advocate for Keith’s release.

As a nation, we must stand united in our resolve to defeat Hamas and ensure the safe release of all hostages.

We will not rest until Keith and all hostages are reunited with their families.

#### CONGRATULATING SHENANDOAH VALLEY SHORT CIRCUITS WINNING FIRST PLACE

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of the Shenandoah Valley Short Circuits from Virginia’s Sixth District.

These driven students formed a club which has now gained international acclaim at the Electric Vehicle Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi.

Thanks to local support and a grant funded kit, these hardworking students emerged victorious in 2023, winning both the Shenandoah Valley Electric Vehicle Grand Prix and the Washington DC Electric Vehicle Grand Prix, earning their spot on the global stage.

Faced with international competition, the Short Circuits secured a first-place triumph against 28 teams from around the world.

Their ascent from a Virginia school club to top contenders in Abu Dhabi is a testament to perseverance, technical skill, and the pursuit of excellence.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate the members of this team: Mary Farris, Hailey Preuss, Andrew Berry, Jaxon Stadjuhar, Lauren Farris, Lily May, and Madison Miller.

The students’ monumental success is more than a victory in competition. It is a demonstration of American innovation and proof of what our young people can achieve with the support of their community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Short Circuits.

#### PUTTING A STOP TO COMMUNIST CHINA’S INFLUENCE

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, today I stand before this Chamber to raise a very serious concern: the growing threat emanating from China, not through conventional means, but through the digital specter of surveillance and manipulation, specifically via TikTok.

The Communist Party of China is penetrating American society and harvesting data on 170 million American users from just TikTok alone. This is a clear and present danger to our national security.

The legislation we bring forth this week, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, directly addresses this threat.

We must close the door on China’s access to our citizens’ personal and sensitive information.

China’s manipulation of TikTok and other applications empowers them to shape narratives and spread disinformation, targeting the vulnerabilities of our democracy, creating division, and undermining our values.

The evidence is clear. From deceiving content to secret data harvesting, China’s digital choke hold on our Nation is tightening.

Our bill is not an act of censorship. It is a safeguard for our citizens and a firewall against foreign adversary controlled applications. We must act decisively to ensure that the CCP cannot weaponize information and turn our freedoms against us.

Security and freedom of the American people are nonnegotiable. We must defend America not only from the tyranny of armies but also the tyranny of digital espionage and manipulation.

CONGRATULATING STRASBURG WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONS

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Strasburg High School wrestling team for their Class 2 State championship victory with 205 points. It was the Rams' third State title in a row.

The two individual State champions who led Strasburg's victory include senior David Burks, who won the Class 2 State title at 150 points, and sophomore teammate Hutson Conrad, who won the State title at 215 points.

In addition to Strasburg Rams performers were Aiden Swink, Peyton Dean, Lucas Martinez, Zach Bracken, Donovan Burks, and Colby Shaw.

This performance was truly exceptional, showcasing the talent and teamwork that define this group. I wish the seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING HARRISONBURG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE 2024 UAE ELECTRIC VEHICLE GRAND PRIX

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of students from Harrisonburg High School, whose remarkable talents were showcased on the international stage during the 2024 UAE Electric Vehicle Grand Prix.

Competing in Abu Dhabi, these young innovators represented not only our great Commonwealth, but exemplified the American spirit of ingenuity and excellence.

In only their third season, the Harrisonburg High School Electric Vehicle team, the Blue Streaks, faced off with 28 formidable teams from across four nations.

Through sheer determination and exceptional skill, Team Blue Streaks charged ahead, not only clinching the fastest qualifying time, but also securing the esteemed pole position.

I will take a moment to honor the bright young minds of this team: Seniors Johanna Mayfield and Jack Rooker; Juniors Davis Bert, Monica Espinoza-Martinez, Peter Johnston, Joshua Nafziger, and Colin Snider. Their collective effort earned Harrisonburg the bronze, landing them a commendable third place overall.

Special acknowledgement goes to Johanna and Monica, who were bestowed the Women in Science and Engineering award, inspiring young women everywhere that the sky is the limit in STEM fields.

Let us celebrate these young leaders who embody the best of Harrisonburg and Virginia. They are not just students or competitors; they are pioneers, paving the way toward a brighter, more sustainable future.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF OF STAFF MATT MILLER ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to both thank and celebrate the

retirement of my long time chief of staff, Matt Miller.

After 30 years of Federal service with a great majority of it spent working with former and current Members of this body, Matt wraps up a distinguished career, encompassing pivotal roles in both the executive and legislative branches.

Matt also serves in the U.S. Navy being deployed to Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, as well as civilian Department of Defense tours in Afghanistan. He has demonstrated unwavering dedication to assistance and advocacy for others, which I have personally witnessed since I came to office in January 2019.

I extend my profound gratitude and thank him for being by my side for the last 5 years. This body will miss his devotion to making a difference, and I wish him fair winds and following seas in his next chapter.

HONORING THE QUEEN OF TEJANO MUSIC, SELENA QUINTANILLA-PEREZ

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Women's History Month by honoring an American icon who has left an unforgettable mark on our culture and our country, the one and only Selena.

Now, few artists have shaped American and Latin music like Selena Quintanilla-Perez. The queen of Tejano music, who I grew up listening to, has won the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and dozens of top awards and honors. She released 11 albums, 5 of those with her band Selena y Los Dinos, and 6 solo albums.

She was arguably the most influential Mexican-American artist of her generation.

While she left us too soon, Selena's life and music touched the lives of so many, transcending borders and barriers and breaking into a male-dominated Tejano music scene.

Selena's impact, though, reaches far beyond her music, her business, and her fashion. Selena was one of the most influential Latin artists of all time. She has been credited for elevating Tejano and Latin music into the mainstream market.

Whether at a family party, a celebration, or at the club, when a Selena song comes on, everyone hits the dance floor. She is a symbol of unity, resilience, and Latino and Mexican-American pride.

"The cultural impact of Selena lives with us," "El impacto cultural de Selena vive con nosotros."

We will never stop "Dreaming of You."

CELEBRATING KING AND PRINCE SEAFOOD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate King and Prince Seafood's 100th anniversary.

One hundred years ago, Gerald Beach founded the King Shrimp Company in Brunswick, Georgia. The business got its start by selling wild Georgia shrimp to fish markets located from New York City to Chicago and beyond.

After World War II, the company bought and converted two warehouses that had been used to construct Liberty ships for the U.S. Navy.

With additional space and the adoption of freezing technologies, sales skyrocketed.

In 1986, the company changed its name from the King Shrimp Company to the name we know today, the King and Prince Seafood Company.

Although this company has had great commercial success, it has had an even larger impact on Glynn County and the surrounding areas. King and Prince Seafood can often be seen sponsoring events such as the Sunshine 5K or volunteering with hospice at the Golden Isles.

Simply put, it is a privilege to have such a successful and community-focused business in our district. I look forward to seeing what they have in store for the next 100 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD SMITH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Georgia Representative Richard Smith who passed away at the age of 78.

Representative Smith was born in Wrightsville, Georgia, and graduated from Morgan County High School where he played quarterback for the football team.

Representative Smith went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and a master's degree from the University of Georgia.

Before entering politics, Representative Smith served as director of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service.

Representative Smith will be remembered for a lifetime of dedicated public service. He served 20 years in the Georgia General Assembly and was a distinguished chairman of the House Rules Committee.

Beyond his extensive service, Representative Smith was respected and cherished by all who knew him and called him a friend, including myself who served with Representative Smith in the Georgia State House.

Since his passing, friends and colleagues have described him as larger than life, a true statesman, and an honest, compassionate, and loyal friend. I could not agree more.

Representative Smith will be missed by all who knew him.

CONGRATULATING EMILY GRAHAM AS 2025 SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emily Graham for being named the 2025 Savannah-Chatham County Public School Teacher of the Year.

Emily has demonstrated her passion and devotion for teaching by serving as a band director at Islands High School in Savannah.

The band program's start and growth are attributable to her work, as Emily has spent the past 14 years instructing the 9th through 12th grade music classes.

Throughout her career, she has been responsible for expanding the band program, the instrument and music library, establishing both marching and jazz bands, among other accomplishments.

Emily developed a love for music and performance throughout her childhood. Following high school graduation, she attended Columbus State University where she received a bachelor of music in music education and subsequently earned her master's degree in the subject.

She chose to return to her hometown of Savannah to pursue a career of service and self-fulfillment.

I would like to extend my gratitude to teachers like Emily who significantly impact those young minds and prepare children for a future success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHRYN HOOVER  
MCCURRY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Kathryn Hooper McCurry who passed away on November 22, 2023.

In 1970, Kathryn graduated from Georgia Southern College where she was the inaugural president of the Delta Lambda Chapter of the Kappa Delta sorority.

Later that year, she married her lifelong confidant and love, James McCurry.

For more than five decades, Kathy remained a dedicated member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, contributing her time to various positions in the church, such as serving in the choir and altar guild.

Her community involvement extended beyond the church walls, reaching into the junior league of Savannah and an array of clubs, organizations, and boards.

As a passionate tennis enthusiast, Kathy held the title of president of the Savannah Tennis Association. Kathy found joy in traveling alongside friends, waterskiing, crabbing off the dock with her grandchildren, and being surrounded by her loved ones.

Madam Speaker, she will be greatly missed by all.

WE NEED TO END ILLEGAL  
DEFORESTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in 2022, the world lost more than 16 million acres of forest, an area bigger than West Virginia. Deforestation accounted for about 10 percent of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions and 40 percent of all tropical deforestation as a result of illegal clearing.

Put another way, deforestation would rank as the third largest country in terms of overall carbon emissions, underscoring the need to address this problem as part of a global solution to the climate crisis.

Nearly half of the tropical deforestation is estimated to be the result of just four commodities—beef, soy, palm oil, and wood products that drive this deforestation. The people who are engaged in illegal logging are some of the worst people on the face of the planet. They engage in bribery, theft, crimes against indigenous people whose rights are trampled on, or worse, actual violence directed against them.

There is, of course, a solution: Deny people who grow crops on illegally forested land access to the American economy.

There is precedent here, too. I had amendments to the Lacey Act focusing on disallowing illegally harvested timber to be imported to the United States. That earlier legislation was based on the success of the original Lacey Act that protected endangered species and wildlife. It is commonly accepted and simple to administer, although not always easy.

It required companies to control their supply chain and to be able to document that control and respect for requirements of legally sourced product. It formed a framework not just for American law, but it modeled the European Union, Australia, and Japan who modeled their actions on my bill.

Now, we have an opportunity to expand this approach to soy, cocoa, palm oil, beef, and rubber commodities. There is rough agreement that this approach has promise and the large companies are concerned about the legal, practical, and reputational consequences for being involved with products that are grown on these illegally harvested lands.

We have introduced bipartisan legislation, the FOREST Act with Senator SCHATZ, to codify the conversation and to advance this policy to choke off this practice.

The goal of the legislation is to encourage responsible companies to observe requirements to avoid products from illegally harvested timberland.

It will require adjustment in terms of mindset and procedures to have control of the supply chain, but helping provide a framework is necessary to change these engrained habits.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support our legislation to use the tools of trade and supply chain control to end the environmentally destructive pat-

tern of commodities from illegally harvested land. It is going to be hard, but it will be worth the effort.

□ 1100

HONORING POLICE OFFICER  
MATTHEW RUGE

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Police Officer Matthew Ruge, a southern Minnesota hero who was one of three first responders shot and killed in the line of duty on February 18.

Officer Ruge's life was tragically taken at the young age of 27 while responding to a domestic violence call in Burnsville, Minnesota.

Matthew grew up in Read's Landing, a small, tight-knit community just outside Wabasha. From an early age, Matthew knew he wanted to help and protect people. He attended Wabasha-Kellogg High School and was awarded a scholarship for students entering a law enforcement career.

Afterward, he completed a police training program at Mankato State University with high honors and, 2 years later, joined the Burnsville Police Department, where he earned the Life Saving Medal and served on the crisis negotiation team.

While he didn't like being the center of attention, he had an unwavering commitment to serving others. Officer Matthew Ruge was the very best of law enforcement, always there to help a person on their worst day.

My prayers are with his parents, Sean and Christi; his sister, Hannah; and the many friends and family that Matthew touched throughout his life.

Officer Ruge was among the best and bravest of southern Minnesota. We will never forget his service and sacrifice. May he rest in peace.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER-PARAMEDIC ADAM  
FINSETH

Mr. FINSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a southern Minnesota hero, firefighter, and paramedic, Adam Finseth, who was tragically killed in the line of duty, along with Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge, while responding to the scene of a domestic violence call on February 18.

Adam was born in Faribault, Minnesota, before moving to Rochester, where he graduated from John Marshall High School in 2001.

Early on, it was obvious that Adam had been called to a life of service. After graduation, he took a summer job as a Rochester lifeguard before enlisting in the U.S. Army shortly after 9/11.

Adam served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and would go on to spend nearly a decade serving as a first responder for fire departments in La Crosse, Hastings, Savage, and Burnsville.

His firefighter family describes Adam as selfless, with a first-one-in, last-one-out mentality, embodying the true spirit of a firefighter, and a friend that everyone could count on.

My prayers are with his wife, Tara; their two children, Liam and Nora; as well as Adam's parents, sister, and all the communities he made better with his service.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAAYER

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

Glory belongs to You, O God, who is above all, through all, and in all; whose purpose is at work within us, around us, and beyond us. May we carry with us this day a most real sense of Your power and commit ourselves to Your divine purpose.

God, within us, give us the eyes to see and the heart to feel the movement of Your spirit in our souls. Do not let the noises of this world nor the narrative of this culture confound our ability to hear You speak.

God around us, allow us to look at Your handiwork and see the glory that is Yours alone. Let the Earth shout of Your majesty and the creatures of land and sea display Your splendor. May the beauty of Your creation not be blurred in our haste nor harmed by our waste.

God beyond us, teach us that our best thoughts of You are but a dim and distant shadow of Your true glory. Creator, You are greater than creation. Loving Lord, Your love surpasses all love in our own hearts. May we find strength, comfort, and inspiration in all that You are and hope in all that we do not yet know about You.

For You, O Lord, are able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine. May Your power be at work within us this day, that we glorify You in all that we endeavor to do.

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 gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### CONGRATULATING KEYSTONE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Keystone Central School District students for their accomplishments earlier this year.

This group of talented young students demonstrated exceptional talent during the SkillsUSA district competition, which was held at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, on January 26.

I am proud of the 25 students who achieved first place finishes, granting them a spot in the next round in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This next round will take place in early April.

The SkillsUSA program is designed to educate students ranging from middle school to college in order to prepare them for trade, technical, and skilled service jobs. Thanks to programs like these, our Nation will have a very successful future workforce.

Congratulations again to all the students for their hard work and dedication to learning. Good luck in the next round.

#### RECOGNIZING CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we are in the middle of National Child and

Adult Care Food Program Week, and I want to do my part to spread the word about this incredibly successful program.

The CACFP provides 1.8 billion healthy meals and snacks to 4.7 million children and adults every year in participating childcare centers, daycares, emergency shelters, after-school and summer meal programs, and adult day centers.

The program operates under a simple premise: that no one should go hungry in the United States of America, especially the most vulnerable.

It also helps increase the quality and affordability of childcare, particularly in low-income communities.

We know that good nutrition, starting from an early age, doesn't just fight chronic disease, but it also lessens the burden on our country's healthcare system. In short, it saves a boatload of money.

This CACFP week, I recognize all caregivers who provide critical nutrition and care through this important program. Together, we can end hunger now.

#### BIDEN DECISIONS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Biden vitriolic State of the Union speech failed to recognize the 13 servicemembers murdered at Abbey Gate with his decision to surrender in Afghanistan.

Biden did not initially, in his ranting and raving, acknowledge his decision of open borders for murderers, which directly led to the bludgeoning murder of Laken Riley.

Sadly, Biden ignored the killing 6 weeks ago of Georgia Army Reservists Kennedy Sanders, William Rivers, and Breonna Moffett, with 40 more Americans wounded by puppets of Iran, due to his decision to not effectively respond to over 150 prior attacks by Iran on Americans.

As a reservist myself with four sons who have served overseas, I am particularly disappointed. We need Donald Trump for peace through strength.

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

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

#### COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in representation of 12 critical community health centers in Illinois-03.

Community centers provide essential preventative care to nearly 700,000 members of my district, where 50 percent of income is below the poverty line. They support 1,500 jobs and \$250 million in economic output in the region.

The clinics provide training for future healthcare providers, shaping mission-driven physicians, nurses, dentists, and behavioral health providers who often remain after graduating to continue to serve the community. Nonetheless, congressional appropriation delays in funding challenge these critical health services.

As we continue the appropriations process, we must prioritize the well-being of the families we represent. I call on my colleagues to recommit to passing the Labor-HHS budget and to fully funding community health centers and their education programs.

#### REMEMBERING CATHY CUMMINGS

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, Oklahoma City lost a wonderful public servant. Cathy Cummings was one of the most positive and friendly women you would ever meet. Although our political leanings were quite different, she always greeted me with a hug and a smile when we would see each other.

Cathy served as the mayor of The Village as well as a city councilwoman and championed causes she felt could make a difference in her community. She may be best known as the owner of Vito's Ristorante, a popular Italian restaurant that re-created many of the recipes Cathy learned from her upbringing in a very traditional Italian family.

Family was the most important thing to Cathy, and I know her husband, Sean; daughters, RoseMarie, Danielle, and Angelina; and sons, Gabriel and Kyle, are proud of the woman she was and the legacy she leaves behind.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

#### HONORING BRYCE CARDEN AND THE LOUISVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because on March 1, a four-car crash on the Clark Memorial Bridge left a semitruck dangling dangerously over the Ohio River—with the driver still inside.

Police officers, Coast Guard members, and firefighters immediately rushed into action to save the driver from plummeting some 100 feet into the river below.

No firefighter acts alone. They train as a team. They work as a team. It took all of Rescue Company Two working together to save this semi driver. Ultimately, it was Firefighter Bryce Carden who was the fearless first responder lowered off the bridge from the back of a fire truck to perform the daring rescue that brought the truck's driver back to safety.

Bryce Carden is a Louisvillian through and through. He grew up in Valley Station, went to Butler High School, and still lives in Louisville with his wife, Caitlynn, and their 17-month-old daughter.

That truck driver is alive today because of Bryce's selfless actions.

We thank Bryce and his brothers and sisters in the Louisville Fire Department for their bravery and dedicated service.

#### TIKTOK IS DANGEROUS TO UNITED STATES

(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, TikTok, the Chinese-controlled social media company that gives the Chinese Communist Party access to billions of bits of data about virtually every aspect of American life, has obviously become a clear and present danger to its American users and to the United States itself.

With 170 million users in the U.S., including two out of every three American teenagers, we cannot turn a blind eye to the enormous risk that this app poses.

That is why I rise in support of the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act. This bipartisan bill, which passed last week unanimously out of committee, aims to prevent foreign adversaries from targeting, controlling, surveilling, and manipulating the American people online. It would specifically apply to apps controlled by China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia.

Let me be clear: This bill does not ban TikTok. It simply requires TikTok to divest and separate itself from control by the Communist Government of China and, in doing so, prioritizes the safety and security of our Nation.

#### CELEBRATING 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF MISSOURI'S LEBANON AND LACLEDE COUNTY

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of our resolution celebrating the 175th anniversary of

Laclede County and the city of Lebanon in the Fourth Congressional District of the great State of Missouri.

On February 24, 1849, the foundations of Laclede County and Lebanon were laid, marking the beginning of a journey that would see these communities grow, develop, and contribute significantly to the fabric of Missouri.

With more than 36,000 residents in Laclede County and more than 14,000 in Lebanon, these are vibrant communities that embody the spirit of Missouri and America's heartland.

Named after Pierre Laclede, St. Louis' founder, Laclede County symbolizes Missouri's rich heritage and community spirit. It is also a great place if you ever want to go trout fishing at Bennett Spring State Park.

It is an honor to recognize Laclede County and Lebanon and the people who have shaped these areas into strong, thriving communities, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1215

#### COMMENDING SPEAKER OF THE ARIZONA HOUSE BEN TOMA

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an accomplished and dedicated leader who has served Arizona greatly: the speaker of the Arizona House, Ben Toma.

During his tenure in public service, Speaker Toma has achieved many great things for Arizona.

He advanced universal school choice, a ballot measure to require voter ID, a border security ballot measure to require E-Verify, and he instituted the largest tax cut in Arizona history.

He also signed on to an amicus brief to support the State of Texas as they fight in court for their right to defend their State from invasion.

Speaker Toma's career is a testament to his dedication to Arizona. His legacy of leadership will last for years to come.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-118)

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2024.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2024.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6276, UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1065, DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES**

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1071 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1071

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union 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. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. 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 in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further 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 in the House or in the

Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, the committee granted by a recorded 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 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.

Finally, the rule provides 1 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.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding me the customary half hour, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, another week, another round of trivial messaging bills. That is all this Republican majority can do.

It has been one pointless messaging bill after another that will never, ever become law. In fact, we haven't passed a single bill out of the Rules Committee that has become law in 9 months—9 months.

First, let's talk about H.R. 6276, a bill that is supposed to help measure and evaluate Federal building utilization. This bill seems to do with the Republican belief that working from home is always bad no matter what.

Don't get me wrong. I hate Teams meetings, and I hate Zoom calls as much as everyone else, but can Republicans please acknowledge that it is 2024, and people can work from home?

Basically, this bill says that if a Federal employee works from home 1 day a week, they are no longer counted as being in the office. Ignore the 4 days a week that they are in the office. If they work from home once, then they are not in the office. Oh, and by the way, we are going to get rid of their desks because they worked from home once. Come on. It is just a silly solution.

This bill fails to capture even the fundamental nature of some of our most vital jobs in the Federal workforce. For example, Mr. Speaker, if you are a food inspector who spends 4 days a week ensuring that our food supply is safe and secure, this bill would not count them for occupancy, which could eventually lead to eliminating their office space. Or if you are a Federal firefighter protecting the lives and property of countless Americans week after week after week but not sitting at a desk for 40 hours, then this bill would say: No, you won't be counted, and you won't need to have a desk.

Now, if we want our Federal workforce to be the best in the world, then we need to compete. We need to give people the flexibility to work from home, just like other employers do in the private sector, which is something that this bill discourages. For those reasons, I believe it is a bad bill, and I will be voting "no."

Mr. Speaker, next we have H. Res. 1065. The actual resolution calls on the President to detain and remove specific individuals from the United States.

I have news for you, Mr. Speaker. Republicans are in charge of this body. They are barely in charge, but they are in charge, nonetheless. They don't have to call on the President to do anything. This isn't a debate club for God's sake. Pass a bill and change the damn policy if you don't like it, Mr. Speaker.

Oh, wait. Republicans don't want to do anything about immigration or the border. They just want to complain and talk about their feelings.

Let me talk to my friends as if I am talking to one of the sixth-grade classes from my district that comes down and tours Washington every year:

If you want a bill to become a law, then you have to pass a bill. There is a difference between a bill, which starts with the abbreviation H.R., and a resolution, which starts with the abbreviation H. Res. I will spell it out for you. That is H, period; R-E-S, period.

Now, some people think H.R. stands for House resolution. It actually stands for House of Representatives, and H. Res. stands for House resolution. Be that as it may, let's move on because I only have 30 minutes.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to legislate, and we do that by passing bills. Bills can change policy. Bills can change taxes, fund programs, and regulate interstate commerce. Hell, bills can even force the President of the United States to do something. They go to the Senate, and then the Senate can pass it and send it to the President. The President can either veto it and send it back to us or sign it into law.

That is how a bill becomes a law.

My Republican friends might have forgotten this, so it is helpful to remind them.

This resolution on the border cannot become law because it is not a bill. It is a resolution, H. Res. 1065. See, it is right here, Mr. Speaker.

If this resolution passes the House, then it will go nowhere. It will just be put on a website and sent out as a press release. This resolution just tells people how you feel about the border.

Mr. Speaker, it is a way for Republicans to talk about their feelings, and I know Republicans have a lot of big feelings on the border.

Now, Democrats care about the border too, but the difference is we actually want to do something about it.

Now, don't get me wrong. There is a time and place for nonbinding resolutions, but this isn't it. We are not going to reform our broken immigration system with a nonbinding resolution. We are just not.

We had a bipartisan deal on border security that Republicans initially supported until Donald Trump called, and then they changed their minds. They killed it. Republicans killed a bipartisan border security deal, a bill that was negotiated by the second most conservative Republican in the United States Senate. They killed it.

So what do they bring up instead?

Not a bill, but a resolution, a meaningless resolution, this resolution, H. Res. 1065 which changes no law, which will not go to the Senate, and which is literally a press release talking about their feelings.

Now, here is the kicker: This resolution, H. Res. 1065, is almost identical to a similar resolution that we dealt with only 3 months ago. So not only does it do nothing, but it is a repeat. They are so bad at legislating that they are even bad at not legislating.

This is all they have to offer Mr. Speaker, half-baked, empty resolutions that don't address any of the fundamental concerns at our southern border.

Oh, sure, they like to pretend that they care about border security on rightwing TV so that Trump and Republican candidates can use it as a campaign slogan in November. They are really good at that. They go on

FOX News and say, secure the border, secure the border, but then they kill bills that try to do anything about the border.

They killed the bipartisan border security bill that came out of the United States Senate. It was a bill that would have provided more funding so we could have more people at the border patrolling our border. It was a bill that would provide more money for judges to accelerate consideration of asylum claims. It was a bill, by the way, that was supported by the Border Patrol union that is at the border.

Now, the only thing that they say they will agree to is their grossly partisan H.R. 2, seemingly ignoring the fact that H.R. 2 has lost in the Senate already. It failed bigly. It only got 32 votes.

□ 1230

In fact, the gentleman across the aisle from Kentucky even voted against H.R. 2, but even if it were to pass the Senate, President Biden would never sign it into law because it is a crappy bill.

Furthermore, I got a little whiplash, Mr. Speaker, because on one hand, I hear from my Republican friends, H.R. 2 or nothing, H.R. 2 or nothing. Then we had a gentleman on the Republican side come and do a 1-minute speech and say, we don't need any legislation at all to do anything. We don't have to pass anything. They need to pick one or the other.

Any way you square it, Republicans now own the border crisis. Democrats have given them every opportunity to work together, and we have been turned down by a Republican Party that does not want to solve problems or govern.

So guess what? They own the border. They own the fentanyl crisis. They own all of it. This is their issue. They continue to pass meaningless resolutions like this which do nothing. They continue to scream and yell in committees and on the House floor. They continue to use victims of crimes as props, but when push comes to shove, they don't do a damn thing.

They vote against more funding for border security. They reject serious proposals for border security. They don't want to solve this problem; they want a crisis because they think it helps them in November. What a rotten, cynical, awful way to treat the people of this country. What a terrible way to govern.

This isn't serious legislation. It is a press release. It is embarrassing. House Republicans have no new ideas, so they are just going to keep passing the same meaningless resolution every week until they lose in November.

Maybe then they will realize that this is a bad strategy; that it is a bad idea to treat the American people like they are idiots because the American people are smart, Mr. Speaker. They see what Republicans are doing—obstructing, obstructing, obstructing,

and then blaming Democrats for the obstruction they created, passing silly, nonbinding resolutions that do nothing instead of actually working with us to get stuff done.

Democrats actually want to get something done on the border. We want to stop the fentanyl from coming into our country. We want to fix the broken immigration system. And Republicans own this issue now because they rejected a bipartisan deal, and they refuse to work together. They refuse to put people over politics and work with us to address our problems at the border.

Let me just conclude, Mr. Speaker, by, again, reminding my friends on the other side of the aisle—and I would say this to a sixth-grade class if they came to visit Washington—that we now have divided government.

We have, again, a House of Representatives barely controlled by Republicans, a United States Senate barely controlled by Democrats, and a Democrat in the White House.

This notion of "my way or the highway" for either side is a nonstarter. If you want to get something done, you have got to work together. For heaven's sake, I would think that you don't have to agree on everything to agree on something. We ought to be able to agree on something, like more support for border security along both our southern and our northern border.

We ought to be able to agree that we need to have more judges to evaluate asylum claims so people aren't here for months and months and months or years; that we can resolve these claims efficiently and effectively in a matter of weeks.

We ought to also, rather than doing nonbinding resolutions, be addressing the situation in Ukraine. Ukraine is out of equipment. I don't know why my friends on the other side of the aisle seem so dedicated to giving Putin a victory; Ukraine is running out of time.

Why haven't you scheduled a vote on a bill to provide Ukraine the military assistance that they need so that they can repel the Russians and stop Putin? They are out of time. And if Ukraine falls, my friends own that, too.

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

MR. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The first step in solving a problem is to acknowledge that it exists. The other side of the aisle is having a problem with that because that is what this resolution does. It describes the problem.

The second part of solving a problem is to look at what the source of the problem is. That is what this resolution does. The other side of the aisle is having a problem with that.

In fact, today, they opened the debate by simply complaining that this is a House Resolution and not a House bill, but this is a House Resolution full of facts, inconvenient facts to this administration.

This administration, since the beginning, has passed 94 executive orders repealing border security measures that were in place and that has attracted 9.3 million illegal immigrants to our borders.

This is a problem that exists. The other side of the aisle needs to quit denying that it exists, and they need to quit trying to change the topic to Ukraine.

The topic today is these two bills. First among them is the resolution that draws attention to the problem at the border and lists specifically the things that this President could do to fix it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), my good friend.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule to allow consideration of H. Res. 1065, denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies.

Every day we see a new horror story in the news, a new headline about some violent crime committed by an illegal alien: 22-year-old nursing student, Laken Riley, brutally murdered by a Venezuelan illegal immigrant; Travis Wolf, one day away from celebrating his 12th birthday, killed by an illegal immigrant driving the wrong way; 16-year-old Texas teen, Lizbeth Medina, stabbed to death by an illegal immigrant from Mexico with a criminal background.

Laken Riley, Travis Wolf, and Lizbeth Medina should still be here today.

Every crime committed by an illegal alien is preventable. Every murder, every rape, every robbery is preventable.

Criminal violence is the current outcome that we are seeing every day due to Biden's open-border policies. What about the risk of terrorism?

In my 25 years in the Army, if I learned anything, it is that evil still stalks the world. We are importing part of that evil to the United States today.

We have seen an escalation of the horrors inflicted on American families by the invasion on our southern border. How many horrific headlines must we endure before Biden closes the border and stops the carnage against Americans?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say to the gentleman from Kentucky, we have acknowledged the problem. Maybe the gentleman wasn't listening to my eloquent oratory here, but I acknowledged and identified the problem at least 13 times in my speech.

I think what I and people on my side of the aisle have a problem with is that you have been acknowledging the problem like we did 3 months ago with a nonbinding resolution a lot of times, and we don't think nonbinding resolutions and acknowledging the problem or expressing our feelings is enough. We have to actually do something.

Mr. Speaker, to the other gentleman who just spoke, we are horrified by the

crimes that have been committed by undocumented immigrants who have come to this country who have criminal records. We pray for their families. We want to do everything we can to make sure that these things never happen again. I have a hard time when we gather and we hear this from my colleagues when we have shootings that are happening in this country almost on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert an AP article dated June 3, 2023, listing the names of the 19 children and two teachers killed in Uvalde.

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

There was no objection.

[From Associated Press, June 3, 2022]

THE NAMES: 19 CHILDREN, 2 TEACHERS KILLED IN UVALDE SCHOOL

Uvalde, TX (AP).—Nineteen children were looking forward to a summer filled with Girl Scouts and soccer and video games. Two teachers were closing out a school year that they started with joy and that had held such promise. They're the 21 people who were killed Tuesday when an 18-year-old gunman barricaded himself in a fourth-grade classroom at Robb Elementary School in the southwestern Texas town of Uvalde. Some families have been willing to share their stories with The Associated Press and other media. Others asked for privacy. Here are their names.

Nevaeh Alyssa Bravo, 10—Her aunt noted that Nevaeh's first name is heaven spelled backward. In a Facebook posting, Yvonne White described Nevaeh and her friend Jailah Silguero as "Our Angels."

Jacklyn Cazares, 9—Javier Cazares said his daughter was someone who would give the "shirt off her back" to help someone. "She had a voice," he said. "She didn't like bullies, she didn't like kids being picked on. All in all, full of love. She had a big heart." Annabell Rodriguez, also a victim, was Jacklyn's second cousin.

Makenna Lee Elrod, 10—Makenna's father asked on Tuesday if he could go to the local funeral home to search for his daughter because he feared "she may not be alive," TV station KTRK reported. Her family later asked for privacy.

Jose Manuel Flores Jr., 10—Jose's parents told CNN that the 10-year-old was helpful around the house and loved his younger siblings. "He was just very good with babies," his mother said. His father told CNN that Jose loved baseball and video games and "was always full of energy." A photo taken at school Tuesday shows him smiling and proudly holding a certificate to show he made the honor roll.

Eliahna Garcia, 9—Eliahna's relatives recalled her love of family. "She was very happy and very outgoing," said her aunt, Siria Arizmendi, a fifth-grade teacher at Flores Elementary School in the same district. "She loved to dance and play sports. She was big into family, enjoyed being with the family."

Irma Garcia, 48—Irma Garcia was finishing up her 23rd year as a teacher at Robb Elementary School. In a letter posted on the school's website at the beginning of the school year, Garcia told her students that she had been married for nearly a quarter of a century and that she and her husband, Joe, had four children—a Marine, a college student, a high school student and a seventh grader. She told the students that she loved barbecue, listening to music and taking country cruises with her husband. On Thurs-

day, Joe Garcia died of a heart attack, according to a nephew.

Uziyah Garcia, 10—Uziyah's grandfather called him "the sweetest little boy that I've ever known." Manny Renfro said he last saw Uziyah when the boy came to his home over spring break. "We started throwing the football together and I was teaching him pass patterns. Such a fast little boy and he could catch a ball so good," Renfro said. "There were certain plays that I would call that he would remember and he would do it exactly like we practiced."

Amerie Jo Garza, 10—Amerie loved to paint, draw and work in clay. "She was very creative," said her grandmother Dora Mendoza. "She was my baby. Whenever she saw flowers she would draw them." For her 10th birthday, Amerie was given her first cellphone. Her stepfather, Angel Garza, recalled that her face "just lit up with the happiest expression." Garza said that Amerie's friend told him that Amerie had tried to call the police on her phone before she was shot.

Xavier Lopez, 10—Xavier had been eagerly awaiting a summer of swimming. "He was just a loving . . . little boy, just enjoying life, not knowing that this tragedy was going to happen," said his cousin, Liza Garza. "He was very bubbly, loved to dance with his brothers, his mom. This has just taken a toll on all of us."

Jayce Carmelo Luevanos, 10—Carmelo Quiroz's grandson had begged to be allowed to join his grandmother on Tuesday as she accompanied her great-granddaughter's kindergarten class to the San Antonio Zoo. But, he said, the family told Jayce it didn't make sense to skip school so close to the end of the year. Besides, Jayce liked school. "That's why my wife is hurting so much, because he wanted to go to San Antonio," Quiroz told USA Today. "He was so sad he couldn't go. Maybe if he would have gone, he'd be here." He died with his cousin, Jailah Nicole Silguero.

Tess Mata, 10—Faith Mata told The Washington Post that her sister loved TikTok dance videos, Ariana Grande, the Houston Astros, and having her hair curled.

Maranda Mathis, 11—The mother of a close friend described Maranda as "very loving and very talkative." She told the Austin American-Statesman that her daughter and Maranda had been in the same classes and that Maranda would ask to have her hair done like her daughter's.

Eva Mireles, 44—In a post on the school's website at the start of the year, the fourth-grade teacher said she had been teaching for 17 years. Mireles loved running and hiking. She said she and her husband, a school district police officer, had an adult daughter and three pets.

Alithia Ramirez, 10—Alithia Ramirez loved soccer and she really loved to draw. Her father Ryan Ramirez's Facebook page includes a photo, now shown around the world, of the little girl wearing the multi-colored T-shirt that announced she was out of "single digits" after turning 10 years old. The same photo was posted again Wednesday with no words, but with Alithia wearing angel wings.

Annabell Rodriguez, 10—Polly Flores told the New York Times that her great-niece Annabell Rodriguez was an honor roll student and close to her second cousin Jacklyn Cazares.

Maite Rodriguez, 10—After a rough time with Zoom classes during the pandemic, Maite Rodriguez made the honor roll for straight As and Bs this year and was recognized at an assembly on Tuesday, said her mother, Ana Rodriewez. Maite especially liked physical education, and after she died, her teacher texted Ana Rodriguez to say she was highly competitive at kickball and ran

faster than all the boys. Her mother described Maite as “focused, competitive, smart, bright, beautiful, happy.” Maite wanted to be a marine biologist and after researching a program at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi she told her mother she wanted to study there.

Alexandria “Lexi” Rubio, 10—Lexi’s mother, Kimberly Rubio, posted on Facebook that her daughter was honored for earning all A grades and received a good citizen award in ceremonies at the school shortly before the shooting. The fourth-grader was a softball and basketball player who wanted to be a lawyer. Lexi’s father, Felix Rubio, is a deputy with the Uvalde County Sheriff’s Office. The couple told CNN that he was among the law enforcement officers who responded to the shooting.

Layla Salazar, 11—Layla’s father said she loved to run and swim, dance to TikTok videos and play games including Minecraft and Roblox with friends. He said she won all six of her dashes and hurdles races at the school’s past three annual field days. He said each morning as he drove her to school in his pickup, he would play “Sweet Child O’ Mine” by Guns N’ Roses and they would sing along.

Jailah Nicole Silguero, 10—Jailah’s mother tearfully told Univision that her daughter did not want to go to school the day of the shooting, and thought that maybe she sensed something was going to happen. Jailah and her cousin, Jayce Luevanos, died in the classroom.

Elijahna Torres, 10—Adolfo Torres told the Associated Press that his granddaughter, Elijahna, died in the shooting. Television station KIII reported that Elijahna was set to play the last softball game of her season that day. The team members kneeled for a moment of silence to remember Elijahna and the other victims.

Rojelio Torres, 10—Rojelio Torres’ mother, Evadulia Orta, told ABC News her son was a very smart and loving child. “I lost a piece of my heart,” she said.

**Mr. MCGOVERN.** Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the names of all 58 Las Vegas shooting victims that were released by the coroner.

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

There was no objection.

#### CORONER RELEASES NAMES OF ALL 58 LAS VEGAS SHOOTING VICTIMS

Here’s the complete list of fatalities:

1. Charleston Hartfield, 34, Las Vegas, Nevada
2. Brett Schwanbeck, 61, Bullhead City, Arizona
3. Austin Meyer, 24, Reno, Nevada
4. Pati Mestas, 67, Menifee, California
5. Nicol Kimura, 38, Placentia, California
6. Christopher Hazencomb, 44, Camarillo, California
7. Andrea Castilla, 28, Huntington Beach, California
8. Carly Kreibaum, 33, Sutherland, Iowa
9. Steve Berger, 44, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
10. Brian Fraser, 39, Walnut, California
11. Derrick “Bo” Taylor, 56, Oxnard, California
12. Denise Cohen, 58, Carpinteria, California
13. Christiana Duarte, 22, Torrance, California
14. Candice Bowers, 40, Garden Grove, California
15. Lisa Patterson, 46, Rancho Palos Verdes, California
16. Rocio Guillen Rocha, 40, Eastvale, California
17. Jordyn Rivera, 21, San Bernardino, California
18. Austin Davis, 29, Riverside, California
19. Laura Shipp, 50, Thousand Oaks, California
20. Keri Galvan, 51, Thousand Oaks, California
21. Tara Roe Smith, 34, Okotoks, Alberta, Canada
22. Calla Medig, 28, Jasper, Alberta, Canada
23. Carrie Parsons, 31, Seattle, Washington
24. Cameron Robinson, 28, St. George, Utah
25. Michelle Vo, 32, Los Angeles, California
26. Brennan Stewart, 30, Las Vegas, Nevada
27. Erick Silva, 21, Las Vegas, Nevada
28. Dorene Anderson, 49, Anchorage, Alaska
29. Heather Alvarado, 35, Enoch, Utah
30. Hannah Ahlers, 34, Beaumont, California
31. Stacee Etcheber, 50, Novato, California
32. Christopher Royle, 28, Denver, Colorado
33. Victor Link, 55, San Clemente, California
34. Melissa Ramirez, 26, Bakersfield, California
35. Kelsey Meadows, 28, Taft, California
36. Dana Gardner, 52, Grand Terrace, California
37. Bill Wolfe, Jr., 42, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
38. Carrie Barnette, 34, Garden Grove, California
39. Thomas Day, Jr., 54, Corona, California
40. Jennifer Parks, 36, Lancaster, California
41. Kurt Von Tillow, 55, Cameron Park, California
42. Jack Beaton, 54, Bakersfield, California
43. Denise Burdittus, 50, Martinsburg, West Virginia
44. Sandy Casey, 35, Redondo Beach, California
45. Angie Gomez, 20, Riverside, California
46. Jennifer Irvine, 42, San Diego, California
47. Jessica Klymchuk, 34, Valleyview, Alberta, Canada
48. Rhonda LeRocque, 42, Tewksbury, Massachusetts
49. Jordan McIllooin, 23, Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada
50. Sonny Melton, 29, Paris, Tennessee
51. Adrian Murfitt, 35, Anchorage, Alaska
52. Rachel Parker, 33, Manhattan Beach, California
53. John Phippen, 57, Valencia, California
54. Quintin Robbins, 20, Henderson, Nevada
55. Lisa Romero-Muniz, 48, Gallup, New Mexico
56. Bailey Schweitzer, 20, Bakersfield, California
57. Susan Smith, 53, Simi Valley, California
58. Neysa Tonks, 46, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Mr. MCGOVERN.** Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and on. We can do something about that, but the NRA provides lots of money so my friends don’t want to deal with it. I mean, come on.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 16, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan American Dream and Promise Act provides a pathway to citizenship for people who only know America as their home. They contribute to society as taxpayers, small business owners, educators, and more. Dreamers were brought to the United States as children through no-fault of their own. It is past time to open the doors and empower these talented individuals by

granting them access to citizenship that they rightfully deserve.

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: There is a lot of work that needs to be done to fix our broken immigration system and to secure our border. H.R. 16 won’t solve every issue, but it will address a long, outstanding one in our failing immigration system. It is the right thing to do, and we should start doing the right thing around here.

It has the added benefit of being a bill that actually does something. It is not an expression of our feelings. It does something.

Instead of considering the do-nothing Republican nonbinding resolution before us today which just restates the Republican position from a nonbinding resolution we already passed 2 months ago, let’s consider actual legislation to start fixing these issues. Let’s bring up H.R. 16.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

**Mr. MCGOVERN.** Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) to discuss our proposal.

**Mrs. RAMIREZ.** Mr. Speaker, for the past year, we have endured attack after attack after attack on immigrant communities, which, by the way, some of us are first generation. Many people here are second, third, and fourth, but we tend to forget that we, too, are immigrants.

We have suffered harmful legislation, an impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas, and inflammatory rhetoric criminalizing and scapegoating immigrant communities.

Mr. Speaker, I got here about a year and a half ago as a freshman Member. As I look around, I understand why the American people are so frustrated with Congress.

They are fed up that we don’t have the courage, the moral clarity, and the political will as a body to see through these theatrics for cheap political points and actually do our job.

I stand here today as a daughter of immigrants, but also as the wife of Boris Hernandez. I am the only Member of Congress in a mixed-status family. My husband is a Dreamer, and he has been here since the age of 14.

I represent a district proud of immigrants who call it home. I represent the essential workers that kept us alive during the pandemic and the same people that you go to on Cinco de Mayo when you celebrate a meal and drink your margaritas.

Today, I am here proudly standing as co-lead of the Dream and Promise Act. The Dream and Promise Act is an actual immigration policy solution, not a cheap political stunt. It gives Dreamers and immigrants in America an

earned pathway to citizenship that reflects our values as a Nation, a multicultural democracy of diversity and inclusion.

Today, I rise to denounce my colleagues' lack of meaningful action on immigration policy, nothing since 1986. We can't treat people who have built our communities and invested in our Nation and public institutions without the promise of citizenship. We can't treat them as disposable.

Their commitment to us and to our Nation have already demonstrated a promise to address our historic labor shortage: 9 million jobs open right now and to grow our GDP by \$1.7 trillion over the next decade.

We must demonstrate our commitment to them and to the solutions that will deliver real, effective immigration reform.

I affirm that it is this body who refuses to use its authority to enact policy if it fails to take up any of the bipartisan immigration policies filed in this Chamber.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, we must embrace our values as a Nation without questioning the dignity of our neighbors lives and claims. There are toddlers who have been here their entire life and are now 30 years old.

Let's stop acting like we are powerless and pass H.R. 16 today.

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

□ 1245

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my friend and colleague on the Rules Committee.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak on H. Res. 1065, denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies.

I woke up this morning to a picture of a policeman who was killed in a car accident driven by an illegal alien who was drunk and on drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution shouldn't be needed, but it is because the Biden administration, for 3 years, has violated the oath that he took to protect and defend the United States of America.

What they don't want out is anything meaningful that would curb it because they know they have a rogue President who will not. It is intentional.

What cannot be denied is the 9.3 million illegals now in this country. What cannot be denied is the 94 executive actions that this President took the day he took office. He started a relentless stream of executive orders to open our borders up to over 160 countries.

What he can't deny is the 1.8 million known got-aways who evaded the United States Border Patrol.

What he can't deny, for all you listeners in the balcony, is the 20,000 Communist Chinese nationals now in this country that pose a severe threat to every American who walks every street in every city in the United States.

They cannot deny the crime statistics. The Venezuelan, Daniel Martinez, in New York City, on June 27, 2023, committed 14 crimes leading to 6 arrests, including the day he grabbed a stranger by the hair on the streets and dragged her and kicked her across the floor.

On February 24, 2024, a Venezuelan national was arrested in Virginia for sexual offenses against a minor. He first crossed illegally in September 2023 and was released.

In August 2023, a police officer in Virginia was struck by a Nigerian who was driving under the influence. He had only been in the country for 7 months. The police officer suffered a skull fracture.

Additionally, one of many, but in May 2023, a Honduran raped a teenage girl in Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this is going to continue until this rogue administration determines they are going to shut the border.

In the Rules Committee, I asked about the wall, and Ms. JAYAPAL mentioned the fact she didn't believe in a wall, which has been paid for by the Trump administration during his 4 years.

I mentioned: What is the difference between the wall that has designated points of entry and the wall that was around the Capitol to hear the President of the United States talk?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this administration has no desire to end the immigration. They want it for two things: power and change the Censuses of the States that are transporting them all over this country.

It is an abomination, and support by a meaningful, new President will close the border down.

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

Mr. Speaker, I kind of feel like I am in an episode of "The Twilight Zone." I can't figure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle out.

The bottom line is, I hear they want to be tough on the border, and every time we try to pass a tough border security bill, they say no.

What we have here is a nonbinding resolution that does nothing. It does nothing. It doesn't even go to the Senate. It can never become law. It is nothing. It is just a press release.

What they turned down was \$440 million for more judges to accelerate the

asylum claims so we are not waiting years and can do this in weeks and months. \$23 million to destruct Mexican cartels, they said no to that. \$6.7 billion for Customs and Border Protection, they said no to that. Fifty thousand ICE detention beds, they said no to that. \$4 billion for USCIS, they said no to that.

Why? Because the former President of the United States called up and said: I want the issue.

This is the former President of the United States, by the way, who says that immigrants poison the blood of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include this article in the RECORD. This is from Salon. The title is: "He said, Hitler did some good things": Ex-chief of staff says Trump praised Hitler in White House."

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

There was no objection.

[From Salon, Mar. 11, 2024]

"HE SAID, HITLER DID SOME GOOD THINGS": EX-CHIEF OF STAFF SAYS TRUMP PRAISED HITLER IN WHITE HOUSE

(By Igor Derysh, Managing Editor)

Former President Donald Trump praised German dictator Adolf Hitler while in the White House, former chief of staff John Kelly told CNN.

Trump repeatedly praised authoritarian leaders while serving as president, Kelly and other former senior advisers told CNN's Jim Sciutto. Trump praised Chinese leader Xi Jinping, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the former aides said. But his most unnerving praise was for Hitler.

"He said, 'Well, but Hitler did some good things.' I said, 'Well, what?' And he said, 'Well, [Hitler] rebuilt the economy.' But what did he do with that rebuilt economy? He turned it against his own people and against the world. And I said, 'Sir, you can never say anything good about the guy. Nothing,'" Kelly recalled, according to Sciutto. "I mean, Mussolini was a great guy in comparison."

"It's pretty hard to believe he missed the Holocaust, though, and pretty hard to understand how he missed the 400,000 American GIs that were killed in the European theater," Kelly added. "But I think it's more, again, the tough guy thing."

It wasn't just Hitler's economic policies, Kelly said. Trump also expressed admiration for Hitler's hold on senior Nazi officers as he lamented his own lack of staff "loyalty."

"He would ask about the loyalty issues and about how, when I pointed out to him the German generals as a group were not loyal to him, and in fact tried to assassinate him a few times, and he didn't know that," Kelly recounted. "He truly believed, when he brought us generals in, that we would be loyal—that we would do anything he wanted us to do," Kelly added.

Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton added that Trump "views himself as a big guy."

"He likes dealing with other big guys, and big guys like Erdogan in Turkey get to put people in jail and you don't have to ask anybody's permission. He kind of likes that," Bolton told Sciutto.

A Trump spokeswoman in 2021 denied that he had praised Hitler. Trump campaign spokesman Steve Cheung told the outlet,

"John Kelly and John Bolton have completely belittled themselves and are suffering from a severe case of Trump Derangement Syndrome. They need to seek professional help because their hatred is consuming their empty lives."

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let that sink in.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I note my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said, when the majority recites the names of the victims of illegal immigration and illegal immigrants and the criminals who are coming across our border, that those victims are props.

I resent that. I really do because the other side of the aisle then proceeded in the next measure of the debate to enter names of victims who had been killed by criminals using guns.

Let's just agree today that when we honor the names of people who have suffered at the hands of criminals, whether they be domestic or illegal immigrants—sadly, as so many are now—we don't call them props.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), a fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I know he is probably as surprised as I am to be accused of taking orders from the former President and following whatever the former President says.

If the gentleman from Massachusetts wants to take a flight down to Mar-a-Lago, he is welcome to tell the former President that the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Kentucky take orders.

The reason that matters is because I had the President's former ICE Director, Tom Homan, under oath in the House Judiciary Committee, and I asked him that question.

I said: Were we articulating the massive problems in the Senate bill prior to the former President having commented publicly?

The answer under oath, of course, from Mr. Homan was: Yes.

That is because we all knew that the bill was a failed bill. We all knew that it was a prop.

The gentleman from Massachusetts makes crystal clear what the actual game is. The gentleman from Massachusetts gives up the game today. The gentleman comes to the floor of the House and says: "Republicans own this issue now." That is an important phrase: "Republicans own this issue now."

What is really happening is my radical progressive Democratic colleagues who believe in wide-open borders, allowing mass release of immigrants into the United States that resulted in the death of thousands of Americans through fentanyl or through the danger of what we saw happen to Laken Riley, those radical progressive Democrats

are realizing the American people are caught up to them. They recognize the reality that it is their policies that are resulting in the death and destruction of the American people.

What are they doing? They are putting forward bills that have no chance of succeeding and legislation that would not solve the problem; would codify mass releases; would not deal with unaccompanied alien children; would not deal with any of the issues with parole that the President is using to violate current law, which requires case-by-case analysis to process people in the United States; mass releases under parole; and violation of law that resulted directly in the death of Laken Riley.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know this, so they are trying to use a bill that they put forward, which won't solve the problem and will make it worse, to deflect and push blame politically to Republicans.

That is why the gentleman from Massachusetts on the floor of the House today said, "Republicans own this issue now," because they are purposely trying to obfuscate the truth. The truth is Laken Riley is dead because the President of the United States, Joe Biden, who stood at that dais last week and lectured the American people, made the decision, with the full support and execution by Alejandro Mayorkas, to mass release people into the United States that they know contained mass numbers of criminals, terrorists. People from all over the world, including the Chinese Communist Party, have been released into the United States.

Laken Riley is now dead. Aiden Clark is now dead. Kayla Hamilton is now dead, beaten to death in her own home. Lizbeth Medina, a Texan, is now dead, beaten to death and murdered in her own home, found in a bathroom by her mom instead of seeing her perform her cheerleading in a parade.

That is the truth. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know it, and they are now trying to deflect.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from Axios titled: "Trump, House Republicans plot to kill border deal."

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

There was no objection.

[From AXIOS, Jan. 29, 2024]

TRUMP, HOUSE REPUBLICANS PLOT TO KILL BORDER DEAL

(By Stef W. Kight)

Republican and Democratic senators are taking to the airwaves, scrambling to pass severe restrictions on migrants flooding across the U.S.-Mexico border. There's just one thing: Their plan is all but dead.

Why it matters: The Senate might pass the plan, which would be one of the harshest immigration bills of the century. President

Biden is ready to sign it. But House Republicans—egged on by former President Trump—already are planning to shut it down.

State of play: Illegal immigration has rocketed to the top of voters' concerns, and Biden has become increasingly desperate for a solution. Trump and conservative Republicans see a political opportunity to squeeze Biden and Democrats on the issue.

Trump, whose front-runner status in the Republican presidential race has solidified his leadership of the GOP, has loudly vowed to kill the bipartisan border deal.

It's not going to happen, and I'll fight it all the way," Trump said Saturday in Nevada.

Zoom in: House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) has fallen in line. He called the deal "dead on arrival" on Friday, then doubled down over the weekend, claiming it wouldn't do enough to stop illegal border crossings.

He has said he talks frequently with Trump about the border.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) warned senators last week that Trump's opposition would make it difficult to get a border plan through Congress.

A sign of Trump's influence: Oklahoma's GOP voted Saturday to censure Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) for being a lead negotiator in the border policy discussions.

The details: The text of the border bill is expected to drop soon. It will include a measure that effectively would block illegal border crossers from asylum once the number of migrant encounters hits a daily average of 5,000 in a week or 8,500 on a single day, as Axios has reported.

Those restrictions would remain until illegal crossings drop and remain low for an extended period of time.

The deal also would expedite the asylum process and limit the use of parole to release migrants into the U.S.

The big picture: The migrant crisis at the border and in major U.S. cities is one of the most jeopardizing issues for Biden and Democrats this November.

It's also Trump's marquee political issue. He has every incentive to keep it front and center as he heads toward a likely rematch against Biden.

Biden has doubled down on a tougher border image in recent months, and has signaled his willingness to "shut down the border" if he's given new authority under the Senate agreement.

What they're saying: The White House is accusing Republicans of flip-flopping for politics—first supporting their own strict immigration bill and now saying Biden already has the authority to close the border.

"If Speaker Johnson continues to believe—as President Biden and Republicans and Democrats in Congress do—that we have an imperative to act immediately on the border, he should give this administration the authority and funding we're requesting," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

"Right now [the plan's critics] are functioning off of internet rumors of what's in the bill, and many of them are false," Lankford said on "Face the Nation," defending the plan he has been negotiating.

"I want to know how house R's square their support for H.R. 2 with their position now that we should do nothing," one senior GOP Senate aide told Axios, referring to a sweeping border bill passed by House Republicans last year.

Republicans "are redefining the terms of any debate for the future," one former Biden official told Axios. "A very extreme, enforcement-heavy package is now being rejected as not tough enough."

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman who was

just yelling that the proposal that we are talking about, the bipartisan border security deal, is not something that we wrote over here: It was written in a bipartisan way in the Senate, led by the second most conservative Republican in the United States Senate.

He said it doesn't have a chance of passing. I will bet him anything that if he brought the bill to the floor, actually let it be brought before the full House, it would pass.

That is why Trump intervened to make sure that it never got a chance to go to the floor, because he knows it would pass.

Also, to the gentleman from Kentucky, I certainly didn't call the victims of—

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I did not refer to the victims of violence and who were killed by undocumented immigrants as props. I said that my Republican friends are using them as props, and I included in the RECORD the names of people who were killed by gun violence because I am tired of the selective outrage.

The bottom line is that countless people in this country are killed every week from gun violence, and my Republican friends do not want to do anything about it because the NRA owns the Republican Party in this country, and they are afraid to lose the money. That is what this is about.

Our complaint here is that we are talking about border security issues, and our frustration is that what we are dealing with, this tough bill—my Republican colleagues are so tough on the border. The tough bill that they are bringing before the House of Representatives is a nonbinding resolution that can never become law, that won't even be sent to the Senate, that is just a press release.

That is just a colossal waste of time. Surely, there has to be common ground where Democrats and Republicans can come together and actually pass things to better secure our border and to protect people like Laken Riley and others in the future.

However, I guess that is too much to ask.

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support for the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023, otherwise known as the USE IT Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Federal employees to get back into the office. Use it or lose it.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, found that, on average, 17 of the 24 CFO agency headquarters were at least 25 percent or less utilization in 2023.

There are two examples that I have direct oversight over through the Com-

mittee on Small Business and the Committee on Agriculture. The Small Business Administration has 270,000 square feet. Only 9 percent of the people who work there show up for work. In the USDA's 2 million square feet of beautiful buildings just down the street here, only 11 percent of those buildings are occupied.

Are these agencies trying to hide the low numbers of workers actually showing up to work for the American people? The majority of workers aren't at their desks. They are not answering the phones. That is why our congressional offices are having to do their job.

Mr. Speaker, I don't mind helping our constituents. That is what we get paid to do. I have a card here. Most Members of Congress carry their schedules around in their pockets. We have 16 appointments today.

Mr. Speaker, you show up for work every day that you are supposed to be here. The ranking member shows up for work. He is not phoning it in. People in these agencies should not be phoning it in, either.

We need to look at our constituents as clients, the American taxpayer.

When I first came to D.C. 14 months ago, I wanted to visit the very agencies over which we had oversight, the Small Business Administration, the Pentagon, the USDA. We went to the Pentagon, but the other agencies would not let us in the door.

Why is that? A sitting Member of Congress could not get into the door of these agencies.

That is why we filed the Congressional Access to Bureaucratic Offices Act, which more or less complements this resolution. Sitting Members of Congress should be able to get into these agencies. They are not because they have been hiding the low numbers of people who are actually at their desks.

This bill would require the agencies to submit a report to Congress that includes the actual utilization rate.

Mr. Speaker, as a former news anchor for 35 years in America, I have breaking news for you. COVID is over. Get back to work for the American people. Start doing your job. Quit putting the pressure on constituents to have to call their Congress Member, their Congressman or Congresswoman, to get the job done that they should be doing in the first place.

□ 1300

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

Mr. Speaker, if I could just respond to the gentleman who just spoke, not all jobs are the same. I mean, food inspectors, Federal food inspectors, for example, don't sit at a desk 5 days a week. Sometimes they have to go out and do inspections to make sure that the food that we provide people is safe.

Federal firefighters are not behind a desk 5 days a week. It doesn't mean they aren't working.

Our Border Patrol agents are patrolling the border. That doesn't mean they don't need a desk at some point.

Heck, Members of Congress, I mean, we are not in Washington behind our desks 5 days a week. Sometimes we are in our districts, sometimes we are in other places, but because we don't show up physically to work a day or 2 or 5 days in a particular month, somehow we should have our desks taken away?

This is the problem: With some better bipartisan cooperation, with more thoughtful consideration of these matters, we could have had a bill that would have sailed out of here unanimously; but, again, my friends can't help themselves, it is either their way or the highway. In any event, the way the bill is currently written ignores the realities of the workers that I just mentioned.

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my friend and fellow colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule which provides for consideration of H. Res. 1065, a resolution denouncing the Biden administration's disastrous border policies.

The Biden administration's utter failure to maintain operational control of our southern border has led to a crisis so extensive that it has spilled across my home State of New York and our Nation's northern border as well.

According to the latest data, since October 1, 2023, the northern border has seen a record number of illegal immigrants and drug seizures, most notably fentanyl, by Border Patrol. That is just what has been caught.

According to Border Patrol, the number of apprehensions of illegal aliens has more than doubled from this time last year, leading to a crisis that is overwhelming our brave Border Patrol agents who are trying, in spite of this administration, to maintain some semblance of security at our borders.

Let me be clear. The Biden administration's self-imposed border crisis has permeated every port of entry and nearly our entire land border, southern and northern. This administration has refused to do the right thing, the humane thing, and step in to stop the flow of trafficked migrants and lethal fentanyl.

We have lost so many Americans to the crime and the drugs that the Biden administration is allowing to come across our wide-open border. How many American lives do we need to lose before Biden takes any meaningful action to secure the border?

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have once again claimed that the resolution before us today is not serious and does not address the crisis. I remind my colleagues that the House of Representatives and House

Republicans passed historic funding levels to support our Nation's Border Patrol over the robust opposition of many House Democrats.

Republicans have also passed H.R. 2, a bill that would have serious and positive impact on the security of our Nation's borders. All of this was done while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the Biden administration doggedly refused to even admit that a crisis existed on our Nation's borders.

Make no mistake. Biden inherited an operationally secure southern border. As soon as he was sworn in, he immediately began reversing the policies that kept Americans safe. His administration has taken over 90 actions to undermine border security. On behalf of the American people, House Republicans are telling President Biden to end this madness now.

If it is not already clear, I strongly support this rule before us today, as well as the underlying legislation that denounces this administration for allowing the crisis at our borders to unfold.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the gentleman from New York repeatedly brag about this Homeland Security appropriations bill that the Republicans passed last year as a demonstration of their commitment to securing our border, but here is what he left out: My Republican friends still—still, still—have not sent it over to the Senate. They have not sent it over to the Senate. I don't know why.

By the way, H.R. 2 is dead. It only got 32 votes in the Senate. That is a pretty strong message that it is going nowhere.

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). The gentleman from Kentucky has 13½ minutes remaining.

The gentleman from Massachusetts has 7 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, during his first 100 days in office, President Biden took 94 executive actions on immigration, including halting construction of the border wall.

In August of 2022, the Biden administration formally halted President Trump's successful remain in Mexico program.

In May of 2023, the administration announced that it would allow for the release of some migrants into the U.S. with no way to track them.

The Biden administration also ended title 42, the CDC order that allowed the Department of Homeland Security to remove noncitizens who did not have proper travel documentation, whose entry was otherwise contrary to law, or who were apprehended at or near the

border seeking unlawful entry into the United States without regard to asylum claims or proceedings.

Shortly after taking office, President Biden terminated the asylum cooperative agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras to facilitate cooperation in resolving the migration crisis.

The Biden administration has also abused its authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act to grant parole on a case-by-case basis and has instead used this authority to grant mass parole to over 1 million migrants.

The Biden administration has also failed to detain migrants encountered at the southern border and has failed to use its authority to perform expedited removal of individuals illegally present in the United States.

As a result, since President Biden took office, 9.3 million illegal aliens from all over the world have arrived at the southern border. The Biden administration has allowed at least 6.3 million illegal aliens to travel from the southern border to enter American communities.

This is a tragedy. We need to call attention to it.

President Biden says there is nothing he can do. Well, I have just listed a number of things that he has done to create this crisis, and further in this debate I will talk about some of the things that he can do, that we know he can do, things that are stated in the resolution contained in this rule to end this national security, legal, and humanitarian crisis at our border.

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

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON), my good friend.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, we have myths and then we have facts. Let's go over some myths for a second, particularly when you talk about the border.

Myth one I heard was, the GOP doesn't have any solutions and doesn't want to solve this border crisis. We are not just having a crisis anymore. I would say it is a calamity. Then somehow Donald Trump calls, and a bipartisan deal that would solve the border crisis is scuttled; and that H.R. 2, which was the omnibus border security bill, was somehow radical.

Let's talk about facts now. First of all, Donald Trump didn't call and scuttle anything. We want to solve this crisis because we took an oath to the Constitution. In solving the crisis, we need a bill that will do that. The so-called bipartisan bill coming out of the Senate no House Republican even had any input on those discussions at all. There were major flaws in that legislation, and there were loopholes.

I do agree with the gentleman from Massachusetts—where I was born and raised for my first 22 years—that this is a divided government, and you do need to have some compromise if you

want to get anything done on everything. You need to strike a deal that works and gets things done. I understand that we are not going to dictate. We are in no position to. At the same time, you have to have workable solutions and not just things that are political but can solve issues.

Let's talk, again, about some inconvenient truths. In the two prior administrations—and I am talking about the Obama and Trump administrations—at this juncture in their Presidencies, there were about 1.7 million illegal border encounters. This administration has seen that number explode to 8 million. There is a problem. There is something fundamentally different now than in the past.

The last couple years of the Trump administration, there were three people who were on the terrorist watch list that were apprehended. Last fiscal year it was 169. Chinese nationals, mostly of military age, under the Trump administration's final years, it was about 450 in a given year. That ballooned to 40,000-plus. That is alarming. That is concerning. The cartels have never made more money. They are charging somewhere between \$4,000 and \$7,000 a head. The folks who are crossing the border illegally represent 170 countries.

Fentanyl deaths have doubled. Other than a couple of outlier years in, I think, the year 2000—so for the last 20-plus years—we had never had a month where we had 200,000 illegal border crossings. Under this administration, we have had 20. In December, we had 300,000 illegal crossings. In FY 2017, there were 300,000 all year.

There are things fundamentally different and wrong. The border is wide open. Republicans want to solve it because we took a sacred oath to secure the safety of American citizens because if you are not safe, then you are not free.

Here are our solutions: Wait in Mexico will reduce this flood by 70 percent. Ask anybody who deals with the border, any expert who is honest.

Border walls and other barriers actually work. You find them around the White House, you find them around people's beach houses and mansions in Malibu. Around when we had the State of the Union Address, there was a fence. For 6 months after January 6, there was a fence.

Expedited removal, punishing folks who overstay their visas, E-Verify. Those are all workable solutions, that are not radical. The American people are crying for them. If our friends across the aisle don't recognize that, they are going to rue the day come November of this year.

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

To the gentleman who just spoke, let me just say, you talk about facts. What is an undeniable fact is that the bill before us does absolutely nothing. Nothing. It doesn't add one more Border Patrol agent along our southern or northern border. It doesn't add any more

judges. It doesn't do anything to stop the Mexican cartels. It does nothing. It is just a press release.

The other fact is, H.R. 2 is going nowhere and fast, with 32 votes in the Senate. He also said they would like to work together. Every time we try to work together—that is what we tried to do in the Senate—my Republican friends here in the House, at the request of Donald Trump, say: No, we don't want to work with you. That is a problem because we have to work together in order to get real, meaningful solutions over the finish line.

The gentleman also keeps on screaming, the border is open, the border is open. That is the Republican rallying cry. It isn't, but if you say it enough times, then people might believe you and try to come here because you keep on saying that.

However, Mr. Speaker, the American people are smart. They know the difference between empty promises and real action. They know that the only way to get things done in divided government, for problems to be solved, like the border, Members of both parties have to work together. They know that come November the future of this country is in their hands.

They have seen the complete and utter disaster that this Republican majority has created in this Congress. They have witnessed the absolute chaos House Republicans have thrown the country into.

We are on the Rules Committee. All bills of consequence go to the Rules Committee before they come to the House floor. The last bill that we reported on the Rules Committee to the House floor that became law was 9 months ago. How can that happen? How can that happen without incredible dysfunction on the Republican side?

These guys have brought the Nation to the brink of default, shying away from fully funding the government, destabilizing this body by throwing fits and unseating Speakers, and taking the House floor hostage.

The American people also know that House Democrats have rescued this failing House Republican majority at nearly every turn. House Democrats carried the vote to ensure that the United States didn't default on its debt. House Democrats have kept the government running despite GOP leadership wasting time pursuing unrealistic, draconian spending cuts, and House Democrats have used every opportunity to stand against conservative legislation that would hurt average Americans.

This majority has been nothing but dysfunctional, Mr. Speaker. They have no new ideas, no tangible solutions, no drive to address pressing domestic and global challenges. The American people know that, which is why Republicans are going to lose in November.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1315  
Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee resolution that we are debating today provides for the consideration of two pieces of very important legislation.

The first is a commonsense bill that says if the government is heating, lighting, renting, and maintaining empty buildings where employees don't show up for work, let's do something about that. Let's find out how bad this problem is.

We believe that there are over 17 agencies with occupancy of less than 25 percent. This isn't green. I thought the other side of the aisle was green. It is not green to heat empty buildings and to light empty buildings when nobody shows up for work.

COVID is over. Either come to work or don't come to work, but let's not keep these buildings open if nobody is in them.

That is the first bill, which was introduced by my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The second piece of legislation that is in this rule is very critical. It stands in sharp contrast to the State of the Union Address that we heard just last week in this Chamber where the President got up and said there was nothing he could do.

Well, this resolution has a lot of inconvenient facts that refute the proposition of the President that he can't do anything. Not only can he do something, the things that he has done by executive order, over 94 of them, have been hurtful to the security of this country.

We are seeing illegal immigrants drawn like a magnet to this country because of the things that President Biden has done.

The resolution begins with a bunch of statements of facts, such as the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security created this problem at the border, the worst in the Nation's history, and, beginning on day one, systematically dismantled effective border security measures and interior immigration enforcement.

This resolution closes by resolving that there are seven things the President can do to end this crisis: one, end the catch and release policy; two, reinstate the Migrant Protection Protocols; three, enter into asylum cooperative agreements; four, end abuses of parole authority; five, detain inadmissible aliens; six, use expedited removal authority; and seven, rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens.

He could do all of these things tomorrow, and that is why it is important to pass this resolution, to draw attention to the problem so that it can be fixed, and to state what the solutions are.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this rule, and I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

The text of the material previously referred to by Mr. McGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1071 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 16) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 16.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECESS

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

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

#### □ 1330

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) at 1 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:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1071; and

Adoption of the resolution, if ordered.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6276, UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1065, DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 205, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 81]

YEAS—209

Alderholz	Ellzey	Kelly (PA)
Alford	Emmer	Kiggans (VA)
Allen	Estes	Kiley
Amodei	Ezell	Kim (CA)
Armstrong	Fallon	Kustoff
Arrington	Feeenstra	LaHood
Babin	Ferguson	LaLota
Bacon	Finstad	LaMalfa
Baird	Fischbach	Lamborn
Balderson	Fitzgerald	Langworthy
Banks	Fitzpatrick	Latta
Barr	Fleischmann	LaTurner
Bean (FL)	Flood	Lawler
Bentz	Foxx	Lee (FL)
Bergman	Franklin, Scott	Lesko
Bice	Fry	Letlow
Biggs	Fulcher	Loudermilk
Bilirakis	Gaetz	Lucas
Bishop (NC)	Gallagher	Luetkemeyer
Boebert	Garbarino	Luna
Bost	Garcia, Mike	Luttrell
Brecheen	Gimenez	Mace
Buchanan	Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis
Bucshon	Good (VA)	Maloy
Burchett	Gooden (TX)	Mann
Burgess	Granger	Massie
Burlison	Graves (LA)	Mast
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McCaull
Cammack	Green (TN)	McClain
Carey	Griffith	McClintock
Carl	Grothman	McCormick
Carter (GA)	Guest	McHenry
Carter (TX)	Guthrie	Meuser
Chavez-DeRemer	Hageman	Miller (IL)
Ciscomani	Harris	Miller (OH)
Cline	Harshbarger	Miller (WV)
Cloud	Hern	Miller-Meeks
Clyde	Higgins (LA)	Molinaro
Cole	Hill	Moolenaar
Collins	Hinson	Mooney
Comer	Houchin	Moore (AL)
Crane	Hudson	Moore (UT)
Crawford	Huizenga	Moran
Crenshaw	Hunt	Murphy
Curtis	Issa	Nehls
D'Esposito	Jackson (TX)	Newhouse
Davidson	James	Norman
De La Cruz	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)
DesJarlais	Johnson (SD)	Obernolte
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Ogles
Duarte	Joyce (OH)	Owens
Duncan	Joyce (PA)	Palmer
Dunn (FL)	Kean (NJ)	Pence
Edwards	Kelly (MS)	Perry

Pfluger	Sessions	Valadao
Posey	Smith (MO)	Van Drew
Reschenthaler	Smith (NE)	Van Duyne
Rodgers (WA)	Smith (NJ)	Van Orden
Rogers (AL)	Smucker	Walberg
Rogers (KY)	Stauber	Weber (TX)
Rose	Steel	Webster (FL)
Rosendale	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Rouzer	Steil	Westerman
Roy	Steube	Williams (NY)
Rutherford	Strong	Wilson (SC)
Salazar	Tenney	Wittman
Scalise	Thompson (PA)	Womack
Schweikert	Tiffany	Yakym
Scott, Austin	Timmons	Zinke
Self	Turner	

NAYS—20

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

NOT VOTING—18

1401

Mrs. FISCHBACH changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTI

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 209, noes 206, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 82]

AYES—209

Aderholt	Fleischmann	Mace
Alford	Flood	Malliotakis
Allen	Foxx	Maloy
Amodei	Franklin, Scott	Mann
Armstrong	Fry	Massie
Arrington	Fulcher	Mast
Babin	Gaetz	McCaull
Bacon	Gallagher	McClain
Baird	Garbarino	McClintock
Balderson	Garcia, Mike	McCormick
Banks	Gimenez	McHenry
Barr	Gonzales, Tony	Meuser
Bean (FL)	Good (VA)	Miller (IL)
Bentz	Gooden (TX)	Miller (OH)
Bergman	Graves (LA)	Miller (WV)
Bice	Graves (MO)	Miller-Meeks
Biggs	Green (TN)	Molinario
Bilirakis	Greene (GA)	Moolenaar
Bishop (NC)	Griffith	Mooney
Boebert	Grothman	Moore (AL)
Bost	Guest	Moore (UT)
Brecheen	Guthrie	Moran
Buchanan	Hageman	Murphy
Bucshon	Harris	Nehls
Burchett	Harshbarger	Newhouse
Burgess	Hern	Norman
Burlison	Higgins (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Calvert	Hill	Obernolte
Cammack	Hinson	Ogles
Carey	Houchin	Palmer
Carl	Hudson	Pence
Carter (GA)	Huizenga	Perry
Carter (TX)	Hunt	Pfluger
Chavez-DeRemer	Issa	Posey
Ciscomani	Jackson (TX)	Reschenthaler
Cline	James	Rodgers (WA)
Cloud	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Clyde	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (KY)
Cole	Jordan	Rose
Collins	Joyce (OH)	Rosendale
Crane	Joyce (PA)	Rouzer
Crawford	Kean (NJ)	Roy
Crenshaw	Kelly (MS)	Rutherford
Curtis	Kelly (PA)	Salazar
D'Esposito	Kiggans (VA)	Scalise
Davidson	Kiley	Schweikert
De La Cruz	Kim (CA)	Scott, Austin
DesJarlais	Kustoff	Self
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Sessions
Duarte	LaLota	Smith (MO)
Duncan	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Dunn (FL)	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)
Edwards	Langworthy	Smucker
Ellzey	Latta	Spartz
Emmer	LaTurner	Stauber
Estes	Lawler	Steel
Ezell	Lee (FL)	Stefanik
Fallon	Lesko	Steil
Feeenstra	Letlow	Steube
Ferguson	Loudermilk	Strong
Finstad	Lucas	Tenney
Fischbach	Luetkemeyer	Thompson (P)
Fitzgerald	Luna	Tiffany
Fitzpatrick	Luttrell	Timmons

Turner	Waltz
Valadao	Weber (TX)
Van Drew	Webster (FL)
Van Duyn	Wenstrup
Van Orden	Westerman
Walberg	Williams (NY)

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

## NOES—206

Adams	Goldman (NY)
Aguilar	Gomez
Allred	Gonzalez, Vicente
Amo	Gottheimer
Auchincloss	Green, Al (TX)
Balint	Hayes
Barragán	Himes
Beatty	Horsford
Bera	Houlahan
Beyer	Hoyer
Bishop (GA)	Hoyle (OR)
Blumenauer	Huffman
Blunt Rochester	Ivey
Bonamici	Jackson (IL)
Bowman	Jackson (NC)
Boyle (PA)	Jackson Lee
Brown	Jacobs
Brownley	Jeffries
Budzinski	Jayapal
Bush	Johnson (GA)
Caraveo	Kamala Harris (Dove)
Carbajal	Kaptur
Cárdenas	Keating
Carson	Kelly (IL)
Carter (LA)	Khanna
Cartwright	Kildee
Casar	Kilmer
Case	Krishnamoorthi
Casten	Kuster
Castor (FL)	Landsman
Castro (TX)	Larsen (WA)
Cherifius—McCormick	Larson (CT)
Chu	Lee (CA)
Clark (MA)	Lee (NV)
Clarke (NY)	Lee (PA)
Cleaver	Leger Fernandez
Clyburn	Levin
Cohen	Lieu
Connolly	Lofgren
Correa	Lynch
Costa	Magaziner
Courtney	Manning
Craig	Matsui
Crockett	McBath
Cuellar	McClellan
Davids (KS)	McCullum
Davis (NC)	McGarvey
Dean (PA)	McGovern
DeGette	Meeks
DeLauro	Menendez
DelBene	Meng
Deluzio	Mfume
DeSaulnier	Moore (WI)
Dingell	Morelle
Doggett	Moskowitz
Escobar	Moulton
Eshoo	Mrvan
Espalliat	Mullin
Evans	Nadler
Fletcher	Napolitano
Foster	Neal
Foushee	Neguse
Frost	Nickel
Gallego	Norcross
Garamendi	Ocasio-Cortez
Garcia (IL)	Omar
Garcia (TX)	Pallone
Garcia, Robert	Panetta
Golden (ME)	Pappas

## NOT VOTING—17

Buck	Gosar	Owens
Comer	Granger	Simpson
Crow	Grijalva	Takano
Davis (IL)	Harder (CA)	Wagner
Donalds	Kim (NJ)	Williams (TX)
Frankel, Lois	Mills	

## □ 1407

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6276.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 6276.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

## □ 1416

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the 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, with Mrs. KIGGANS from Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Madam Chair, H.R. 6276, the USE IT Act of 2023, implements commonsense and reasonable space occupancy standards to get Federal employees back into the office or the agency will have to lose that unnecessary, unneeded, unused space.

A recent Government Accountability Office review of how agencies were actually using their headquarters space here in Washington, D.C., found that 17 of the 24 agencies GAO reviewed used 25 percent or less of their space—17 of the 24, 25 percent or less of their space.

One agency even admitted that if 100 percent of their employees showed up, they would still only use 67 percent of their own building.

Even more troubling is some agencies were using only 9 percent. They can't even make double digits of their space. To be clear, we are not just paying for space to sit empty. Throughout the whole time, we are paying for utilities

and services such as heating, cooling, lighting, regular power, maintenance, security for the entire space that no one is in.

Empty Federal buildings are not only a drain to the Federal taxpayer, they also don't produce investments needed for local economies because nobody is in the building. There is nobody there to go out to lunch.

The bottom line is agencies should bring Federal workers back to the office. The reality is underutilized space has been a chronic problem in Federal real estate and is one reason Federal property has been on the GAO's high-risk list since 2003. This problem was identified 20 years ago, and it is still in existence today.

In order to address the issue, H.R. 6276 would use similar metrics to those used by the GAO and require Federal agencies to report on their actual utilization rates, set a target utilization of not less than 60 percent, and require the General Services Administration to report to Congress if any agency fails to meet that standard.

Agencies will be given time to meet the 60 percent utilization standard, but if they fail to do so, they would have to lose or give up their excess space.

Ultimately, the results of H.R. 6276 will benefit not just the Federal taxpayer, but also allow unused Federal buildings to be put to better use for the local communities.

Madam Chair, I urge support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, H.R. 6276 directs the OMB and the GSA to establish standards for measuring occupancy in Federal buildings. The bill directs the GSA and Federal tenants to use sensors to measure occupancy, requires the heads of Federal agencies to report occupancy and utilization data, and directs the GSA to notify agencies and Congress when occupancy in a Federal building falls below 60 percent, at which time GSA would be permitted to consolidate tenants.

The bill further requires OMB and GSA to develop a plan to consolidate agency headquarters buildings in the national capital region that will result in the utilization rate of 60 percent or more.

Now, I agree with Representative PERRY's goal to reduce agency costs by giving up unneeded space. I have consistently made that point to him and others on the committee.

I am opposed to this bill. The bill defines occupancy as the total number of employees physically working from their offices at least 5 days per week. Many Federal employees may not sit at their desks all day every day, including Federal firefighters, disaster responders, law enforcement officers, Border Patrol agents, food safety inspectors, TSA supervisors, National Parks Service rangers, and more.

These employees would not be included in occupancy counts required by this bill. Also not counted would be the Federal employees who work alternative work schedules. Federal law grants the Office of Personnel Management authority to promulgate regulations to administer alternative work schedule programs and permits agencies to allow the use of flexible schedules.

This authority extends to employees of any executive agency, any military department, and the Library of Congress.

To have an accurate picture of space needs in Federal buildings, all Federal employees occupying buildings should be counted. A full-time employee with an approved work schedule is still a full-time employee. This bill fails to consider that fact.

I have concerns that this bill does not adequately consider the complexity of the Federal leasing process—a process that, frankly, is far too complex.

Directing the OMB and GSA to reduce space if occupancy falls below 60 percent sounds fiscally responsible. However, in most currently leased locations, if agency space is reduced, the government would still be on the hook for the original costs in the lease contract because most existing lease contracts do not include partial termination rights.

In prospective leases, partial termination rights would increase the cost of leases for the government.

Again, I want to work with the chairman and the committee to resize the Federal real estate footprint and reduce costs, not unnecessarily increase those costs. This bill falls short.

After this period of general debate, we are going to move on to debate the seven amendments made in order by the Rules Committee. I will not be opposing any of those amendments, but, unfortunately, the seven amendments do not fix the underlying defects in the bill, so I will still oppose final passage.

I am disappointed the Rules Committee did not make in order the amendment that Representative TITUS offered that would have adjusted the calculation of the occupancy rate to include employees with approved alternative work schedules. This fix would have gone a long way toward alleviating my concerns with the legislation. Not allowing even a vote on this amendment is really a missed opportunity for bipartisanship on this bill.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, to my good friend, the ranking member of the full committee, the current administration doesn't even count every single employee in the Federal system. This bill, as he knows, does not affect flex schedules or telework schedules. It has nothing to do with that. We can, in this case, have our cake and eat it, too.

We can have this bill. We can get our occupancy rate up to 60 percent. We

can pass the bipartisan amendment that myself and Representative AUCHINCLOSS had worked together on and is in order. We can try and right-size the people that actually show up to work while acknowledging in the Federal system that not everybody has to be in the office.

Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my good friend.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for promoting this legislation, for carrying it through the committee.

Let me provide a little bit of background because I think there has been some confusion here.

If we look at occupancy rates of Federal buildings from pre-pandemic to current, then 54 percent of the buildings are occupied as compared to pre-pandemic.

Let me say this again. If you look at pre-pandemic occupancy and compare it to today, you have 54 percent occupancy as compared to what would have been 100 percent at the time, 100 percent of those slots filled.

What this legislation does is, it says that if leases are occupied 60 percent or less, then the government needs to give up those leases.

My friend from Washington has brought up the fact that you have folks who do telework and flexible schedules and things along those lines. There is a 40 percent cushion, number 1. Number 2, I think something that is incumbent upon folks in government that are using public money to pay for this—let me say it again: \$2 billion a year to operate and maintain, \$5 billion a year to pay for leases. It is incumbent upon these folks that are managing this to make sure that you are properly coordinating schedules.

If people are teleworking or have flexible schedules, that is fine. Just manage them in a way that maximizes the use of the space.

Look, this is ridiculous what is going on. It is \$7 billion a year. If we went around the Congress and asked Members of Congress, do you have something in your district that needs funding and you have been unable to get funding for, every single one of us could spend \$7 billion.

We have been trying to fight for a new bridge crossing the Mississippi River for years and years now. It should have been done 40 years ago.

Let's be clear: It only requires divestment or elimination of the lease if the occupancy is less than 60 percent. What private business would even do that? I think it actually should be a higher standard in an ideal situation.

As Chairman PERRY said, according to a Government Accountability Office study that went through, they looked at 24 Federal agencies and 17 of the 24 only used 25 percent of the space. This is insane. There is better uses of taxpayer funds.

In closing, Madam Chair, I remind everyone here, our current government

debt is approximately \$34.5 trillion. Each individual taxpayer's share of that is around \$257,000. I couldn't afford that. I don't think we need to be irresponsibly and recklessly spending taxpayer dollars in this environment or ever. I commend my friend from Pennsylvania for pushing this legislation, and I urge adoption.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I rise in firm opposition to H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act.

Contrary to what the title would suggest, this bill is an irresponsible partisan effort that would seriously harm not only our Federal workforce located in the national capital region, but simply ignores the practical realities of Federal jobs.

While I agree that we should always help our agencies run more efficiently and decrease spending where we can, this bill reveals ignorance of the current process the GSA undertakes when it comes to contracting, evaluations, and consolidations.

Further, the bill exempts warehouses and laboratories from its space restrictions, but doesn't name secure classified information facilities, SCIFs, as an exempted category.

I am concerned that this would cause negative implications for local facilities that have been designed specifically for use of SCIFs and for our national defense work broadly.

Finally, this bill offers no consideration for workers with alternative work schedules, people who do field work, people who work nontraditional hours or days, or those who have telework arrangements.

Don't get me wrong, many of our colleagues and I support the idea of our Federal agencies consolidating spaces to repurpose parts of their budgets. They have already done that with the Patent and Trademark Office in my district, or to decrease spending, but this bill actually does the opposite because by cutting short contracts we increase spending.

GSA already assists agencies with consolidating unused spaces. If you take out the bill language that matches what GSA is already doing, it is easy to read this as just a partisan ploy to move agency headquarters out of the national capital region and attack Federal employees.

□ 1430

There is no need to introduce a bill to mandate work that GSA already does and to threaten to remove agency workspaces because of arbitrary building occupancy rates.

Madam Chair, I have invested in and managed real estate for many decades. This bill doesn't offer an appropriate metric to evaluate space usage, need, or work productivity. I didn't consider places in my car stores that are occupied by cars instead of people as wasted

space. It is a matter of appropriateness. Any Member here who would allow their staff to work from home would be a hypocrite to oppose this bill.

We need the best and brightest to want to work for the Federal Government, and we want to utilize telework and nontraditional hours or days where it is appropriate. After all, we want the most productive and effective Federal workforce. Applying 1950s mentalities of butts in seats 5 days a week doesn't reflect the actual work that most Americans do. What if they need to spend every day in a SCIF or at a site visit?

For these reasons, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee.

If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill offered by Representative TITUS.

Madam Chair, this amendment would ensure that all Federal employees, including those using alternative work schedules, are counted for utilization rates at Federal buildings. This amendment would significantly alleviate some concerns coming from workers who use alternative work schedules and whose access to reliable workspaces would be threatened by this bill.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of the amendment.

Mr. Beyer moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6276 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Strike paragraph (7) of section 2(a) of the bill and insert the following:

(7). OCCUPANCY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “occupancy” means the total number of employees covered under section 6101 of title 5, United States Code, that are provided a workspace in a public building or federally-leased space for purposes of carrying out in-person, official duties, as described under such section.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—An employee shall be considered to be covered under subparagraph (A) if such employee is a full-time employee for whom a Federal agency has established an alternative workweek schedule pursuant to—

(i) section 6122 of title 5, United States Code; or

(ii) section 6127 of such title.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, historically, for 20 years anyhow, while this problem has been identified, these issues have historically been bipartisan. In fact, it was former President Obama who advocated agencies to freeze and then reduce their space footprint, recognizing that agencies had far more space than they needed.

To the gentleman who just spoke, GSA actually wants to do it. They want to reduce the space, but the agencies won't allow it. Why would they? They get so much space, and they don't have to deal with managing it or not. They just get the space, and they can

continue on their other work with as much space as they need, sometimes 3,000 square feet per employee.

A lot of people in America would like to have a house that is 3,000 square feet for their whole family. If they were watching today and found out that the Federal Government was paying for that, that their taxes were paying for that when they couldn't afford it themselves, they would be furious.

The Obama administration set a standard that agencies had to account for things like teleworking, actual space usage, and planning for the space. For example, in an agency that may have 1,000 people assigned to a building, only a portion of those people would be counted when it came to desks and space. It puts into consideration things like teleworking. The Obama administration even proposed selling the Department of Labor building based on this type of space utilization and counting.

More recently, I know that the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has previously proposed legislation to move and sell the Department of Energy, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say that Republicans just want to kick Federal employees out of their buildings. We don't. We would actually prefer that they come back to work.

Additionally, if they come back to work, I think it is very reasonable for us to say that we want the building to be 60 percent occupied. Sixty percent is, to me, a pretty good compromise with my friends on the other side of the aisle who are saying we just want to sell buildings and kick Federal employees out of their buildings.

We don't. We want them to come to work, but we want them to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and to use the space efficiently. When they don't need it, like everybody else would do, give up that space to be utilized either by other agencies in the Federal Government or by the political subdivision. Some town or city where that building is located should have the advantage to use that space so that they can increase their tax rolls, so that they can help their vendors out on the streets, and so that they can help their community.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I do think it is incumbent on me to characterize my position and recharacterize my friend's characterization of my position, which, as I recall, was to close buildings and kick out Federal employees.

That is not my position. In fact, in many ways, I share the goals of the chair of the subcommittee, that it is clear we have much more federally owned and leased space than is currently being used given the work schedules and changes that have taken place since COVID. It is necessary for

us to look at how best to consolidate that space, to rightsize that space, given its usage.

The problem I have is the hammer approach that this particular bill takes by setting a hard and fast 60 percent rule rather than looking at the flexibility necessary when you are considering agency by agency, division by division within those agencies, and how that space can be used properly and most efficiently.

We have worked on a bipartisan basis on the committee on a wide range of policies, including rightsizing the Federal real estate footprint. Just yesterday, we passed, on suspension, the FASTA Reform Act, a bill that the chairman himself sponsored that will expedite the disposal of excess Federal property.

When we work together, we can make some really good progress on this and other issues, but today's bill does fall short by failing to take into account the complexity of the Federal leasing process and using an incomplete and flawed metric for measuring the occupancy rate of Federal buildings.

I do welcome the opportunity to work with any Member in good faith, and we have done that, again, on many issues in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We all want to make genuine improvements on the Federal real estate program.

Mr. Chair, I do oppose this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy that the administration strongly opposes H.R. 6276; a letter dated March 12 from the AFL-CIO in opposition to H.R. 6276; a letter dated March 11 from the Federal Workers Alliance opposing H.R. 6276; and a letter dated March 8 from the American Federation of Government Employees opposing H.R. 6276.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY  
H.R. 6276—UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES (USE IT) ACT OF 2023—REP. PERRY, R-PA

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 6276, the USE IT Act, which would direct the Director of the Office of Management Budget (OMB) and the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) to ensure that Federal agencies' building utilization meets an arbitrary level of not less than a 60 percent average each year and, if an agency does not reach the target, GSA and OMB would have to forcibly reduce the agency's space. While the Administration believes that the Federal real estate portfolio needs to be evaluated and optimized, the Administration believes that agencies' unique missions require individualized approaches to improving space utilization. H.R. 6276 does not consider the varying mission and technical requirements of individual agencies or the age and original design of affected facilities when directing the OMB Director and GSA Administrator to develop and implement a plan to consolidate multiple agency headquarters functions into fewer buildings within the National Capital Region. These buildings, many of which are historic, would require major modernization and reconfiguration, prior to supporting dramatically increased occupancy levels. Instead, the Administration recommends strengthening the

collection of utilization data by Federal agencies and providing sufficient funding to GSA and affected agencies to execute necessary consolidations. The Administration is committed to working with agencies to improve their utilization of Federal space and to identify opportunities to reduce space.

AFL-CIO,  
March 12, 2024.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I write to express our opposition to H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023 (the USE IT Act). The metrics mandated by this act fail to accurately measure occupancy of federal buildings and leased space in a manner that reflects the distinctive ways federal workers perform their duties to benefit the public.

While the USE IT Act aims to track, measure and report on occupancy rates of federal buildings and federally leased space, the yardstick used to measure federal building and leased space occupancy is overly broad and unlikely to accurately reflect occupancy rates and efficiencies. The USE IT Act requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Services Administration (GSA) to determine whether a federal agency meets a 60 percent or higher occupancy rate. The 60 percent metric does not relate to the mission of a federal agency, or how federal workers do their jobs to achieve that mission.

Many federal workers, such as inspectors, law enforcement officers, and engineers, split their time between fieldwork and federal buildings or federal leased space. Other federal workers have agreements with their agency for alternative workplace arrangements. The overly broad metric penalizes federal agencies and their staff for long term work arrangements that function well.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of flexibility in how and where work was performed. Federal agencies had plans in place allowing federal workers in every state and the District of Columbia area to continue to serve the public during the pandemic, weather emergencies, or when federal buildings or leased spaces are inaccessible. The arbitrary 60 percent occupancy rate metric required by the USE IT Act makes it less likely that federal agencies and the workforce can continue to serve the public in an efficient and effective manner. I urge you to oppose the USE IT Act.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,  
Director, Government Affairs.

FEDERAL WORKERS ALLIANCE,  
March 11, 2024.

House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We write to you as the executive officers of the Federal Workers Alliance (FWA), a labor coalition representing over 550,000 Federal and Postal workers, to urge you to vote in opposition of H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023, also known as the USE IT Act.

As you know, the USE IT Act would direct the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the General Services Administration (GSA) to establish standard methodologies to measure occupancy in federal buildings and federally leased space. The bill also requires federal agencies to work with GSA to implement technologies to track occupancy and usage rates of federal buildings and to provide reports to Congress on the collected data. GSA is then required by the act to take actions against agencies in federal buildings that report less than 60 percent usage rates, such as consolidating building space with

other agencies or selling excess building space.

In setting an arbitrary number, such as 60 percent, the bill fails to account for ongoing strategic planning, current changes, and future trends in accordance with the federal government's space requirements. Making premature or not fully evaluated rearrangements of federal space for the sake of satisfying an arbitrary number is often a costly and wasteful endeavor, especially if the same or equivalent space must be repurchased or leased at a higher rate in the future. It is better to leave these decisions to the authorizations and appropriations processes within Congress, and allow those decisions to overlay with GSA and the agencies themselves to ensure that decisions are based on strategy and economics, rather than an arbitrary number.

The FWA further opposes the USE IT Act because OMB and GSA, in addition to other federal agencies, currently measure occupancy and usage rates within federally owned and leased buildings. Since 2020, new technologies have been piloted to collect this data and GSA reports that it has already consolidated federal spaces based on occupancy rates and usage data. GSA is expected to continue to track this data and consolidate office space consistent with the agency's current practices, therefore rendering the USE IT Act unnecessary.

OMB, GSA, and all federal agencies have been adjusting for the efficient use of office space since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so as agencies establish and implement policies relating to in-person work for federal employees. Agency leaders and federal employees alike now have a profound understanding of how they can best utilize building space and remote work. It is our position that the USE IT Act will only create obstacles for agencies in carrying out their mission in service to the American public.

Thank you for considering our request. We are available to provide further information about our opposition to the USE IT Act of 2023. If you have any questions, please contact FWA legislative cochairs Faraz Kahn or Steve Lenkan.

Sincerely,

FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (FEA); International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE); International Plate Printers, Die Stampers, Plate Makers and Engravers of North America (PPDSPM&E of N.A.); National Association of Agriculture Employees (NAAE); National Association of Government Employees, SEIU (NAGE); National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM); National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO); Patent Office Professional Association (POPA); Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS).

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,  
Washington, DC, March 8, 2024.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents over 750,000 federal and District of Columbia employees in 70 agencies, I write to express AFGE's opposition to H.R. 6276, the "Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023," which would direct the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget to measure occupancy in federal buildings and federally leased space and reduce or consolidate space if utilization rates fall below 60 percent.

H.R. 6276's stated goal is to reduce federal real estate holdings and right size the federal portfolio. While there may be benefits de-

rived from studying the federal government's real estate footprint, AFGE opposes the bill's blunt and seemingly arbitrary metric to determine when a federal agency fails to meet a 60 percent or higher building occupancy rate. This metric fails in two important ways: (1) it ignores the tens of thousands of federal workers, many of whom AFGE represents, whose work is split, often unpredictably from week-to-week, between an agency building and the field, such as food safety inspectors, law enforcement officers, Border Patrol agents, TSA supervisors, park rangers, and firefighters, to name only a few; (2) it treats alternative work schedule programs the same way, making no distinction between the agency employee who, pursuant to an agency workplace arrangement, teleworks one day a week and the employee who teleworks two or three days a week; and (3) despite a few narrow exceptions, it treats personnel occupancy as the sole measure of whether a building is needed, overlooking the full range of federal building uses that includes healthcare, research and development, equipment maintenance and repair, manufacturing, meeting space, and hearing rooms. Indeed, it would be hard to find many sizeable private employers who treat human occupancy as the sole determinant of their space needs; yet the federal government is the largest and most diverse employer in the world.

H.R. 6276's failure in the utilization rate calculation to account for distinctions in the federal workforce, the role of alternative work schedule programs in meeting agencies' recruitment and retention needs, the types of work federal workers perform, and, particularly, the blurry line between so-called desk jobs and jobs of a more physical nature risks inaccurately producing building utilization rates that fall below the 60 percent threshold. Such inaccurate calculations in turn would force agencies to either consolidate with other agencies or sell or dispose of "excess space" that in fact is needed and should be retained to accommodate agency employees who spend all or significant amounts of their time working from an agency building.

H.R. 6276 also ignores important lessons of the recent past. As the COVID-19 pandemic vividly demonstrated, major emergencies can threaten the continuity of government operations, both in the District of Columbia and outside the Capitol region where almost 80 percent of federal workers are employed. To prepare for these crises, federal agencies have adopted policies and technologies to ensure their employees can perform their jobs safely, securely, and without interruption from either an agency building or remotely. Combining the use of alternative work schedule programs where appropriate with traditional workplace arrangements has contributed to this preparation, enabling federal agencies and their employees to serve the public efficiently in ordinary times and quickly adapt to exigent circumstances in times of crisis. If enacted, H.R. 6276 would discourage agencies from including alternative work schedule programs as part of their contingency planning.

Please oppose H.R. 6276, the "Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023," if you have questions or need additional information, please contact Daniel Horowitz, Keith Abouchar, or Julie Tippens.

Sincerely,

JULIE N. TIPPENS,  
Director, Legislative Department.  
Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MOYLAN). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I do want to respond to my good friend from Washington.

I didn't mean to mischaracterize his assessment or his comments. However, the speaker before the gentleman from Washington did essentially make those claims, and so I was answering that.

While I am here, I want to characterize what the public is seeing if they are reading The Washington Times. Here is an article from Wednesday, December 6, 2023, "Idea to fill empty Federal buildings with illegal immigrants," where DHS headquarters is 69 percent unused and Social Security offices are 93 percent vacant.

No wonder offices like mine deal with so many constituent calls when they can't get answers from the Social Security Administration.

We would like those folks to come back to work, but if they are not going to come back to work, could we stop having everybody, including Social Security recipients, pay for the empty building?

Here is another one from The Washington Times, dated Thursday, September 21, 2023: "Telework's empty buildings opens the door for Legionnaires' disease."

Well, isn't that wonderful? Won't that be great when the source of a new outbreak of Legionnaires' disease comes from a vacant Federal building that we are paying for?

Here is another one, "IG to investigate Federal offices left vacant by telework policies," from The Washington Times, and the date of this is Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Finally, "Ghost towns: Federal office buildings are 80 percent vacant, government audit finds." This article is from The Washington Times, dated Thursday, October 26, 2023.

We have an opportunity here that shouldn't be partisan and should be pretty simple. All we are saying is: Federal agencies, can you come back to work at least 60 percent? Is that too much? It is 10 percent above 50 percent, which would be half empty. We find that very objectionable, but at least 60 percent should be something we agree on.

Mr. Chair, I include all the articles that I discussed previously in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Dec. 6, 2023]  
IDEA TO FILL EMPTY FEDERAL BUILDINGS WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS SOLVES TWO PROBLEMS FOR BIDEN ADMIN

DHS HQ IS 69 PERCENT UNUSED, SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES 93 PERCENT VACANT

(By Stephen Dinan)

The Biden administration is desperate to find shelter for all the illegal immigrants caught and released into the U.S.

Perhaps they could stay in federal office buildings.

The Department of Homeland Security's palatial headquarters in Washington's southeast quadrant sits nearly 70 percent vacant,

according to data released this week by Sen. Joni Ernst, Iowa Republican.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, whose mission is to put Americans into homes, is even worse. Its headquarters is 93 percent vacant. So is the Social Security Administration's main building outside Baltimore.

The Office of Personnel Management, the government's human resources agency, is a ghost town with 88 percent of its space unoccupied. The General Services Administration, the government's chief landlord agency, can't fill its own headquarters, with an 89 percent vacancy rate.

Across two dozen departments and agencies, not a single one was at 50 percent capacity in the first three months of this year, according to Ms. Ernst's figures.

"While it's not the night before Christmas yet, there's not a creature stirring, not even a mouse, in the halls across this city," Ms. Ernst said in releasing the occupancy figures.

She said the Biden administration gave the numbers to her but didn't want them released publicly. She defied that demand, saying the public needs to know how bad things have become in the federal workforce.

"COVID's been over for years. Where are the workers?" she said.

The Washington Times reached out to the worst-performing agencies to ask about the vacancies and their plans to rectify matters.

None of the agencies provided a comment, though in response to federal officials, HUD and the Small Business Administration said their spaces were undergoing renovations during the test period, which contributed to a decrease in attendance.

The GSA controls more than 90 million square feet of office space in the Washington region alone, and the government holds about 511 million square feet nationally. GSA figures on 150 to 180 square feet of usable space per employee.

The 24 headquarters buildings for which Ms. Ernst released data were operating at about 20 percent of full use.

Occupancy is based on a building's capacity and the amount of use of its space. The data was based on average attendance during sample days in a three-month period from January through March and was derived from sign-ins, logins and badge swipes.

While offices sit empty, many American communities are overwhelmed by the surge of illegal immigrants whom the Biden administration has caught and released.

Ms. Ernst suggested a meeting of the minds.

"So-called sanctuary cities have run out of space to shelter the influx of immigrants that the Biden administration is allowing to enter the country illegally. With two-thirds of the Department of Homeland Security headquarters going unused, maybe the agency causing the problem can solve it by opening their doors," she told The Times.

Homeland Security, which has a use rate of 31 percent, did not respond to a request for comment on the idea.

Exact numbers are a closely held secret, but outside estimates say Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has paroled 2 million illegal immigrants into the U.S., in addition to others caught and released or who sneaked in altogether.

The administration has moved to stick thousands of them at a National Park Service property in New York. It signed a lease with the city for the Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn.

That location lacks many amenities, and the tent city erected to house the migrants sits in a flood plain, critics charged.

House Republicans, joined by a smattering of Democrats, voted last week to cancel the

lease and to prevent migrants from being placed on other property held by federal land management agencies. That legislation, which is unlikely to make it through the Democratic-controlled Senate, does not appear to block migrants from being placed in buildings run by non-land-management agencies.

Meanwhile, vacancy at federal buildings is an increasingly touchy issue for the Biden administration, which has declared the pandemic emergency over and ordered employees back to work in person but has been met with resistance by those workers.

The comptroller general, in a report earlier this year, prodded agencies about the matter.

They offered a host of excuses for why they weren't filling space, including preparing for a possible surge of returning employees.

Some excuses seemed more territorial.

The audit said some agencies seemed to worry that giving up their buildings or sharing space with others would make them seem less powerful than other agencies.

Even within departments and agencies, divisions were reluctant to share space such as conference rooms, the Government Accountability Office said.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 21, 2023]

TELEWORK'S EMPTY BUILDINGS OPEN THE DOOR FOR LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE

(By Stephen Dinan)

The water supply in at least six federal government buildings is contaminated with the bacterium that causes Legionnaires' disease, and the problem may be even more widespread, according to the inspector general who oversees U.S. properties.

One of the buildings is a work site for thousands of employees, one is a post office in Chicago and one houses a day care center.

Investigators said one culprit is pandemic teleworking, which has left buildings operating at less than capacity. Fewer people means less water is flushed through the pipes, creating a stagnant environment where Legionella pneumophila can proliferate.

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 18, 2023]

IG TO INVESTIGATE FEDERAL OFFICES LEFT VACANT BY TELEWORK POLICIES

(By Stephen Dinan)

A federal inspector general has opened an investigation into telework policies that have turned some government offices into ghost towns, risking the spread of disease and raising questions about how agencies deliver services.

The inspector general for the General Services Administration, which acts as the chief landlord for civilian executive branch agencies, confirmed the work in a letter to Sen. Joni Ernst, Iowa Republican, who says the government has not fully grappled with a host of questions about the barren buildings.

"My office shares your concerns about the effect of telework on GSA's ability to carry out its mission effectively and efficiently," acting Inspector General Robert Erickson told Ms. Ernst in a letter, which The Washington Times obtained. "My office plans to continue to devote attention to GSA's space utilization in our future oversight efforts."

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 26, 2023]

HOST TOWNS: FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDINGS ARE 80% VACANT, GOVERNMENT AUDIT FINDS

(By Stephen Dinan)

The Agriculture Department is headquartered at the gateway between Washington and Virginia in a building rich with history—but on any given day, roughly 90 percent of it sits empty.

That's not an anomaly.

The Government Accountability Office surveyed two dozen federal agencies and found they averaged a roughly 80 percent vacancy rate during the study period earlier this year.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, Federal real property has remained on the GAO's high-risk list for more than 20 years. The Government Accountability Office has said this is a high risk for the last 20 years, and we are on the precipice. We are standing on the edge of providing a solution to the excess space that exists that we keep paying for.

At the same time, our debt has gone to \$34 trillion. By May, it will be \$35 trillion. We are not going to save trillions here, but we can save billions here. If you start adding up billions, maybe you will finally get to trillions. However, we are not saving anything right now, and we are not going to save any of this if we don't pass this bill.

This is our opportunity, Mr. Chair, to finally fix this problem, a problem that I will note has historically found bipartisan support to address the issue. Even on this occasion, when the bill was lacking, we had a hearing. We had a markup on it.

Friends on the other side of the aisle said: Would you listen to a way where potentially we could improve it?

Of course, we did, and we worked together. You are going to have an opportunity to vote on that amendment shortly.

The USE IT Act of 2023 is reasonable. It is commonsense legislation that simply says that if the Federal employees don't come back into the office, the taxpayer is not going to have to pay for the empty space.

We don't have any extra money in this town, Mr. Chair. Nobody has any extra money. Right here, we have identified it. This is where some of it is going unnecessarily. We can consolidate. We can sell things off.

Some of these agencies will probably get a new building, just at the right size, where their workers would still have flex time, would still telework where appropriate, and where constituents—our bosses, the American people—could access the services that they pay for and deserve to get because they do pay for them.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this soon-to-be bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, printed in the bill, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

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

H.R. 6276

*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 "Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023" or the "USE IT Act of 2023".*

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

(1) ACTUAL UTILIZATION RATE.—The term "actual utilization rate" means the total usable square footage of a public building or federally-leased space divided by the occupancy.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(3) BUILDING UTILIZATION.—The term "building utilization" means the percentage of utilization generated by comparing the actual utilization rate with the capacity based on a utilization benchmark of 150 useable square feet per person.

(4) CAPACITY.—The term "capacity" means the total usable square footage of a public building or federally-leased space divided by a utilization benchmark.

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(6) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term "Federal agency" means an executive department covered by the CFO Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-576).

(7) OCCUPANCY.—The term "occupancy" means the total number of employees performing duties in person in a public building or federally-leased space at least 5 days per week on a regular basis.

#### SEC. 3. IDENTIFICATION AND DEPLOYMENT OF BUILDING USAGE TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall establish standard methodologies and identify technologies available for measuring occupancy in public buildings and federally-leased space.

(b) MEASUREMENT OF UTILIZATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads of Federal agencies shall work with the Administrator to identify, deploy, and use sensors and other technologies in public buildings and federally-leased space, where the Federal agency occupies space to measure the occupancy of public buildings and leased space.

#### SEC. 4. REPORTING ON USAGE OF REAL PROPERTY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the heads of Federal agencies shall submit to the Director, the Administrator, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on—

(1) the occupancy and the actual utilization rates of space in public buildings and federally-leased space occupied by the respective agency of the Federal agency head broken down by building and lease;

(2) the methodology used for determining occupancy, including the period of time and other parameters used to determine occupancy on a regular basis;

(3) the utilization percentage of each public building and federally-leased space by the respective agency of the Federal agency head, comparing the capacity to the actual utilization rate based on a utilization benchmark of 150 useable square feet per person; and

(4) any costs associated with capacity that exceeds occupancy with respect to the respective agency of the Federal agency head.

#### SEC. 5. REDUCING UNNEEDED SPACE.

(a) TARGET UTILIZATION METRICS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director, in consultation with the Administrator, shall ensure building utilization in each public building and federally-leased space is not less than 60 percent on average over each 1-year period.

(b) ACTIONS.—In the event that building utilization is below 60 percent on average over a 1-year period described in subsection (a) for any particular public building or federally-leased space, the Administrator shall—

(1) provide notice to the tenant agency informing such agency of the excess in capacity along with associated costs of such excess; and

(2) notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of such excess capacity and associated costs.

(c) SUBSEQUENT FAILURE.—If the tenant agency fails to meet the 60 percent target under subsection (a) in the reporting period subsequent to the reporting period under subsection (b), the Administrator shall, in consultation with the Director, take steps to reduce the space of the tenant agency, including consolidating the tenant agency with another agency, selling or disposing of excess capacity space, and adjusting space requirements, as appropriate, for any replacement space.

(d) PRIORITIZATION.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall prioritize to the maximum extent practicable capital investments in public buildings where Federal agencies meet or exceed building utilization metrics, except that prioritization may be given to projects that will result in building utilization of 60 percent or more.

#### (e) EXCEPTIONS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may provide exceptions to building utilization metrics based on the amount of non-standard office space a Federal agency demonstrates is required to meet the mission of the agency, including warehouse space, laboratories critical to the mission of the agency, and public customer-facing spaces driven by agency missions.

(2) REPORTING.—The Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on any exceptions granted, including the justification for such exception.

#### SEC. 6. HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS.

(a) HEADQUARTERS CONSOLIDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with the Administrator, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Comptroller General of the United States a plan to consolidate department and agency headquarters buildings in the National Capital Region that will result in building utilizations of 60 percent or greater.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include details on the following:

(1) Which departments and agencies will collocate and consolidate and into which buildings and associated details before and after plan implementation related to building utilization, building capacities, and actual utilization.

(2) Details on the strategies for the sale or disposal of buildings that will no longer be needed for Federal use.

(3) A detailed breakdown of any costs associated with the proposed consolidations and colocations.

(4) An estimate of future savings as a result of space reductions and consolidations, including costs associated with energy savings and building operations.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the submission of the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator and Director shall begin implementing such plan.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended,

shall be in order except those printed in House Report 118-419. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. EDWARDS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118-419.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, after line 5, insert the following:

**SEC. 7. FEDERAL USE IT OR LOSE IT LEASES ACT.**

(a) REPORTING OF SPACE UTILIZATION AND OCCUPANCY DATA FOR OFFICE SPACE.—An occupancy agreement between the Administrator of General Services and a Federal tenant for office space shall—

(1) include language that requires the Federal tenant to submit to the Administrator an annual report for the duration of the agreement containing data on—

(A) monthly total occupancy of such office space;

(B) the actual utilization of such office space;

(C) monthly space utilization rates; and

(D) any other office space utilization data considered important by the Administrator; and

(2) include language that requires the Federal tenant to have written procedures in place governing the return of office space to the Administrator if the occupancy of the Federal tenant falls below a 60 percent space utilization rate for 6 months within any 1-year period, beginning on the date on which the agreement takes effect.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES WITH INDEPENDENT LEASING AUTHORITIES.—The head of any agency with independent leasing authorities with leases for office space shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and each congressional committee of jurisdiction of the applicable independent leasing authority an annual report for the duration of such agreement containing data on—

(1) monthly total occupancy of the office space;

(2) the actual utilization of such office space;

(3) monthly space utilization rates; and

(4) any other office space utilization data considered important for collection by Congress.

(c) EXCEPTIONS TO REPORTING AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—This section shall not apply to properties used by an element of the intelligence community.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements of this section shall apply to any occupancy or novation agreement entered into on or after the date that is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL TENANT.—The term “Federal tenant”—

(A) means an Federal agency that has an occupancy agreement with the Administrator of General Services to occupy a com-

mercial lease for office space secured by the Administrator on behalf of the Federal Government; and

(B) does not include an element of the intelligence community.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I commend Mr. PERRY for his work on this important bill. I had the opportunity to serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, where this horrible expense issue was brought to our attention.

I also thank the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ), my bipartisan co-lead, for her partnership on this amendment and the greater standalone bill.

Mr. Chair, I am here today to urge support for my amendment to H.R. 6276, the USE IT Act.

□ 1445

I introduced the Federal Use it or Lose it Leases Act, or the FULL Act, back in November to bring accountability to the practice of maintaining high telework levels while maintaining expensive office leases and to reduce wasteful government spending on unused office space.

My bill was drafted in concurrence with Mr. PERRY’s USE IT Act to ensure that our language was synonymous and could work together to establish strong Federal building policies and procedures to reduce the Federal footprint. The FULL Act unanimously passed out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee by voice vote during the full committee markup on November 15.

As you well know, a GAO report found that 17 of the 24 major agency headquarters in D.C. were less than 25 percent occupied during the first quarter of 2023. Even the few agencies above 25 percent reported right around or below 50 percent occupancy. Meanwhile, taxpayers continue to pay for 100 percent of the office space Federal employees are not using.

The Federal real estate portfolio has become a wasteland that is seldom reviewed. Leased assets cost taxpayers more than \$6 billion a year. Even during the peak of telework, between 2020 and 2022, Federal agencies managed to spend more than \$1 billion in a single year on new furnishings.

If you compare the USE IT Act and my amendment, you will see our language is very similar. Mr. PERRY’s USE IT Act establishes the criteria that I reference in my amendment to regulate general Federal building practices. My bill differentiates itself by serving as the reporting catalyst for Mr. PERRY’s bill.

The USE IT Act creates mandatory reporting requirements for agencies, and the FULL Act will require that GSA include language in all leases with Federal tenants directing the submission of an annual report on monthly occupancy and inclusion of written procedures governing the return of that unused office space to GSA. Together, the language ensures Congress has up-to-date information to make the best space utilization decisions for our taxpayers.

The FULL Act also requires independent leasing authorities to submit a report to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the congressional committee of jurisdiction on occupancy and space utilization.

Ultimately, my amendment seeks to equip Congress and GSA with the data needed to provide greater oversight of Federal leases, to reduce the Federal real estate footprint, and to ensure that we are maximizing every Federal dollar spent on office space for agency use. Mr. PERRY’s bill sets the best practices for managing Federal real estate, and my amendment provides the mechanism for implementing those best practices.

Ultimately, Mr. Chair, I urge support of my amendment, which will help to strengthen congressional oversight of government spending on office leases and prevent taxpayers from continuing to foot the bill for underutilized Federal office space.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, this amendment requires GSA to include in its occupancy agreements with Federal tenants a requirement that tenant agencies submit a report on utilization and usage to GSA. It also requires the return of office space by the tenant to GSA if occupancy falls below 60 percent for 6 months within any 1-year period.

GSA previously allowed tenant agencies to return unneeded space back to GSA with 120-days’ notice, but in May of 2023, GSA changed its policy and now all new occupancy agreements between GSA and Federal tenants must include a noncancellation clause to prevent agencies from returning space to GSA.

Requiring agencies to return space if occupancy falls below 60 percent for 6 months does not account for the fact that space costs incurred by the government still remain under the lease contract.

While I have concerns about the mechanics and the cost of an agency returning space to GSA with this amendment, I will not oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Ms. PEREZ).

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment with Representative EDWARDS for the USE IT Act which would incorporate our bipartisan bill, the FULL Act, to inform how Federal office leases are renewed and ensure unused government office space can be effectively repurposed.

Flexibility in where Federal employees work has allowed public servants to spend more time coaching their kids' Little League team and less time commuting in traffic. In addition, telework has been beneficial to rural communities like mine.

However, Federal policy needs to keep up so taxpayers aren't footing the bill for empty office space. We want to see our tax dollars going to fixing aging infrastructure in our public schools, not to landlords.

With more than half of all Federal leases set to expire in the next 5 years, our FULL Act would help the government better utilize space and cut down on expensive building leases and furniture.

Our amendment will require important reporting on space utilization, occupancy, and availability, as well as ensuring agencies have written procedures in place to return unused office space to the GSA.

Instead of wasting tax dollars on empty buildings and their landlords, we should be using them to replace our crumbling infrastructure.

I am grateful for Congressman EDWARDS' partnership on this bipartisan, commonsense effort to reduce government waste and be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from North Carolina has expired.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, again, I do not oppose the amendment on this side of the aisle, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118-419.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, strike lines 4 through 7 and insert the following:

(7) OCCUPANCY.—The term “occupancy” means the total number of employees actually performing duties in person in a public building or federally-leased space 40 hours per week regardless of work arrangements.

Page 4, after line 21, insert the following:

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Administrator shall ensure any sensors used for the purposes of determining occupancy are designed to protect of all personally identifiable information.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment to H.R. 6276 with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). This amendment makes two clarifying changes to the bill, ensuring that the legislation collects occupancy data in a way that better encompasses all Federal workers, wherever they are working, and protects the privacy of those workers.

This amendment updates the definition of “occupancy” in the bill from the total number of employees performing duties in person over a 5-day workweek to the number of employees doing so over a 40-hour workweek, ensuring that occupancy calculations can more comprehensively account for all employees.

Now, the issue came up during discussion in regular order in the committee. Mr. AUCHINCLOSS had some issues with the bill, and rightly so. He came to me, and he said: Can we work on this? I said: Sure, I think we can because we are all interested in making things better, no matter where the ideas come from.

Additionally, this amendment requires that the sensors used to collect occupancy data within this bill are designed to protect the personally identifiable information of the building's occupants, ensuring that these new requirements will not impinge and impose on Federal employee privacy.

It has been great to work with the gentleman. We all want to improve things. We all think we have the best ideas, but sometimes we don't, and when somebody else does, you have just got to say, well, look, can we get it done together? If that brings us together, that is a win for the American people and, quite honestly, a win for this Congress if we can work on the amendment, get it passed and also the bill.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS).

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment

with Mr. PERRY to his bill, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies, or USE IT, Act.

I support the intent and much of the substance of the underlying bill. I believe it is wise to require the Federal Government to be a good steward of its leases and of taxpayer dollars. It is important to reevaluate employee occupancy of Federal buildings in this new post-COVID employment environment, just as the private sector is doing, and to rightsize our Federal office space accordingly.

This amendment makes two important revisions to the bill. I appreciate Mr. PERRY's collaboration in adopting it.

First, it defines occupancy in terms of hours per week instead of days per week to better reflect Federal employees who have compressed work schedules. Second, it codifies that any technology used to collect occupancy data should protect personally identifiable information, which GSA is already doing.

This amendment does not solve every outstanding issue with this bill. I agree with the ranking member that Ms. TITUS' amendment should also have been made in order, but I do believe it materially improves it, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, again, trying to alleviate the fact that a vast majority of the buildings are vastly under-staffed, yet 100 percent of them are paid for, that is what we are trying to do here. It has been a 20-year-long problem—20 years long. The Obama administration recognized it and tried to do something about it. Of course, GSA wants to do something about it. Again, the tenants, the occupants of the buildings, the agencies have no incentive to reduce their space. They would be happy to have all the space and have nobody in it except when they feel like showing up as long as the taxpayer is willing to pay for an empty building, well heated, well cared for, well maintained, just in case they might use it.

Now, we have told the Rules Committee that we want to see all the amendments that are worthy to be listened to be debated and come to the floor for a vote because we think that improving ideas, no matter where they come from, is the greatest thing for this institution and for this effort.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment that I worked on with my good friend, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, my biggest concern with the underlying bill is that it defines occupancy as the total number of employees physically working from the offices at least 5 days a week. Many Federal employees do not actually sit at their desks at all because they are out in the field working.

As the bill is currently written, these employees—as well as Federal employees who have approved alternative work schedules—would not be included

in occupancy counts. This amendment makes a slight improvement to that definition, as was explained by the Representative from Massachusetts.

The effort to count occupants in buildings is worthwhile, but only if we ensure that all occupants, including those who have been sanctioned and approved with their alternative work schedules, are included.

This amendment will improve the bill, and I thank the Representative from Pennsylvania and the Representative from Massachusetts for their efforts.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 118-419.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 18, strike "and".

Page 5, line 21, strike the period and insert ";" and".

Page 5, after line 21, insert the following:

(5) whether occupancy and actual utilization rates are affected by the remote work and telework policies and practices of the respective agency.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

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Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in favor of my amendment No. 3 to H.R. 6276, which expands on the bill's reporting requirements to have the Federal agencies also evaluate whether occupancy and utilization rates are affected by the agency's remote and telework policies.

The underlying bill, as drafted, requires Federal agencies and the General Services Administration, or GSA, to measure and report on occupancy and utilization in public buildings and federally leased spaces.

My amendment builds on this reporting requirement and forces the agencies to measure how telework and remote work impacts the utilization of its physical office space.

Telework and remote work have long been available to the Federal workforce, but the wide scale and regular use of such policies drastically increased during COVID.

Two priorities of this majority have been to return the Federal workforce to work and to understand how remote and telework impacted the efficiency of the Federal Government and the

services it is required to provide to our constituents.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability under the leadership of Chairmen COMER and SESSIONS have done great work to accomplish this goal.

Mr. PERRY's bill and other bills reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee measuring the usage of Federal office space make further meaningful steps in achieving the goals of this majority.

Yet, the agencies have been anything but fully transparent. My amendment seeks to build on this great work by requiring that the agencies measure the new age of remote and telework on the usage of physical government space.

With telework and remote work so widely used in 2024, any study on the usage of office space would be incomplete without measuring it against the number of employees which only sometimes or never have to physically report to work.

This would help Congress understand how much of the Federal office spaces are actually being used on a regular basis in the post-COVID world, which would also help us to determine if we need to divest of physical office space to save taxpayers' dollars and streamline the Federal Government.

Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, section 4 of H.R. 6276 requires the heads of Federal agencies to submit to the Office of Management and Budget and the General Services Administration and Congress a report on the usage of real property.

The amendment that the Representative from Wyoming offers expands the reporting requirement by including the telework and remote work practices of the agency and the impact those policies have on utilization rates and buildings occupied by the respective agency.

It certainly would be helpful for Congress to have a clearer picture of these policies and practices across the government.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I again urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in of House Report 118-419.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 18, insert "Personal Identity Verification badge swipe data isolating only the first credential use of the day for each cardholder," after "sensors".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of amendment No. 4 to H.R. 6276 which clarifies that the General Services Administration, or GSA, should use PIV badge swipe data isolating the first credential use of the day for each cardholder as a tool to measure utilization of Federal office space.

The bill, as currently drafted, explicitly directs GSA to use sensors and other technologies in public buildings and federally leased space to measure occupancy and utilization.

The GSA states that occupancy data has proven to be a vital tool for agencies to accurately evaluate space utilization and to manage property accordingly.

As part of this effort, the GSA is piloting occupancy data collection technologies. Another method GSA uses is badge swipe data which relies on Personal Identity Verification or PIV card swipe data at building access points.

PIV data is broken down into unique credentials and isolated to the first usage of the day. In short, it uses a Federal worker's PIV card to check attendance at the door.

My amendment would clarify that badge swipe data is and should be a tool GSA uses as part of the measurement of office utilization space.

While occupancy sensors measure the utilization of specific rooms, according to the GSA, badge swipe data can provide a historic daily count of the number of unique credential individuals in a space or building, daily building density based on square foot per person, and annual rent per person occupying the space.

This is absolutely the type of data we need to achieve the outcomes of the underlying bill.

The collection of the daily attendance to each Federal office building, which is then reported to Congress, will also help further our majority's goal to measure the impact of agencies' telework and remote work policies.

Again, my amendment is simply to clarify that this important data collection technology that GSA is piloting is utilized to the extent it can be in this

mission to measure usage of government office space.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, section 3 of H.R. 6276 requires the heads of Federal agencies to work with the Administrator of General Services to identify, deploy, and use sensors and other technologies to measure the occupancies of Federal buildings.

The amendment from the Representative from Wyoming will require that Personal Identity Verification badge swipe data should also be used but only capture the first credentialed use of the day for each cardholder.

Ensuring that each person is counted one time—not every time they may leave and return—would provide accurate representation of building utilization and meet the goals of Congress to better assess the use of Federal office space.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chairman, just one final statement. This amendment is to clarify that Congress intends for GSA to use all occupancy data collection techniques.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 118-419.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 4 and insert the following:

**SEC. 4. REPORTING ON USAGE OF REAL PROPERTY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the heads of Federal agencies shall submit to the Director, the Administrator, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on—

(1) the occupancy and the actual utilization rates of space in public buildings and federally-leased space occupied by the re-

spective agency of the Federal agency head broken down by building and lease;

(2) the methodology used for determining occupancy, including the period of time and other parameters used to determine occupancy on a regular basis;

(3) the utilization percentage of each public building and federally-leased space by the respective agency of the Federal agency head, comparing the capacity to the actual utilization rate based on a utilization benchmark of 150 usable square feet per person; and

(4) any costs associated with capacity that exceeds occupancy with respect to the respective agency of the Federal agency head.

(b) PUBLISHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the heads of Federal agencies shall make each report required under subsection (a) available on a publicly accessible website of the General Services Administration.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The publishing requirements of paragraph (1) shall not apply if the head of the respective Federal agency makes a determination that making the report required under subsection (a) available on a publicly accessible website would be detrimental to national security.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment to H.R. 6276, the Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act, or the USE IT Act of 2023.

My amendment is simple. It would amend section 4 of the bill to make the reports required by section be made publicly available on a website operated by the General Services Administration, the GSA, with exceptions for national security-related reasons.

The American people deserve transparency. Far too often, the people of this country, the ones who fund the government, the ones we represent, don't know where their money is going. Taxpayer dollars are frivolously being used to heat and cool empty and underutilized government buildings.

The American people see tens of thousands of dollars go out of their paychecks every year to pay for what: A wide open southern border, rampant inflation, out-of-control national debt, and an inefficient bureaucracy.

This is ridiculous. The people deserve to know their money is being used efficiently. Making these reports on office use publicly available will increase public oversight on the activities of the Federal agencies and, in turn, increase public trust and confidence in our government.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, the amendment offered by the Representative from Georgia requires some significant reporting on occupancy, utilization rates, and costs by the heads of Federal agencies to the Office of Management and Budget, the General Services Administration, and Congress.

Information gathering and transparency is vital to efficient and effective governing, so I will not oppose the amendment.

I do want to point out, however, that agency heads are already required to report occupancy and utilization data, and that data can be found on GSA's annual performance overview reports on GSA's website that the public can access now.

Mr. Chair, I will not oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chair, my amendment is simple, easy, and commonsense. I ask for my colleagues to support this amendment and to support the underlying bill.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 118-410.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of Mr. MILLS, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, after line 5, insert the following:

**SEC. 7. GAO REPORT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the cost to each Federal agency of measuring the occupancy and actual utilization rates of space in public buildings and federally-leased space to prepare the reports required under section 4.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General shall include in the report required under subsection (a) the cost of deploying sensors and technologies pursuant to section 3 but shall exclude any such technologies that were in place before the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I am here today to offer amendment No. 6 to H.R. 6276, USE IT Act, as the designee of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS).

I fully support the accountability advanced by the underlying bill. The continual bloating of the Federal Government's physical footprint costs American taxpayers obscene amounts of money each year.

This straightforward amendment provides additional transparency to the bill to ensure that Congress and the American people have the most fulsome data about the costs associated with this bill's implementation.

Specifically, this amendment requires the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, to report on the cost of establishing future methodologies and technologies to measure Federal building occupancy as required by the bill.

The enactment excludes any pre-existing systems in place before the date of the enactment of this act to prevent any duplicative accounting.

As we strive to limit waste, fraud, and abuse in our government, this amendment ensures that we are doing so with transparency and accountability in Federal building management.

This bill and the amendment to it are hardly riveting. However, good governance often requires a willingness to do the mundane administrative work to keep the ship upright and moving forward.

I will take a second just to say that I wish Mr. MILLS could have been here to offer this important amendment, but he is currently on his way back from Haiti, after assisting with the evacuation of American citizens as the country enters a state of complete anarchy. His commitment to America, domestic and broad, is commendable.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, section 4 of H.R. 6276 requires the heads of Federal agencies to submit to the Office of Management and Budget, the General Services Administration, and Congress a report on the usage of real property.

The amendment offered by the Representative from Georgia for the Representative from Florida requires the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on the costs to Federal agencies associated with complying with section 4 of the underlying bill.

The GAO's report must include the cost of Federal agencies of surveying, monitoring, and deploying sensors and technologies to measure the occupancy and actual utilization rates of space in public buildings and space leased by the Federal Government.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Chair, just like the last amendment, this amendment is about transparency and accountability. Once again, I ask for my colleagues' support on this amendment and on the underlying bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, we have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

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AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 118-419.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, after line 5, insert the following:

**SEC. 7. INVESTIGATION OF UNDERUTILIZED SPACE.**

(a) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of each report under section 4, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the inspector general of each respective agency a report detailing any public building or federally-leased space with a capacity of 500 or more employees under the jurisdiction of such agency that has a utilization rate below 20 percent during the reporting period that is not a vacant office building.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION.—Upon receipt of a report under subsection (a), the inspector general of the relevant Federal agency shall conduct an investigation to determine whether there is any evidence of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement with respect to the use of the public building or federally-leased space identified in the report.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 6276, the USE IT Act. The USE IT Act is a commonsense bill that requires a report on the occupancy and actual utilization rates of public buildings and federally leased spaces occupied by Federal agencies.

The report must also list any costs to taxpayers associated with capacity that exceeds occupancy.

The USE IT Act also requires the government to sell or dispose of excess capacity space or consolidate space in buildings with a utilization rate below 60 percent.

Mr. Chair, Tennesseans are rightfully outraged that their taxpayer dollars are paying for mostly empty Federal buildings.

Many of the folks I represent show up to work every day to put food on the table, care for their community, or

teach and train the next generation of leaders. However, for some reason, those in Washington and around this country who collect a check from their taxpayer-funded job believe showing up for work is no longer necessary. They are mistaken.

In a report on the USE IT Act issued by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the committee noted that according to a recent Government Accountability Office, or GAO, report, 17 of the 24 agency headquarters in GAO's review were at 25 percent or less utilization.

The GAO report also noted that some agency headquarters had as low as 9 percent space utilization—9 percent.

Mr. Chair, think of it this way: A Federal building with an occupancy of 1,000 may only have 90 people working in it on any given workday. That is just ridiculous, frankly.

That is why I have offered my amendment, which would build upon the underlying bill by specifically requiring that Federal agencies report to inspectors general any large public building or federally leased spaces with a capacity of 500 employees or more and a utilization rate below 20 percent during the reporting period in the underlying bill.

My amendment excludes vacant office buildings.

Any large building or federally leased space identified would be forwarded to the relevant inspector general to conduct an investigation to determine whether there is any evidence of fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement.

It is simple, Mr. Chair. If a building meant for more than 500 people is being utilized less than 20 percent, the inspector general must investigate whether there is fraud, waste, and mismanagement taking place.

It is unfortunate that although many large Federal office buildings are operating at frighteningly low occupancy rates, Federal agencies are not taking steps to increase building utilization rates, actions to reduce their footprint, or any meaningful movements to reduce the operating costs of these empty office spaces despite repeated warnings from Congress to do so.

It is imperative that inspectors general investigate whether waste, fraud, and mismanagement is taking place in these buildings that aren't being utilized to ensure that we are spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, the amendment offered by the Representative from Tennessee requires the heads of Federal agencies to

submit a report to the inspector general of each respective agency on buildings under the agency's jurisdiction that has capacity for 500 or more employees that has a 20 percent utilization rate or less.

Upon receipt of the report, the relevant inspector general is to investigate evidence of fraud, abuse, or mismanagement.

Now, I will say this, I don't know why this amendment is necessary. I understand the Federal real estate has been on the General Accounting Office's High-Risk list for years, but nowhere in GAO's reporting were there claims of fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. Even though this is only a reporting requirement, requiring the inspector general of every Federal agency to investigate could be a waste of time and resources.

This amendment seems to be a solution chasing a problem, but I will not oppose it.

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chair, thankfully, the worst effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are passed us. However, most Federal agencies have not adjusted to this post-pandemic period, which is reflected in the deserted Federal office buildings throughout our country.

I hope all Members will support this effort to bring greater transparency and accountability to large Federal buildings and federally leased spaces with low utilization rates by supporting my amendment and the underlying bill.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on my amendment, "yes" on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I will close on this amendment by briefly speaking to the broader bill. The goal that we share in Congress is to ensure that Congress, the General Services Administration, the agencies all adjust to the post-COVID life that we have in Federal real estate, that we are rightsizing Federal real estate, and that we get rid of the office space we don't need and use the office space that we do need.

This amendment is an attempt to do that. I certainly will not oppose it, but I do ask folks to consider it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) having assumed the chair, Mr. MOYLAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Com-

mittee, having had under consideration 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, pursuant to House Resolution 1071, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 6276 is postponed.

#### DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1071, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1065

Whereas President Joe Biden and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas have created the worst border security crisis in the Nation's history;

Whereas President Biden, beginning on day one of his administration, systematically dismantled effective border security measures and interior immigration enforcement;

Whereas the Biden administration's open-borders policies have incentivized nearly 9,300,000 illegal aliens from all around the world, including criminal aliens and suspected terrorists, to arrive at the southwest border;

Whereas the Biden administration has allowed at least 6,300,000 illegal aliens from the southwest border to travel to American communities;

Whereas current immigration law allows for the United States to enter into asylum cooperative agreements with other countries to allow for the removal of certain aliens seeking asylum in the United States;

Whereas asylum cooperative agreements provide the United States with another tool to reduce the incentives for illegal immigration;

Whereas asylum cooperative agreements increase cooperation with United States allies in the Western Hemisphere and around the world and promote shared responsibility;

Whereas the previous administration announced asylum cooperative agreements with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras;

Whereas the Biden administration suspended and terminated these asylum cooperative agreements as part of its open-borders agenda that has encouraged mass illegal immigration to the southwest border;

Whereas the Biden administration retains the ability to negotiate asylum cooperative agreements with those countries but has refused to do so, despite historic illegal immigration at the southwest border;

Whereas the Immigration and Nationality Act mandates that the Secretary of Homeland Security detain inadmissible aliens arriving at the border who express an intention to apply for asylum or fear of persecution;

Whereas the Immigration and Nationality Act mandates that the Secretary of Homeland Security detain, during removal proceedings, aliens who arrive at the border and are found to be inadmissible;

Whereas the Biden administration has purposely violated United States immigration law by refusing to detain inadmissible aliens arriving at the border;

Whereas, the Biden administration could comply with the mandatory detention statutes of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

Whereas the Biden administration's purposeful violation of the mandatory detention statutes of the Immigration and Nationality Act has resulted in the mass release of millions of illegal aliens into United States communities;

Whereas current immigration law allows for inadmissible aliens to be expeditiously removed from the United States once encountered at the border unless they establish a credible fear of persecution;

Whereas the Biden administration has released millions of illegal aliens into the United States without even processing them for expedited removal to be screened for asylum eligibility;

Whereas, of the 5,600,000 illegal alien encounters from January 20, 2021, through August 31, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security placed only 6.8 percent of those illegal aliens into expedited removal proceedings to even be screened for asylum eligibility;

Whereas, of the illegal aliens who were not found to have a credible fear of persecution, roughly 40 percent were not removed and remained in the United States as of August 31, 2023;

Whereas, of the illegal aliens who were processed for expedited removal and who did not even attempt to make a claim for asylum, the Biden administration cannot confirm removal or return from the United States for nearly a third of those illegal aliens;

Whereas the Biden administration could expand expedited removal to more quickly remove illegal aliens at the border and screen more illegal aliens for asylum eligibility instead of mass releasing them into the United States;

Whereas the Biden administration's limited use of expedited removal only incentivizes illegal immigration and worsens the border crisis;

Whereas, despite its effectiveness, the Biden administration terminated the Migrant Protection Protocols;

Whereas the Biden administration has purposely violated United States immigration law by abusing discretionary case-by-case and other parole authorities to mass parole illegal aliens who would otherwise have no legal basis to enter and remain in the United States;

Whereas the Biden administration's proposed solution to the border crisis failed to address catch-and-release valves such as the Flores Settlement Agreement and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization

Act that incentivize surges of unaccompanied alien children and adults arriving with children to come to the southwest border putting children's lives at risk;

Whereas the Biden administration could end its catch-and-release policies;

Whereas the Biden administration's proposed solutions to the border crisis did nothing to end catch-and-release but instead mandated mass releases of illegal aliens at the southwest border;

Whereas parks, schools, police stations, recreation centers, hotels, and airports have been repurposed for use as shelters for illegal aliens;

Whereas the Biden administration's open-borders policies have strained State and local social services resources as the millions of illegal aliens who have entered since January 20, 2021, compete with Americans and legal immigrants for those resources;

Whereas current immigration law empowers the President to "suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens . . . or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate" "[w]henever the President finds that the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States";

Whereas the Supreme Court has described the President's suspension of entry authority as an authority that "exudes deference to the President in every clause";

Whereas President Biden has cited his suspension of entry authority in other instances but has refused to use that authority to address the border crisis;

Whereas President Biden retains the power to use his suspension of entry authority to address the border crisis;

Whereas President Biden's refusal to use his suspension of entry authority ensures that the border stays open, endangers the homeland, and encourages illegal immigration; and

Whereas President Biden has claimed he is powerless to address the border crisis through executive action: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms that, in order to help control the crisis at the border that it has created, the Biden Administration has the authority to—

(A) end the catch-and-release policy;

(B) reinstate the Migrant Protection Protocols;

(C) enter into asylum cooperative agreements;

(D) end abuses of parole authority;

(E) detain inadmissible aliens;

(F) use expedited removal authority; and

(G) rein in taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens;

(2) affirms that the Biden Administration is refusing to use such authorities; and

(3) urges the Biden Administration to immediately begin using such authorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1065.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, just over 3 years ago, Joe Biden took office as President of the United States and he immediately began upholding his campaign promises to reverse the Trump administration's immigration policies.

On day one, this President issued executive orders that sent the world a message that America's borders are open. He used his executive authority to stop border wall construction, rescind the remain in Mexico policy, prevent the removal of any illegal aliens, and block ICE and CBP from enforcing immigration laws.

In the weeks and months that followed, President Biden terminated Trump-era policies aimed at preventing fraudulent asylum claims, ending catch and release, increasing criminal alien removals, and preventing illegal immigration.

After all, if Trump did it, it must be bad.

Madam Speaker, what was the result of Biden's radical and dangerous systematic dismantling of policies that worked to reduce and prevent illegal immigration?

The biggest mass illegal immigration in the history of the United States.

Nearly 7.5 million illegal aliens have been encountered by the Customs and Border Patrol on the southwest border. There have been 37 straight months of 100,000 southwest border CBP encounters.

The Biden administration has released more than 4.5 million illegal aliens into American communities, in addition to at least 1.8 million known got-aways avoiding apprehension.

At least 340 illegal aliens on the terrorist watch list have been encountered by Border Patrol along the southwest border, and that is just the ones we know about.

I haven't even mentioned the northern border, where historically high numbers of illegal aliens are encountered by CBP every single day.

Who could have predicted those results?

Well, for starters, the Trump administration officials did. House Republicans did. The American people did. Sheriffs, CBP, DHS employees did; ranchers, farmers, families, they all did.

They warned the Biden transition team not to rescind policies like the migrant protection protocols in title 42, but politics trumped common sense, and the American people are left with a national security, public safety, and financial disaster that is the Biden administration's immigration agenda.

After 3 years of chaos, the Biden administration seems to have finally gotten the message that Americans get uneasy when they see mobs of illegal aliens beating up New York City police

officers, watch endless numbers of illegal aliens stream across the southwest border, and hear the heart-wrenching details of murders, like that of 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley, by illegal aliens who should not have been here in the first place.

With an election on the horizon, President Biden's handlers have decided that now is the time to finally admit that what is happening on the southwest border is a crisis. Instead of correcting, they are blaming Congress.

The American people are not stupid. They know that if President Trump was able to establish the most secure border in American history, despite the open-border groups rushing to get his immigration policies enjoined in activist courts at every turn, then President Biden, too, could use his executive authority to help secure the border and restore those policies.

They know that President Biden simply refuses to do it. President Biden refuses to implement the migrant protection protocols, to stop abusing discretionary case-by-case and other parole authority, and to re-implement President Trump's asylum cooperative agreements so we can remove illegal aliens seeking asylum to third countries.

□ 1530

President Biden refuses to expand the use of expedited removal, refuses to use 212(f) authority to suspend the entry of aliens to secure the border, and refuses to end catch and release.

President Biden refuses to comply with the mandatory detention status of the Immigration and Nationality Act for inadmissible aliens. He refuses to rein in the use of taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens.

This stands in stark contrast to President Trump, who only refused to give up on securing the border.

To everyday Americans, the answer to the border crisis is simple: Secure the border and enforce the law. That is what the Trump administration did; that is what America needs; and that is what President Biden refuses to do.

H. Res. 1065 affirms that President Biden has the executive authority to help control the border, affirms that the Biden administration is refusing to use that authority, and urges President Biden to immediately begin using that executive authority as has been done before.

H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, passed this House last spring. It would enhance our current law and help ensure the border is controlled. Senate Democrats have refused to bring that bill to the Senate floor for almost a year now.

In the meantime, and while we wait, President Biden should use his executive authority to ensure the national security and public safety of Americans is paramount. He should use it to secure our border, and he should do so today.

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

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

For the second time in less than 2 months, with another shutdown looming, we are wasting our time on a meaningless immigration resolution full of empty rhetoric whose sole purpose seems to be to justify Republicans' lack of desire to address solutions for our broken immigration system.

How did we get here, Mr. Speaker? Earlier this Congress, House Republicans passed their cruel, inhumane, and unworkable border bill, H.R. 2. Republicans continue to say that H.R. 2 is the only way to secure the border, and they continue to say that Democrats have refused to bring H.R. 2 up in the Senate. In fact, that bill has since failed twice to pass the United States Senate, receiving just 32 votes a few weeks ago. That means there are a lot of Republicans over there in the Senate who didn't vote for H.R. 2.

After insisting that the only way to address the border was through harsh border security legislation and holding Ukraine aid hostage, Republicans even managed to get some Democrats to agree to a border bill in the Senate that was written largely by the Senate's second-most conservative Republican Senator, a bill that Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL called the toughest border bill in 30 years.

What happened to that bill? Donald Trump said he didn't want to do anything to help the border in an election year because he wants immigration to be out there as a campaign issue. Other Republicans said it out loud as well, saying they didn't want "to do too damn much . . . to help a Democrat."

Folding to the cult of Donald Trump, and just hours after the 370-page text of the bill was released, Speaker JOHNSON declared the bill "dead on arrival" in the House. The rank and file fell in line, and the Senate bill died before the metaphorical ink was even dry.

Republicans showed clearly what we Democrats have been saying over and over again, that they don't want to do anything that would help address the issues of a broken immigration system that we face. Instead of solving the problem, my colleagues on the other side want to continue to weaponize the border as a political issue for this election year.

The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that the situation at the border is directly linked to the fact that our legal immigration system has been left in chaos because it has not been modernized in 30 years to meet the needs of our country, our economy, and our families.

When the legal process is so backed up that it takes decades for legal residents to get their children into the country, when employers simply can't get people they need to hire approved because there is a backlog of 2 million people who haven't been processed, or when we have so few immigration judges that asylum seekers wait over 8 years to get their cases heard, then

people give in to unscrupulous actors, including the cartels, which promise them that if they pay them a boatload of money, they can get them in by going to the border.

Until you fix the legal immigration system so that it works and update the caps and the quotas, you will continue to see large numbers of migrants at the border. You cannot fix the border without fixing the underlying system, and you certainly cannot fix it with only harsh immigration policy.

Speaker JOHNSON and others have been caught in their own trap. They refuse to give President Biden the resources that we need to process people more quickly. They voted against more money to secure the border with more technology and equipment that Border Patrol agents have told us that they need. They even voted against more money for more agents at the border.

To hide their hypocrisy, they are now claiming that the President can just "secure the border" through harsh executive actions alone, no action by Congress necessary.

Today's resolution is just another ham-fisted attempt to weaponize the issue at the border, and it is filled with misinformation.

The resolution alleges that the Biden administration is not removing people fast enough, yet in the 8 months since ending title 42, despite some of our due process concerns, this administration has removed or returned over half a million people, roughly equivalent to the number of people removed and returned by the Trump administration in all of fiscal year 2019.

The resolution states that the administration "could comply with the mandatory detention statutes of the Immigration and Nationality Act," which no administration, including the Trump administration, has ever complied with because no Congress has ever appropriated the extraordinary levels of funding that such compliance would require.

The resolution complains that the President isn't using the suspension of entry authority in section 212(f) of the INA, but Republicans want to forget that President Trump tried to do exactly that in November 2018 and was stopped by the courts. Even the Supreme Court refused to intervene and lift the lower court injunction.

Enforcement-only policies do not stop people from crossing the border. In fact, when former President Trump implemented the remain in Mexico policy early in 2019, that summer, we saw some of the highest levels of migration of the entire Trump administration.

When President Trump used title 42 to turn back all border crossers, encounters between the ports of entry actually shot up, not down. Cartels made money hand over fist by providing people with multiple entry attempt packages.

One individual was apprehended over 40 times alone, just one individual. In fact, from February 1, 2017, to Decem-

ber 31, 2020, the duration of Donald Trump's Presidency, illegal border crossings went up by over 300 percent.

People do not make the arduous, dangerous journey here on a whim. They do it because they are often fleeing for their lives or are desperate to escape an unlivable situation in their home country. Because of that, they will continue to come, no matter how many draconian policies they may have to face once they arrive.

The way we can deal with that is to have a system that actually works inside the United States, legal pathways for people to come to this country. The way to fix the border is to modernize our current immigration system so that it works to provide people with different opportunities and abilities to apply to be with their families or come here to work or flee war or torture and have their applications and claims processed in a timely way.

We have already seen that when we provide workable ways for people to seek entry and refuge, they will use them, and encounters between ports of entry fall dramatically.

This resolution shows once again that Republicans don't want to do anything to fix the border. This is a resolution that literally does absolutely nothing, changes not one single policy that is on the books.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), my friend and colleague who is the author of this resolution.

Ms. De La CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1065, which is critical to addressing one of the most pressing challenges of our time: the unprecedented crisis at our southern border.

This resolution is not just a condemnation of this administration's policies but a call to action, a plea for a return to responsibility, security, and the rule of law.

The Biden administration's approach to border security, marked by its relentless pursuit of political correctness at the expense of common sense and American lives, has reached a point of abject failure.

This was made painfully clear by the President's abhorrent recent statements where he felt compelled to apologize for inaccurately identifying a murderer as an illegal immigrant.

Let me be very clear: As the granddaughter of Mexican immigrants myself, I am very proud of our heritage. In fact, the community where my family and I live is over 90 percent Hispanic, and I have yet to encounter anyone, outside of three or four activists here in Washington, D.C., who are offended by calling Laken Riley's killer exactly what he is, an illegal immigrant who is a murderer. In fact, where I am from, being called an illegal immigrant is

perhaps the kindest thing we would say about such a despicable individual who is a murderer.

The outrage seems reserved for those who are out of touch with the realities of everyday Americans, including the vast majority of Hispanics who are sick and tired of extremists using our culture as a shield for their radical open-borders agenda.

President Biden's apology is emblematic of a broader issue. Our border policy, just like everything else with this administration, is not dictated by the needs of Americans but by the whims of D.C. insiders and elites who do not care about working Americans. Their policies have jeopardized the safety and well-being of both American families and the migrants and children who are being exploited by the ruthless cartels.

This resolution, once again, brings to light the harrowing reality that under President Biden's and Secretary Mayorkas' watch, our Nation has witnessed the worst border crisis in American history.

The resolution is clear on its demands. It is time for this administration to uphold its responsibilities. We must initiate asylum cooperative agreements with safe partner countries, employ expedited removal authority judiciously, and ensure that those not admissible are detained, as Federal law requires.

This is not merely a question of immigration policy but of national security, public safety, and basic human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H. Res. 1065. Let us send a resounding message that the safety and security of American citizens are non-negotiable. We deserve a sensible, secure, and humane immigration system. For the sake of our Nation, for the protection of our citizens, and for the integrity of our borders, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1545

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind my colleagues that no President has ever been able to detain everybody that is required by law because we have never appropriated that amount of money.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, if Republicans were really interested in fixing our broken immigration system, why are we wasting our time debating this nonbinding resolution?

Republicans claim that all President Biden needs to do to fix our immigration system is to unconstitutionally shut down the border and return to the draconian policies of the Trump administration.

Immigration in our country has been broken for decades, and enforcement-only immigration solutions do not work, and they know that.

We must also recognize the positive benefits of immigration. According to the CBO, increased immigration will help bolster our economy by about \$7 trillion over the next decade.

If Republicans really cared about addressing the problems of our immigration system, they would join with Democrats to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to actually address the problem at the border.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, they are not interested in doing that. All they need is a political talking point.

Instead, we are debating a resolution that will do nothing and help no one.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, this resolution reflects the testimony that the Immigration, Integrity, Security, and Enforcement Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee recently received from experts and former ICE officials that the President has full authority in existing law to secure our borders. He simply refuses to do so.

Donald Trump enforced our laws. He used title 42 to stop millions of illegal crossings. He required the asylum claimants to remain in Mexico or other safe third countries until their cases were heard. He enforced court-ordered deportations, and it worked. Illegal immigration fell to a 46-year low.

Now, the laws haven't changed. The President changed. On Biden's first day in office, he ended the remain in Mexico policy. He ordered ICE to stop enforcing border deportations, and he ordered all construction on the border wall to cease. Since that day, this administration has deliberately released more than 4½ million illegal aliens into our country and allowed an additional 1.8 million to evade apprehension by the Border Patrol while it was overwhelmed.

That is a combined population of illegal immigrants who have entered into this country the size of the State of Missouri, our 18th largest State with eight Congressional Districts.

I repeat: The laws didn't change. The President changed.

Last year, the House passed H.R. 2 to make it harder for future Presidents to flout the law, but Senate Democrats killed it. Instead, they tout a bill that would leave a future President powerless to enforce our immigration laws until illegal crossings reached a minimum of 4,000 per day.

This crisis is exactly what the Democrats promised to unleash, and it is exactly what they have unleashed and defended every day for the last 3 years. The hard truth is that that cannot be fixed by Congress. It can only be fixed by replacing this administration with one that will secure our border, enforce

our laws, and protect our people. That can only be done by the American people at the ballot box.

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers. I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, while you may not know it from some of the language being used today, we are debating an immigration resolution that is non-binding.

That means it does absolutely nothing. It is full of empty rhetoric, but it makes no actual policy changes to address the outdated immigration system.

It does not a single thing other than take up time for debate on this floor when we should be working on making sure that our government doesn't shut down.

Rather than debating meaningless resolutions, we should be exploring how to meaningfully reform the broken immigration system to expand lawful immigration to the United States given the documented benefits that it brings.

In 2021 alone, DACA recipients paid \$6.5 billion in taxes, refugees paid almost \$28 billion in taxes, and TPS holders paid \$2.2 billion in taxes. Likewise, in 2021, undocumented immigrants paid approximately \$18.6 million in Federal income taxes and \$12.2 billion in State and local taxes.

Recently, the Department of Health and Human Services released a study demonstrating that refugees and asylees generated \$124 billion in fiscal benefits over 15 years. The Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan entity, recently released a report finding that recent immigrants who join the workforce will add \$1 trillion in revenue to our country's GDP between 2023 and 2034, and \$7 trillion overall to our GDP.

It is also estimated that putting undocumented immigrants on a roadmap to citizenship would not only increase U.S. GDP by \$1.7 trillion over the next decade, that action would also raise wages for all Americans and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

Unfortunately, Republicans talk a big game when it comes to immigration and border security, but instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation to address the problems in our immigration system, we are wasting our time on resolutions like the one before us today.

It cannot be clearer: Republicans are simply not interested in solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN), who is the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JAYAPAL for being a leader in this space.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose yet another anti-immigrant resolution from House Republicans.

It is Republicans who refuse to vote for additional resources to address

challenges at the southern border and, instead, spend their time on empty messaging resolutions such as this.

Worse yet, they continue to lie. Just take a look at the resolution. This resolution says that the Biden administration suspended and terminated asylum cooperative agreements with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras established by the previous administration.

The fact is two of these agreements were never implemented by the previous administration, and one was paused at the start of COVID, the pandemic.

The resolution says the Biden administration has refused to use its authority to detain inadmissible migrants.

The resolution claims the Biden administration is intentionally not enforcing the mandatory detention requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The fact is that no administration, including the Trump administration, has fully complied with this Act because no Congress has ever provided the funds and the previous administration never even asked for the funding that would have come close to having this mandatory detention for all. That is something I don't even agree with, yet even the prior administration didn't do that.

Now, this administration, the Biden administration, is actually detaining migrants. The fact is the Biden administration is detaining approximately 39,000 inadmissible migrants.

The resolution also says the Biden administration has the authority to use expedited removal and is refusing to use expedited removal. Again, that is not true.

Let's look at the facts. The Biden administration has expanded expedited removal to remove hundreds of thousands of people.

Our point today is this just goes to show you, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are not serious about the border. If they were serious, then they would stick to the facts and they would stick to solutions. This resolution is not about solutions. It is all about politics.

They have consistently opposed legislation to increase funding to address the needs at the southern border. It is Republicans who refuse to consider President Biden's \$13.6 billion funding at the border.

Let me talk about some of what is in that. Republicans refused to give \$850 million to combat fentanyl from crossing the southern border. It is Republicans who refuse to consider \$723 million to hire additional Customs and Border Protection officers and Border Patrol agents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. BARRAGAN. Mr. Speaker, Republicans refuse even to consider \$1 bil-

lion in ICE detention beds, something I don't even agree with. They refused money to put new fentanyl detection technology at the ports of entry. It is Republicans who have said no to all of this.

Then the Biden administration helped craft a punitive, conservative, bipartisan Senate immigration bill that I don't even support.

House Republicans said no before the ink was dry.

Why?

It is because Donald Trump called and said: Don't consider it. We don't want to do anything at all. I need a campaign issue.

That is what this is about. Time and time again, Republicans have had a chance to do something. They failed to act every time. They mislead, they fearmonger, and they demonize immigrants and try to convince the American people that they are not responsible for their own failures to act. Democrats are rejecting these tactics and this dishonest resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I think my colleagues on the other side suffer from a little bit of amnesia because just as quickly as these border patrol policies were taken away with the stroke of a pen at the start of this administration, the purpose of this resolution is to remind our President, who seems to have forgotten, that he has every authority to put back the policies that worked in the first place with that same stroke of a pen.

There are steps today that this administration could unilaterally do, including: ending catch and release, reinstating the migrant protection protocols, entering back into asylum cooperative agreements with Latin American countries, ending abuses of parole authority, detaining inadmissible aliens, using expedited removing authority, and reining in taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens.

The Biden administration single-handedly created this crisis at the southern border, and they can end it with the stroke of a pen.

This resolution calls out these numerous actions the Biden administration has taken to systematically open up our borders.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1065, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and the preamble.

The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1600

#### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 12, 2024.

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

SPEAKER JOHNSON, I hereby submit my resignation, effective at the end of the calendar day on March 22, 2024, as the United States Representative for the Fourth District of Colorado. Enclosed is the letter I submitted to Governor Jared Polis of Colorado. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Colorado and to serve with you and other great Members of Congress.

Sincerely,

KEN BUCK,  
*Member of Congress.*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 12, 2024.

Hon. JARED POLIS,  
*Governor of Colorado,*  
Denver, CO

GOVERNOR POLIS, I hereby submit my resignation, effective at the end of the calendar day on March 22, 2024, as the United States Representative for the Fourth District of Colorado. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Colorado.

Sincerely,

KEN BUCK,  
*Member of Congress.*

#### 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 4 p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUEST) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further 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



Ogles	Scalise	Turner
Owens	Schweikert	Valadao
Palmer	Scott, Austin	Van Drew
Pence	Self	Van Duynne
Perez	Smith (MO)	Van Orden
Perry	Smith (NE)	Walberg
Pfluger	Smith (NJ)	Waltz
Posey	Smucker	Weber (TX)
Reschenthaler	Spartz	Webster (FL)
Rodgers (WA)	Stauber	Wenstrup
Rogers (AL)	Steel	Westerman
Rogers (KY)	Stefanik	Williams (NY)
Rose	Steil	Wilson (SC)
Rosendale	Steube	Wittman
Rouzer	Strong	Womack
Roy	Tenney	Yakym
Rutherford	Thompson (PA)	Zinke
Salazar	Tiffany	
Salinas	Timmons	

NOES—203

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

NOT VOTING—12

Davis (IL)	Grijalva	Mills
Frankel, Lois	Harder (CA)	Simpson
Gaetz	Kim (NJ)	Wagner
Gosar	Lofgren	Williams (TX)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1500

□ 1708

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to authorize 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.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policies, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 193, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 85]

YEAS—226

Crenshaw

Axford	Cuellar	Guest	Cárdenas	Keating	Schneider
Allen	Curtis	Guthrie	Carson	Kelly (IL)	Scholten
Amodei	D'Esposito	Hageman	Carter (LA)	Kildee	Schrier
Armstrong	Davids (KS)	Harris	Cartwright	Kilmer	Scott (VA)
Arrington	Davidson	Harshbarger	Casar	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Babin	Davis (NC)	Hern	Case	Kuster	Sewell
Bacon	De La Cruz	Higgins (LA)	Casten	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Baird	DesJarlais	Hill	Castor (FL)	Larson (CT)	Sherrell
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Hinson	Castro (TX)	Lee (CA)	Slotkin
Banks	Donalds	Horsford	Cherfilus-	Lee (PA)	Smith (WA)
Barr	Duarte	Houchin	McCormick	Leger Fernandez	Soto
Bean (FL)	Duncan	Hudson	Chu	Levin	Spanberger
Bentz	Dunn (FL)	Huizenga	Clark (MA)	Lieu	Stansbury
Bergman	Edwards	Hunt	Clarke (NY)	Lofgren	Stanton
Bice	Ellzey	Issa	Cleaver	Lynch	Stevens
Biggs	Emmer	Jackson (TX)	Clyburn	Magaziner	Strickland
Bilirakis	Estes	James	Cohen	Manning	Suozzi
Bishop (NC)	Ezell	Johnson (LA)	Connolly	Matsui	Swalwell
Boebert	Fallon	Johnson (SD)	Correa	McBath	Sykes
Bost	Feeenstra	Jordan	Costa	McClellan	Takano
Brecheen	Ferguson	Joyce (OH)	Courtney	McCollum	Thanedar
Buchanan	Finstad	Joyce (PA)	Crockett	McGarvey	Thompson (CA)
Buck	Fischbach	Kean (NJ)	Crow	McGovern	Thompson (MS)
Bucshon	Fitzgerald	Kelly (MS)	Dean (PA)	Meeks	Titus
Burchett	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)	DeGette	Menendez	Tlaib
Burgess	Fleischmann	Kiggans (VA)	DeLauro	Meng	Tokuda
Burlison	Flood	Kiley	DelBene	Mfume	Tonko
Calvert	Foxx	Kim (CA)	Deluzio	Moore (WI)	Torres (CA)
Cammack	Franklin, Scott	Kustoff	DeSaulnier	Morelle	Torres (NY)
Caraveo	Fry	LaHood	Dingell	Moulton	Trahan
Carey	Fulcher	LaLota	Doggett	Mullin	Trone
Carl	Gallagher	LaMalfa	Escobar	Nadler	Underwood
Carter (GA)	Garbarino	Lamborn	Eshoo	Napolitano	Vargas
Carter (TX)	Garcia, Mike	Landsman	Espaillat	Neal	Vasquez
Chavez-DeRemer	Gimenez	Langworthy	Evans	Neguse	Veasey
Ciscomani	Golden (ME)	Latta	Fletcher	Nickel	Velázquez
Cline	Gonzales, Tony	LaTurner	Foster	Norcross	Wasserman
Cloud	Good (VA)	Lawler	Foushee	Ocasio-Cortez	Schultz
Clyde	Gooden (TX)	Lee (FL)	Frost	Omar	Waters
Cole	Granger	Lee (NV)	Gallego	Pallone	Watson Coleman
Collins	Graves (LA)	Lesko	Garamendi	Panetta	Wexton
Comer	Graves (MO)	Letlow	Garcia (IL)	Pappas	Wild
Craig	Green (TN)	Loudermilk	Garcia (TX)	Pascarel	Williams (GA)
Crane	Greene (GA)	Lucas	Garcia, Robert	Payne	Wilson (FL)
Crawford	Griffith	Luetkemeyer	Goldman (NY)	Pelosi	

## NOT VOTING—13

Davis (IL)	Harder (CA)	Simpson
Frankel, Lois	Khanna	Wagner
Gaetz	Kim (NJ)	Williams (TX)
Gosar	McHenry	
Grijalva	Mills	

□ 1717

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, due to technical difficulties, my vote was not recorded on adoption of H. Res. 1065. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 85.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 81, “nay” on rollcall No. 82, “yea” on rollcall No. 83, “nay” on rollcall No. 84, and “nay” on rollcall No. 85.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 81, “yea” on rollcall No. 82, “nay” on rollcall No. 83, “yea” on rollcall No. 84, and “yea” on rollcall No. 85.

## AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGRAVEMENT OF H.R. 6276, UTILIZING SPACE EFFICIENTLY AND IMPROVING TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 6276, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering, and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

## HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

## HIGH UTILITY RATES

(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, folks at home are wondering about their utility rates, why they are going up so high, and it isn’t always the fault of the utility.

I look around and see what government does to make things cost so much more, whether it is stopping the explo-

ration for oil and gas in order to run some power plants or tearing down dams because they don’t like dams, because it might impede fish passage, so we don’t have hydroelectric power.

Sometimes the government demands that in order to give them a permit to operate once again, like they have been doing for 50 or 100 years, they demand things like building a road and maintaining it, even though the utility doesn’t necessarily actually use that road or at least a big chunk of that road, and they don’t have a partnership with the Forest Service saying we will do half and you do half. No, they just make demands.

The demands the government makes of people to operate are like Don Fanucci walking around in “The Godfather Part II” collecting a little bit from everybody. It has no nexus on the operation of the utility in order to deliver electricity to the people.

Government needs to be reined in on its demands, on the thuggery it is, in order to just do business.

When people are wondering why their utility bill is so high, it isn’t just because of evil utilities. It is the government operating permits, permits to trim around trees so we don’t burn down all of northern California, one thing after another. The government needs to be reeled in.

## CONGRATULATING SISTER LINDA YANKOSKI

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Madam Speaker, today, I want to congratulate Sister Linda Yankoski, CEO of the Holy Family Institute, on being recognized as a Pittsburgh Business Times Women of Influence and receiving their Career Achievement award.

It is an honor justly earned for her 40 years of service as a woman of faith at the Holy Family Institute and decades of dedication to at-risk youth and communities across western Pennsylvania.

I congratulate her.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JIM RODDEY

Mr. DELUZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join so many in western Pennsylvania in celebrating the life of Jim Roddey and extending my condolences to his family and loved ones.

A proud marine, Jim led Allegheny County through a critical transformation, serving as the first county executive and ushering in a new era of county government.

I had the privilege of working with Jim on the bipartisan Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania’s Election Security, where his counsel was invaluable and where patriotism carried the day over any party label.

Fair winds and following seas, marine.

## CONGRATULATING ANDREW RODRIGUEZ

(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 congratulate Andrew Rodriguez, a Savannah Eagle Scout who is the first in the United States to achieve all five religious patches awarded from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

At the age of 5, Andrew recognized his interest in the Boy Scouts of America. Currently, the 15-year-old high school sophomore has continued as a Scout but believes that his participation has much more tremendous value beyond earning badges and medals. Being in Boy Scouts has given Andrew a community of lifelong friendships and skills that he can carry into his adult life.

Andrew is on the right path to being an influential leader in his community. As I said, he is the first Scout to earn all five of these religious patches, which are not required. It is young people who go above and beyond like Andrew who are destined to lead.

I thank Andrew for setting a good example for his peers, and I congratulate him on this amazing achievement.

## CONGRATULATING REVEREND BRIAN RAWLS, SR.

(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 congratulate Reverend Brian Rawls, Sr., for becoming the 13th pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church.

Reverend Rawls continues a family legacy. His father, Bishop Hilton Rawls, Sr., has been the pastor of St. Paul Free Will Baptist Church in Newark for more than 40 years.

Reverend Brian Rawls comes to St. Paul Baptist Church with exceptional credentials. He earned a master of divinity degree and a doctor of divinity degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He was the director of the Newark Youth One-Stop Career Center and a former chair of the Mayor’s Commission on the Homeless for the city of Newark.

Today, Reverend Rawls is the dean of the School of Christian Studies and assistant professor of church ministry and leadership for Pillar College in Newark. In addition, he has traveled the world to teach about the Kingdom of God.

I congratulate my friend, the Right Reverend Brian Rawls. His church is getting an outstanding leader.

□ 1730

## HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GEROLD SCHIEBLER

(Mr. BEAN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Gerold Schiebler, a pillar of the Florida medical community.

Dr. Schiebler passed away on Amelia Island at the age of 95. In 1960, when he joined the faculty of the University of Florida, he was the very first pediatric cardiologist in north Florida.

In addition to saving lives in the hospital, Dr. Schiebler saved lives with his lifelong advocacy, having established protocols for pediatric cardiology and the Florida Poison Control Center.

Along with his late wife Audrey, Dr. Schiebler launched Child Protection Teams and the Guardian ad Litem program. Protections for kids that we take for granted today were established by the Schieblers.

Perhaps his finest moment was this past year when his late wife Audrey was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. She left him a list of things that he needed to finish in their lifelong advocacy in the medical and child welfare fields, and I believe that he did.

He was a friend. I loved him, my family loved him, and we will miss him. I ask my colleagues to join in celebrating the amazing life of Dr. Gerold Schiebler, along with offering our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

#### HONORING JUDGE, A WORKING DOG

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Judge, the accelerant detection dog of the city of Allentown, Pennsylvania, fire department whom we knew as just Judge.

Today would have been his 15th birthday, but, sadly, he passed away just a few weeks ago of natural causes.

Judge came to the city fire department at about 1 year of age and had been specifically trained as an accelerant detection dog. He would sniff out accelerants such as gasoline, paint thinners, and those kinds of things that are rapidly flammable.

His work led to 16 convictions of arsonists leading to prison time. Because of his formidable reputation, arsons dropped by 60 percent in Allentown.

Judge spent all of his time, 24/7, with Fire Chief Lee Laubach and was a beloved member of the Laubach family, but first and foremost, he was a working dog.

We all miss Judge. May he rest in peace.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM HARPER'S TIME AS PRESIDENT OF THE LOUISIANA FARM BUREAU

(Ms. LETLOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LETLOW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Harper's time as President of the Louisiana Farm Bureau.

Jim is a longtime resident of Rapides Parish where he farms sugarcane, rice, crawfish, and soybeans, some of Louisiana's finest crops.

He has given 25 years of his life to the Louisiana Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and I join the countless number of people in thanking him for the tireless work that he has done to protect our farmers, ranchers, and producers. Our Louisiana agriculture industry is better because of his commitment and his dedication to Louisiana's largest industry.

Jim has been a friend and true colleague, and there is not a soul who doesn't enjoy the opportunity to work with him.

I wish him nothing but the best in his next phase of life: spending more time with his wife Debbie and their grandchildren. I know he will never be a stranger to the Louisiana agricultural community.

#### IMMIGRATION SOLUTIONS

(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, with a great deal of consternation I rise in opposition to the opposition.

H. Res. 1065, here we go again. Rather than solutions, the Republicans are denouncing the Biden administration's immigration policy.

What do they have to offer?

This is an outrage.

I thought it was extremely important to make sure that I put my statement in the RECORD about a President who is putting forward solutions by putting forward a supplemental almost 1 year ago that would have provided more resources to our southern border where I live, more resources in terms of dealing with asylum, more Border Patrol, more Customs and Border Protection, more courts, and more lawyers to be able to address what the American people want to be addressed.

Nonetheless, what do we spend our time doing on the floor of the House?

Condemning, not solving, and not finding a solution for our DACA young people who are doctors, lawyers, teachers, and others, EMS supporters, if you will, or workers.

All we are doing led by the Republican majority, is condemn, condemn, and condemn.

I want solutions. As the second in seniority member of the Homeland Security Committee, we are going to continue to work on the positive solutions of Joe Biden, President of the United States. He has solutions to be able to bring us all together to have comprehensive immigration reform.

Let's work with the President of the United States. Stop denouncing. Do your job.

#### SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, it is kind of an appropriate buildup to what I have to say. Earlier this morning I attended a meeting with people who should know what is going on at the southern border. They brought up something that I don't think has been in the public yet.

They brought up the age at which Border Patrol agents are retiring is dropping. It is dropping to such a degree, I almost don't believe it, but we are told that the average age of retirement has dropped from 57 to 50.

So not only are we having a hard time filling new slots, but people are leaving the old slots quicker than ever.

Why is that?

They get no support from the White House.

People have said: Does anybody have a suggestion what to do with the border?

I remind America that at the time Joe Biden took office, about 20,000 people a month were coming here, and now, in December, we were over 350,000, so about an increase times 18.

It is not something we have to sit down and talk about and figure out what do we have to do. Although I would be happy to talk about it. The solution was there under the prior administration.

We could cut the number of people coming across by 17- or 18-1. Instead we are going the opposite direction by poorly treating the Border Patrol, and not only having more people coming here, but further allowing over 100,000 Americans to die of illegal drugs.

#### MS AWARENESS WEEK

(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, Briana Landis is a Greenville, North Carolina, native and a remarkable researcher living with multiple sclerosis.

Briana was diagnosed with MS at the age of 4 but has never let the disease define her. Instead, she is an MS advocate and uses her diagnosis to help others.

Congress must support individuals like Briana by increasing research funding through initiatives like the Multiple Sclerosis Research Program. Additionally, we must work towards expanding telehealth services for those who rely on Medicare for their healthcare needs.

In honor of MS Awareness Week, I proudly wear orange for my dear friend, Briana, and all those fighting against MS.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to funding research, improving treatment

options, and ensuring access to healthcare for our most vulnerable patients.

Madam Speaker, I admire Briana's enormous strengths.

#### STANDING WITH OUR ALLIES IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with our allies in Ukraine—action that my Republican colleagues have repeatedly failed to take.

Over the 2 long years since Putin's brutal war against Ukraine, I have been heartbroken to hear the personal stories of so many Ukrainian Americans in my district and beyond who are living in fear for their families and their friends.

Yet evidently heedless to this call to action on Ukraine from our constituents and from many of our Nation's allies, Republicans in the House continue to obstruct the Senate-passed bipartisan national security bill which would deliver military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Their GOP gridlock plays directly into Putin's hands.

At the top of his State of the Union Address last week, our President, President Biden, said: "If the United States walks away now, it will put Ukraine at risk. Europe at risk. The free world at risk, emboldening others who wish to do us harm."

Enough is enough. It is past time to stop this gamesmanship and at last rise together to oppose tyranny and defend democracy. The Senate has acted. Put that Senate bill to a vote in the House.

The world is watching.

#### PI DAY

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate March 14, 3.14, or Pi Day.

Pi is a Greek letter, and in mathematics it is a symbol for the number that you get when you divide a circle's circumference by its diameter.

Many people approximate pi as 3.14 or 3.14159 or 3.159265, and on and on, but the number is irrational.

Madam Speaker, if you try to write down the exact number for pi, there would be infinite numbers to the right of the decimal point, and there would be no discernible pattern. That means we are down to an infinity number of digits to be found.

There is so much new math to be discovered.

Mathematics is critical to everything that we do. It is the language of science, and it is the language of engineering and technology.

So amidst all of the irrationality that we see before us in Congress, let's celebrate a little of that irrationality on March 14 and celebrate Pi Day.

#### FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

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

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I am glad to be here in an empty Chamber having the rigorous debate that we are so accustomed to here in the people's House, but that is, again, where we find ourselves with the level of debate at the moment.

We are left with bringing bills to the floor, having a couple of hours cut up and then moving on with whatever bill has been on the suspension calendar. That is not the kind of debate that we should have.

There is a bill that is coming before us tomorrow that I believe should have vigorous debate. I believe that it does raise consequential issues, and we should debate them here vigorously on the floor of the House.

I want to be unequivocally clear to the American people that I support it, and I support it unapologetically.

We have legislation before us that would ensure that foreign adversaries are not able to collect information on the American people and collect data on the American people and use that data to target the American people, undermine our national security, undermine our democracy, and undermine our way of life, which is precisely what is happening with the evidence we have before us.

Both classified and very publicly known information indicates very much that TikTok, which has significant ownership by the Chinese Communist Party, is targeting American citizens. There are some who are out professing that this legislation that would try to prevent that would somehow undermine our freedom.

Madam Speaker, I do not like the heavy hand of government being used, certainly not wantonly. An individual today who is fairly well-known out in the social media sphere put out and said that we had this classified briefing today and that the issue of election interference was brought up. This was a classified briefing that was not supposed to leak by the way. That is how things work in Washington. It was leaked.

Then we had the additional point here, not coincidentally, the anti-TikTok legislation. Let me clarify and stop. It is not specifically anti-TikTok legislation. It is antiforeign adversary control of American data and information legislation.

□ 1745

According to this individual, this legislation now being debated on the

Hill would allow the Federal Government to force the sale of any social media platform that interferes in elections. Just so you know what is coming in 2025."

Now, if I believe that to be true, I certainly wouldn't support the legislation. It is 12 pages long. I would note that a friend of mine who serves on the FCC, Brendan Carr, responded to this, and I happen to agree with Mr. Carr.

Mr. Carr wrote: "It would be concerning to many if the bill allowed this."

"This," being the post on X by someone this afternoon that I just recounted.

Mr. Carr says: "It would be concerning to many if the bill allowed this. It does not. The text is definitive on this point. The bill does not apply to just any social media platform. Far from it. Here is the only and targeted application."

Mr. Carr writes:

"One, if you are an individual user, the bill confers zero authority to the government over you." That is true.

"Two, the bill only applies to applications controlled by one of four foreign adversary governments previously codified in law by Congress—China, Iran, North Korea, or Russia. The bill is clear that it is not enough to merely have operations there or do business there. It must be 'controlled' by one of those four governments.

Three, even then, the bill only applies if the application presents a demonstrated and significant threat to national security. Control by one of four foreign governments alone isn't even enough under the bill."

You have got to have significant ownership by these foreign governments. You have got to have a demonstrated and significant threat to national security.

Four, and then, only after public process provided and Congress reported to with a description of the specific national security threat.

Every single one of those hoops (and more) must be cleared and met. So it is very narrow. It confers no authority to go after any other application—even if someone were to allege that it engaged in election interference."

What is happening here is a reflexive reaction and a scaremongering tactic. Let me pause and say I do believe this legislation should have full debate. This is also why I prefer legislation to go through the Rules Committee. This is also why I prefer legislation to be amendable, amended, debated, but this bill was passed out, it is trying to be moved so that it doesn't open up for the possibility of undermining the legislation that was very narrowly crafted with a 50-0 vote out of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Now, many of my conservative and more libertarian friends say 50-0 gives them the heebie-jeebies and I don't like it. That is my general default position in this town.

This is different. I will be very clear: This is different than what I am about

to talk about in just a minute, which is the uniparty in this town that decides everything for you and is bent on whatever the defense industrial complex says and jams through spending bills and limits our ability to proceed.

This is different because it is very specific and narrowly tailored toward the end of ensuring that Americans' data and Americans' safety and security are being protected. That is it. That may not be perfect, but nothing this body ever does is perfect.

This bill was put forward to address that issue and it is a giant step forward, in my opinion, to recognize the threat against our freedom and our liberty that the Chinese Communist Party poses to us, to our children, to our grandchildren, the extent to which they are using algorithms to undermine and focus on our kids.

That is what they are doing. They are targeting our children. We know it. They are targeting our people. We know it. They are skewing the data on the results.

If you do a search for China virus—now, just the utterance of those words makes the head of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle explode—the difference between Instagram, which is hardly some paragon of rightwing reporting, the difference in the algorithm response on Instagram versus TikTok is 400-1 if you search for China virus.

If you search for Hong Kong, I think it is 180-1. If you search for Tiananmen Square, I think it is 80-1. The fact is you are getting demonstrably shaped information out of TikTok. What most people don't understand, most parents at home while their kids are out using TikTok—and this is a parental problem, not just China—China is specifically limiting the information that kids can see in China.

They are making sure that the kids in China see patriotic, pro-China engineering, all of this stuff you want to try to have your kids see in order to make them into what you want to make them.

In our country, we are allowing freedom to undermine our freedom, and that is what is actually happening here. It is the false name of freedom, to be clear, to undermine our freedom.

It is not actual freedom because the freedom that we have is being attacked by China and we are sitting back in the false name of freedom saying, oh, no, let's not touch that.

I hope that tomorrow we will crack through that. I hope tomorrow on a bipartisan basis we will send a message that the Chinese Communist Party cannot knowingly attack us and get a response that is a whimper because that is what we have been doing so far.

If you wanted to destroy America, you would set out and do exactly what China has been doing bit by bit, targeting our people, undermining our access to information or at least information that they are trying to control and target our kids with propaganda very specifically.

Yes, we have problems with Google, but I am getting tired of the “but Google.” Yes, we have problems with Facebook, but I am getting tired of the “but Facebook” because I get that a lot. You want to break up Google, let's sit down and do it. I am happy to have a bipartisan bill to talk about that. You want to deal with Facebook, I am happy to have that conversation.

You want to talk about the misuse of the power of those big companies attacking First Amendment rights, targeting people for their political beliefs, happy to have that conversation, but do you know how hard that is? Because none of us want to use the power of the government to go after companies so that the government is saying what they know is best about what that means for our freedom and our rights here in this country.

That is what we are wrestling with under our Constitution to protect our rights. But when the Chinese Communist Party is actively targeting the American citizens, I am tired of people hiding behind the flag to let China do it. That is what is happening.

People are going to do it in the false name of freedom and in the false name of, oh, let's go do this because—I don't know—a former President says so or a media personality says so.

How about we do our job here in the House Chamber to take on the Chinese Communist Party and not act like they are not doing what they are doing? I think it is important. I support the legislation. I appreciate my friend, MIKE GALLAGHER, working on it. I cosponsor it. I will defend it tomorrow. I will defend it in the future. I am defending it now. I hope we pass it tomorrow on the floor of the House.

I want to bring something up because that brings up the question of the uniparty in this town. The fact is, we have, yet again, reverted to the mean. This town has reverted to what it does best, which is a handful of people making decisions, dropping it on the floor, and then walking away from the deliberative process.

I want to reiterate that the bill I just talked about, I think we should go through committee and I think we ought to amend it. We are walking away from our duty that we fought for 14 months ago to have amendments, to open up debate, to run through the normal regular order, but more importantly than that even, to actually stand up to the powers that be in this town that make all the decisions.

Three years ago, I stood on the floor and I pointed out that our border was in chaos already, a mere 2 months into the Biden administration.

In his first full month in office, Federal law enforcement had already encountered more than 100,000 migrants at the border. It was spiking. It was spiking rapidly, and we all knew it. Those of us who went down to the southern border in Texas sounded the alarm and we got a lot of crickets in this town.

That was the beginning of the radical progressive Democrats' efforts to reshape America with mass releases into our country. Just in December, we saw 370,000 migrant encounters alone. Three years into this crisis now, radical progressive Democrats are trying to blame the crisis on Republicans.

You heard the gentleman, Mr. McGOVERN from Massachusetts, on the floor of the House today, he said something in the ZIP Code of, Republicans own this crisis now—which, by the way, was a giveaway. It was a tell. It was purposeful because our radical Democratic colleagues worked to try to get a bill in the Senate so they would have something to hide behind. Unfortunately, a handful of Republicans either unwittingly or unwittingly went along, but the bill died because the bill doesn't do the job.

But here is the question: We have got a situation in our country where we have got wide-open borders. I will go through some of the details in a minute. Yet, today, we passed a resolution.

I supported it. I voted for it. I went to the Rules Committee, did my job, defended it, argued for it, came to the floor, debated it, argued for it. I support it, but come on. It is a resolution. Why? You want to know why? Because we refuse to use the power of the purse to stop President Biden. That is the truth. That is what we are actually doing.

Next week, in about 8 or 9 days, this Republican Party will saddle up with that Democratic Party filled with radical progressive Democrats who want to remake America, dump people into the country through mass releases. My Republican colleagues will saddle up with Democrats to pass a funding bill that will fund all of those open borders, and then they will try to go home and campaign: But I passed a resolution. I passed a bill that was named after Laken Riley. Aren't I great? Aren't I awesome?

The answer to that question is, no, you are not. You are not great. You are not awesome. Great and awesome is when you are willing to stand up and fight for the people you said you would fight for when you came here.

We control the power of the purse and I am tired of the excuses. We had another Member of Congress resign today. So now I will be told, CHIP, we only have a one-seat majority or two-seat majority. I don't even know what it is anymore.

Let me ask the question: Does it matter?

In 2018, we had the House, we had the Senate, we had the White House, and we had a bigger majority than we have today and we utterly failed to secure the border. We totally dropped the ball. We didn't do it.

Why? I remember why. They would say, CHIP, we don't have 60 votes in the Senate. Let me be very clear to the American people back home. There is always an excuse for why those who

campaign to come to this town fail to deliver. Always.

Here is a glimpse into what we will be funding next week. Here is a glimpse into what your Members of Congress, both sides of the aisle, led by radical progressive Democrats who, by the way, you will get more votes out of them than you do out of Republicans.

Every bill we have passed over the last 4 or 5 months of consequence have had more Democrat votes than Republican votes. Let's be very clear. That is the truth. You can't hide from the truth. You can't hide behind rules votes. You can't hide behind pointing fingers. This institution, the Republicans that run it, we are giving the ability for bills to come off this floor with more Democrat votes filled with radical progressive Democrats who want to remake America than Republican votes.

The last bill, the first half of this omnibus spending bill that spends at NANCY PELOSI's levels—I am sorry—more than NANCY PELOSI's spending levels, cracking the caps that we passed less than a year ago, that legislation passed I think with only two Democrats voting against it. Two.

Do you know who was in the Democratic Party? Two voted no. I think we had 83 Republicans vote no. You do the math. Which way do you think that bill tilts?

Here is what we are going to fund next week. We had 1,200 known got-aways recorded at the border on Sunday alone.

In this country, 1,200 people came into this country, we don't know who they are; we don't know where they came from; we don't know what they are doing, but I promise you, for at least a large block of them, they ain't up to good.

□ 1800

Four human smuggling loads were caught in 48 hours in Kinney County just this week, just out in San Antonio. These are friends of mine who live in that county.

Virginia authorities apprehended an illegal immigrant from Mexico in connection with the February 29 abduction of a 15-year-old unaccompanied alien child—illegal alien.

An illegal alien from Mexico was arrested for allegedly crashing into a Washington State trooper while drunk and high, killing the 27-year-old husband and father.

I have gone through and recounted all the deaths. We have talked about Laken Riley. We have talked about the 2-year-old who was killed just outside of the Nation's Capital by somebody who was released here by Joe Biden.

Meanwhile, criminals with ties to MS-13 and other gangs are selling fake green cards and Social Security cards to illegal aliens on street corners in Queens. That is happening right now. You are going to fund that.

A smuggler from Sullivan City who led Texas DPS on a high-speed chase in

Hidalgo County was just recently arrested for evading, human smuggling, and DWI.

An illegal alien from Venezuela has been charged with manslaughter for a wrong-way accident in Missouri that killed a 12-year-old boy.

FBI Director Christopher Wray warned Monday the Bureau is “very concerned” about a human smuggling network with ties to ISIS that utilizes the southern border to gain entry into the United States.

Madam Speaker, 331 known or suspected terrorists were stopped at the border under Biden—169 in fiscal year 2023, 58 so far this year.

Members of a Mexican cartel shot at migrants who were taking Ubers to cross the southern border illegally, illegal aliens, leaving one woman dead. Nobody crosses the border without cartel permission. They have control.

Madam Speaker, 7.3 million illegal aliens crossed our borders since Biden took office. That is more than the population of 36 U.S. States.

Nearly 1.8 million known migrants escaped Border Patrol, the got-aways I was talking about before.

We have released some 4½ million of the 7.3 million illegal aliens that crossed our border. We have released 4½ million.

I want to stop there. For my radical progressive Democratic colleagues who say that nothing is wrong and they are not doing anything, they are making policy choices to release people into the United States using parole authority against the law to mass-release people, including the man who came in here affiliated with a dangerous gang in Venezuela and killed Laken Riley, not Lincoln Riley.

There are 331 on the terrorist watch list under Biden and 75,000 fentanyl deaths in 2022. The administration has paroled 1 million illegal aliens into this country, many of whom come from Haiti and Venezuela—pause—many of whom come from Haiti.

Has anybody looked at Haiti recently? There is some dude named “Barbecue” who is in charge of Haiti at the moment, basically running the show—a dude named “Barbecue.”

We have people who are running like gangs and marauders and cannibals in Haiti, and now we are going to get a mass influx of people from Haiti.

In fiscal year 2023, DHS released more than 233,000 under the Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela categorical parole program—83,200 Haitians, 65,000 Venezuelans, 49,000 Cubans, 36,000 Nicaraguans. I could go on and on.

We have had more than 20,000 Chinese nationals encountered at the southern border since October 1, 2023. For context, more than 24,000 Chinese nationals were encountered across the southern border in all of fiscal year 2023. We have had 20,000 since October 1.

I could go down the list, but I want to give time to my good friend from Pennsylvania, Mr. PERRY, a man who

wore the uniform, who served his country with distinction, who serves his country with distinction now as a Member of Congress.

My friend from Pennsylvania, I assume that you are concerned. As someone who has defended this country around the globe, flew helicopters for the United States military, I assume it concerns you that we have 20,000 Chinese nationals that we have encountered at the southern border since October 1, 2023, and that we are poised as Republicans to vote next week to fund fully, with additional money, the government that is doing that to the American people.

Mr. PERRY. I am, my good friend from Texas. There were 20,000 Chinese, and I think to myself, how did they get out? How did they escape the Communist Party of China?

To my good friend, Representative ROY, I don't think they escaped. I think the Communist Party of China sent them. The Communist Party of China uses facial recognition software and programs oftentimes created in the United States of America to track every single movement, every decision that the people of China make, so they know why they are here. We aren't sure why they are here, but I suspect it is not because they love America. It is not because of that, and we are going to fund that.

Do you know what else we are going to fund? You mentioned this, but I think it is important to put a boy's name or a little girl's name to this because that is what it is to many Americans. Travis Wolfe, a day away from his 12-year-old birthday, Travis Wolfe, one day away from being 12, unfortunately Edina Bracho, here illegally, an illegal foreign national to our country, driving 70 miles an hour in Missouri going the wrong way on the highway, crashed into his and his parents' car.

On March 6, they took Travis off of life support. He didn't celebrate his 12th birthday. He didn't celebrate it because now he has passed on.

I imagine Travis Wolfe's parents are thinking: I live in America. I had fourth-grade civics. The Constitution says they are going to defend my family and defend me against a foreign invasion. I have lost my son. What am I paying taxes for? What am I voting for in this country if you can't keep my son alive at the hands of someone who doesn't belong here?

Just a month ago, Travis was doing well, smiling and laughing, and now he is gone, and the parents are left with what? What are the parents left with? The consolation that we can pass a bill, a resolution in the House of Representatives that says: Illegal foreign nations in the country, that is bad.

That doesn't make up for Travis, I guarantee. I don't know Travis. I don't know his parents, but I am heartbroken for them. If no one else will stand up for Travis and his parents, I know CHIP ROY from Texas will, and I certainly will as well.

How about Lizbeth Medina? She was murdered in December. Her murderer, Rafael Romero, was here illegally. He was a criminal on probation. He was here illegally. He had already committed crimes, but they let him out, so he stalked Lizbeth, and he went into her apartment where she lived.

Lizbeth is 16. She lived with her mother. That is where kids should be, with their parents, but Rafael went in and bashed her head in. He stabbed her to death.

She was a cheerleader at her high school with her whole life in front of her in America, the place that is supposed to protect its citizens. Meanwhile, Lizbeth's mom now lives in an empty house, I am sure heartbroken because her daughter is gone.

Why is her daughter gone? Because President Biden says that Rafael Romero and Edina Bracho deserve to be in America because they came here. We don't know what their circumstances are, but they deserve to be in America because everybody deserves to be in America.

Even though we have a system of legal immigration, the same system that my great-grandmother and my grandmother used to come from Colombia, South America, that system is not good enough even though we are the most generous country on the planet and allow a million people to come to America every single year legally. They wait in line. They take the test. They oftentimes know more about American civics than Americans do. However, according to President Biden, how many million people, Mr. Roy?

Mr. ROY. It is 7.3 million.

Mr. PERRY. There are 7.3 million people who can come from all these other countries, who don't have to abide by the law and can kill American citizens.

Do you know what the insult to injury is to Lizbeth Medina's mother? Next week, we are going to make sure that the Federal Government is fully funded so they can just keep on doing it, keep on sending the killers to kill American citizens.

It is unacceptable, unconscionable, and somebody has to stand up for these folks. If the majority of the Members in this Chamber won't do it, then maybe the majority of the Members in this Chamber need to get a different job. I don't know what else to say.

We are here to represent the United States of America and our citizens. Our citizens are dying at the hands of people who are here illegally who have been arrested not only for the crime of coming to the country illegally, disrespecting the people that pay the bills around here, disrespecting the people that follow the law around here, but then committing crimes in addition to that.

Myself, Mr. Roy, and you, Madam Speaker, are expected to vote to fund all that because it is too hard not to. It is just too hard, Mr. Roy from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

PERRY) to engage in a colloquy so the American people can understand what we are dealing with.

Next week, we are going to take up the second half of an omnibus appropriations package. There is no other way to describe it. It was an omnibus bill broken into two parts. That omnibus bill would spend approximately \$1.66 trillion or, stated in plain terms, \$30 billion more than NANCY PELOSI's spending levels passed a mere 15 months ago with abject opposition from the very Republicans in this Chamber who are going to vote next week to put the bow around two bills to make one omnibus spending package that will crack the bipartisan caps that we could have at least adhered to in order to limit spending.

Is that what the gentleman understands?

Mr. PERRY. That is what I understand. How many months ago did we vote against this?

Mr. ROY. About 15 months ago.

Mr. PERRY. It was 15 months ago that every single Republican in this Chamber voted "no" on what was and what is just unbelievable spending, unaffordable.

We are spending a trillion dollars every hundred days now. Every single Republican voted against it. The policy was awful and led to the death of these two individuals.

The spending was unaffordable, and now, these months later, we have avoided an omnibus in December so that we can do two minibuses in March, and I feel so much better about that, don't you, Mr. Roy?

Mr. ROY. To be clear, we are racking up an additional trillion dollars of debt every 100 days.

Mr. PERRY. An additional trillion.

Mr. ROY. We are spending now, this year, more on interest than our national defense. We will be cracking a trillion dollars of interest in 2026. We are now going to pass a package that spends \$1.66 trillion, which the CBO acknowledges will continue to rack up deficits into the foreseeable future. We are going to do that after having voted for a bill last week that funded a number of things from the MILCON-VA to Energy-Water and to other issues.

This next week, though, we are going to be voting on Defense. We are going to be voting on State-Foreign Operations. We are going to be voting on the Department of Homeland Security.

A lot of these are bills we passed last year as Republicans in the House. I ask the gentleman, when we passed legislation last year, we passed legislation to push back on the radical progressive Democrat agenda. In the State-Foreign Operations bill that we will take up next week, I would remind, the United Nations is a part of it to the tune of \$12.5 billion. By the way, Texas has had to spend \$12.5 billion over the last 3 years to defend itself when the Federal Government won't do it.

We are going to have \$12.5 billion for the United Nations that is going to be

funded this next week by this body, a United Nations that—let me see if the gentleman agrees—has the United Nations Human Rights Council, which passed condemnatory resolutions on Israel 104 times to China's zero; a United Nations Population Fund, which is complicit in China's population control programs; the World Health Organization, which is complicit in COVID-19; UNRWA—I know the gentleman is familiar with this one—UNRWA, the corrupt organization that has been exposed since October 7 in terms of its engagement in the barbaric attacks by Hamas on the people of Israel.

We are funding it. Biden says he is not funding it, but will we make that clear next week? We did last fall. We made it clear, but not clear enough. Why is that? What did the gentleman do last fall?

Mr. PERRY. We had an amendment on the floor to defund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency that funds Hamas directly. Unfortunately, it didn't pass, and then, within days of that, Hamas attacked Israel.

□ 1815

Mr. ROY. It didn't pass because it didn't have unanimity among Republicans.

Mr. PERRY. That is correct.

Mr. ROY. Now, will we vote this week to fund UNRWA? Now, even if UNRWA is taken out, which it is possible it will be, will we continue to fund all of the so-called humanitarian relief that is still getting funneled to Hamas?

Mr. PERRY. Well, what about the funding to the United Nations that is then funneled to south of the border, which is used to pay the cartels to move people from 150-plus countries through my good friend CHIP ROY's district in Texas to the rest of the United States?

Mr. ROY. Right.

Mr. PERRY. Funding the people who are taking the life of Travis Wolfe and Lizbeth Medina, funding those people.

Mr. ROY. Will we continue to fund through the State and Foreign Operations bill the President's radical anti-life agenda?

Will we pass, instead, any of the pro-life protections, like the Mexico City policy, or no?

What will we be funding? Continuation of the radical anti-life policies of this administration.

Will we be voting to end, or will we be voting to fund all of manner of wasteful and woke international envoys: The Special Envoy for Racial Equity and Justice, the Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI Persons, the Special Envoy for International Labor, the Special Representative for Palestinian Affairs? Will we be voting to fund that next week?

Mr. PERRY. I suspect that we will get almost twice as many votes from that side of the aisle for a bill brought by the Republican majority, and the reason why that is is because most of

their priorities, the vast majority of their priorities are funded.

Mr. ROY. The gentleman served in the United States Army, correct?

Mr. PERRY. Correct.

Mr. ROY. The gentleman flew helicopters in the United States Army?

Mr. PERRY. Correct.

Mr. ROY: He rose through the ranks to the title of General, correct?

Mr. PERRY. Correct.

Mr. ROY. Does the gentleman believe that next week, we, as Republicans, should be voting to fund chief diversity officers across the Department of Defense that are destroying recruiting and turning our military into a social engineering experiment?

Should we fund the Air Force, which is reducing planned troop totals in their 2025 budget, cutting the total number of airmen in the service after missing its recruiting goals?

How about transgender surgeries at the Department of Defense being funded?

How about the Department of Defense's abortion tourism funding?

How about funding for a Department of Defense that has failed to fully reinstate members impacted by its vaccine mandates, at least 8,000? I just spoke with one of them the other night randomly at a bar/restaurant here in the Northern Virginia area, who was upset that he got forced out of service in the United States military. Does the gentleman think we should be funding that?

Mr. PERRY. The gentleman knows that I will be registering a strong "no" in objection to those things that are destroying the greatest military the planet has ever known.

Mr. ROY. Yet will not the very same people who will stand up and say we must fund this do so on the backs of the men and women in uniform saying that we must do this for defense, we must do this to make our defense stronger? Will they not be voting for all of those policies, undermining our own Defense Department?

Mr. PERRY. They will, indeed.

Mr. ROY. On both sides of the aisle?

Mr. PERRY. On both sides of the aisle.

Mr. ROY. How about the HHS funding that we are going to be taking up next week, including the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which lost track, as the gentleman knows, of 85,000 migrant children, according to that bastion of rightwing conspiracy, The New York Times. They are working with the NGOs to make the crisis worse, the very NGOs that are receiving funding from the United Nations.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania just acknowledged, we are going to fund the United Nations, we are going to fund through our own HHS the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which lost 85,000 children, and we are not going to demand change, as necessary. Is the gentleman concerned about that?

Mr. PERRY. Of course, we are all concerned. It is unconscionable. Those

who disagree with us say that our position on the border is inhumane, but I would submit that losing track of 85,000 children who—just let your mind wander—are God knows dealing with what right now, turned over by cartels to other cartel members in the United States for just horrific circumstances, and yet we are supposed to just turn our face from that and act like, well, that is the cost of doing business?

Mr. ROY. Does the gentleman agree that we will be fully funding Joe Biden's student loan bailout schemes that were found to be unlawful by the United States Supreme Court? He literally stood at the microphone and said: I don't care, I am doing it anyway. Do you think we ought to be funding that?

Mr. PERRY. Of course not.

Mr. ROY. Should we be funding, for example, under COVID, the continued funding of the Wuhan lab or anything with respect to EcoHealth Alliance without any accountability for any of the people who sent our entire economy into a tailspin, racking up \$8 trillion of debt, sending our kids back in time in terms of their ability to compete, should we be continuing to fund those entities?

Mr. PERRY. There is no American—left, right, or center—listening to this list who says: Sign me up to support that.

Mr. ROY. I guess now, in conclusion on this point, back to the border, an absolute tragedy that is unfolding for Americans reeling, like Laken Riley's parents, like Lizbeth's mom—by the way, you left out the fact, I understand, that she was supposed to be cheering at an event. Her mom went there to go see her daughter, and when her daughter didn't show up, she had to go home to find her daughter's lifeless body in the bathtub, killed by somebody here illegally, an illegal alien.

Again, I want to be very clear, the President of the United States, whether he knows it or not, a subject that we explored today in the Judiciary Committee, whether it is willful or not, he is certainly complicit because the buck stops with the President that they are releasing people into the United States in mass form, contrary to law, and endangering people like Laken Riley, like Lizbeth, like the 2-year-old out here in Montgomery County, like hundreds of examples, thousands of fentanyl deaths.

By the way, put all that aside, the fact is, we are destroying our country through the weight of what that means for our school districts, our prisons, our hospitals, what it means for healthcare.

We have 50 million foreign-born people in this country. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle act like somehow this is anti-immigrant or that we don't want to have immigrants in the United States when nothing could be further from the truth.

I assume that the vast majority of the people that I know working at Bor-

der Patrol, for example, who I know to be majority Hispanic, they want the law to be enforced.

I assume that we want to back the people who want the law enforced. Yet I want to be clear, we are going to fund all the things we just articulated and fund a Department of Homeland Security to continue to carry out mass releases in the form of parole, asylum, abuse of the law, undermining our security and safety.

By the way, I would point out, we are going to continue to fund the salary of Alejandro Mayorkas, who we impeached for violating his oath to the Constitution, violating the laws and endangering the American people. How does the gentleman feel about that?

Mr. PERRY. Just astounding. It is astounding that that is our circumstance, yet that is where we find ourselves, and that is where Americans find themselves. I mean, some of the folks who know me say: Oh, you are so dramatic. You are so dramatic about it, and it is really not that bad. Immigration has always been an issue; it hasn't changed that much. You are just trying to increase people's anxiety. You are over the top.

I don't know, but I guarantee you, Travis Wolfe's parents, Lizbeth Medina's mother, Laken Riley's parents, there is nothing more dramatic than losing your child. The hopelessness that they must feel at the inability to do anything about it, knowing that this is happening in the country, knowing that we know. They know we know.

We read the news, we see the names, we hear the stories, but we are going to fund it. What are we going to say to them when we fund it? It is the best we could do? That is the best we could do?

I know that Mr. ROY feels the same way. No one else is here. The Speaker is here, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is here, I am here. I am sure there is a lot going on in Washington, D.C., tonight. I am sure there is. We are going to use this time to honor and to acknowledge Travis Wolfe, Lizbeth Medina, Laken Riley, and the 100,000 Pennsylvanians who died of drug overdoses last year. That is happening for a reason.

It is happening because these drugs are coming across our border. The cartels are running them. China is providing them, and America under this President is doing nothing to stop it.

Mr. ROY. The America I know enforces the rule of law. The America I know establishes a rule of law that attracts people from the world to come to our country. That is why people come to the United States of America, because the rule of law affords them the ability to prosper.

However, we are undermining the very thing that attracts people from around the world to come here. I know it is equality, justice, and freedom, but if you don't have the rule of law, none of those things matter.

If you don't have the rule of law, you will have chaos.

If you don't have the rule of law, you have what is happening in Haiti.

If you don't have the rule of law, you don't have a country.

If you don't have sovereignty and borders, you don't have a country.

If you don't have that, then there is no America to stand side by side with Israel.

If you don't have that, there is no America to even try to come to the rescue of any country like Ukraine or anybody else.

If you don't have a country, you have nothing on this Earth to be able to organize, to be able to defend the very liberty that we say this country stands for.

I would note that this body, Republicans, passed H.R. 2 just under a year ago. That bill would demonstrably change the situation at the border. It would enforce the law. It would reestablish the rule of law. It would still allow people to come here and make claims when they need them if they are being persecuted for their religious beliefs or political beliefs, but they would do so through the normal order.

The chaos would end. America would be better off, the Western Hemisphere would be better off, the world would be better off. Most of the individuals seeking to come to this country would, frankly, be better off, so they are not being abused by cartels or being forced to run from the Darien Gap all the way up through Mexico to make the tough journey to come to America, then they get here and have difficulty.

Why do I want to bring that up? I am going to be wrapping up here reasonably shortly so we can give the floor to another colleague. So why does it matter that we passed that bill last year? Because it is a good bill. It is a bill that would do the job.

While my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are playing games trying to hide behind legislation in the Senate that never would have gotten the job done, our colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) today gave up the game on the floor today when he said: Republicans own this issue now. It was purposeful. He gave it up. He gave away the game. They want to hide behind a bill they knew wouldn't pass.

We passed legislation that would make a difference. It would save people's lives. It would be better for migrants, better for our country.

Here is the thing: I hear a lot of my colleagues on this side of the aisle run around and say something like, well, can we just get migrant protection protocols? Can we just get remain in Mexico?

Let me be very clear. That will not fix it. If you simply pass migrant protection protocol requirements, the President can just ignore them. If you do not end the releases, if you do not force an end to the releases—which, by the way, I did in a 3-page bill—then you have no border security. You cannot implement remain in Mexico and believe that that alone will solve the

problem when parole is being abused, asylum is being abused, unaccompanied children will be abused. However, that is what some of our colleagues, even on this side of the aisle, are saying will be a solution if we package it together with Ukraine or Israel to move a bill.

Let me be very clear to everybody watching, any of our colleagues sitting in their offices watching: That is not good enough. It won't work. Don't bring that to the floor. That is not the way we should go.

At the end of the day, earlier today this Chamber passed a resolution condemning the Biden administration for its failures at the border for releasing people into the United States. Every Republican voted for it. Every Republican voted for it. Fine.

What will it do? What will it actually do? I voted for it. The President should be condemned. How many of those same Republicans are going to vote next week, though, to fund fully at a higher level the very things they voted against—or condemned, I should say—in the resolution that they just passed today? What do you think, my friend from Pennsylvania?

Mr. PERRY. It is going to be quite a number. Unfortunately, it is going to be quite a number of Republicans.

This week, they will say they condemn the Biden administration for dereliction of duty, the lost lives created by wide-open borders. Then next week they will say: Well, we didn't have any choice. We had to fund it. We didn't have any choice. There was nothing more we could do.

That is the sad state of affairs, and that is how our country ends up \$34 trillion in debt, racking up \$100 trillion every 100 days of additional debt with murderers who have been caught by the law out running around here illegally killing American citizens. That is how you end up with that. Unfortunately, that is what we are headed for.

□ 1830

We are supposed to take a victory lap because it didn't happen in December. It wasn't the pre-Christmas omnibus, so that is a win. That is something to celebrate. That is what I am told.

I guarantee you, Lisbeth's mom and Travis' parents are not celebrating that. They want something done. They demand something be done.

We can't bring back their loved ones, but we can damn sure make sure that it doesn't happen to anyone else. The way to do that is to stop funding this wide-open border.

People say: Well, you passed H.R. 2. It is dead on arrival in the Senate. They are never going to take it up. You have to accept something less.

How about we accept something less that is this? How about this President institute the same policies he eviscerated on day one of his Presidency and at least start bringing us back to some semblance of a nation that has a border, that is sovereign, and that is determining its own destiny?

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I will close with this. In a couple of years, this country is going to be celebrating its 250th birthday on July 2, 2026.

The question we have to ask ourselves is whether or not we are going to have a country that we pass down to our kids and grandkids. I believe we can and will.

I believe we only will if the people who campaign and go to the people saying that they are going to change this town, saying that they are going to stop the unlimited spending, saying that they are going to do something about a trillion dollars of debt racked up every 100 days, saying they are going to do something about a trillion dollars of interest in 2026—we are spending more on interest than our national debt—saying that they are going to secure the border of the United States, saying that they are going to end the woke and weaponized government targeting the American people, saying that they are going to make sure that we don't have endless wars that are making our military overstretched and overrun and making it difficult for our men and women in uniform with a woke military and undermining their ability to recruit and have a military that functions, when our colleagues go out and campaign on those things, we should deliver.

We should do something about it. We should be willing to give up the precious, to quote "The Lord of the Rings," give up the precious of an election certificate if it means taking the steps necessary to fight for this country.

When the Founders gave us the power of the purse, articulated well in Federalist No. 58 by James Madison and otherwise throughout the Founding documents, that power of the purse was supposed to be used.

If you don't use it, what do you have left? An impeachment that you send over to the Senate to die in the Senate and then go campaign on it.

The balance of power matters. The separation of power matters. When a President of the United States is ignoring the law and the Supreme Court, violating all the norms of the past to undermine our sovereignty, endanger the American people, spend money we don't have, ignore the law, and make us weaker around the globe, when the President of the United States is doing those things, it is incumbent upon the House and the Senate, but particularly the House, to do something about it.

You shouldn't hide behind rules votes, thin majorities, and what the Senate has or doesn't have to say that we could use that power of the purse to force change out of a President.

I, for one, believe that on July 2, 2026, we are going to be able to stand up and say that we are doing the right thing.

I believe something is stirring in this country. I believe people are seeing what is actually happening. I believe people are seeing their country being taken away from them.

We are seeing people like Riley Gaines standing up. We are seeing people like Chloe Cole stand up against the madness, as well as Scott Smith in Loudoun County.

We are seeing the people around this country stand up and make their voices be heard, the parents who have taken their schools back, the parents who stood up in Texas and just had a strong election to try to force that State to stand up for universal school choice, to empower parents rather than bureaucrats, to stand up for our kids.

I believe that the American people are right now going through a great awakening, and it is time for the people in this body to catch up to the people.

It is time for the people in this body to stand up and do our part to make sure we restore that constitutional order and the very premise outlined in the Declaration of Independence for the pursuit of happiness so that in July 2026, we can say that our people live in a free country and that we have, in fact, kept the Republic, to quote Franklin after the Constitutional Convention.

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

#### FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, last week, President Biden presented his State of the Union Address, and the reviews from the public show it to be the most poorly received of any that has ever been measured, since the State of the Union has appeared on television. It is no secret why.

The President's tone and his general approach to the address really encapsulated why a lot of people are so turned off by politics and the work of our government these days.

The partisanship and the eagerness to cast blame and to scapegoat rather than to seek common ground and find solutions is exactly why so many people are so frustrated with the direction of our country.

On top of that, the President said a lot of things that just simply didn't accord with reality, so today, I want to present the 10 most false and misleading statements from President Biden's State of the Union address.

First, near the beginning of his speech, President Biden said not since President Lincoln and the Civil War have freedom and democracy been under assault here at home as they are today. I am afraid that President Biden has a very short memory because we all just lived through the COVID era.

Starting in March 2020, the most basic freedoms and tenets of democracy were not just assaulted in this

country, but they vanished entirely in many places.

Governors like Gavin Newsom in California declared the legislative branch abolished and barricaded Capitol buildings—this Capitol itself was barricaded—ruling by executive decrees, even threatening to declare martial law.

Citizens were not allowed to leave their homes. Businesses were not allowed to open their doors. Children were not allowed to go to school or play sports.

People of faith were not allowed to worship or even gather for Bible study. Beaches were declared off-limits. Curfews were imposed even for adults having dinner with one other couple in a private residence.

Pedestrians were tackled literally for not wearing masks while walking around outdoors. Employees were fired from their jobs. Kids were expelled from school. Consumers were banned from coffee shops over their personal medical decisions.

Social media users were suspended for deviating from the government-approved narrative, even if they happened to present true information.

It is understandable why Biden would like to pretend that none of this ever happened, but we all lived through it, and the scars will be with our country for a very long time.

A second related statement that the President made is that the pandemic no longer controls our lives. The truth is, the pandemic never controlled our lives. It was government actions in response to the pandemic that controlled our lives.

If you look at the data now where you had different States that took very different approaches in dealing with COVID, what we have learned is that States like California, which had by far the worst lockdowns and restrictions on personal freedoms, where people's lives were controlled far more than any other State, actually had among the worst public health outcomes as well.

What you see on the part of many and, in particular, the Biden administration is that it is very clear that this was, in many ways, the worst set of policy decisions our country has seen in modern times.

Restrictions on personal liberty, damage to our economy, and damage to our children was done for absolutely no reason.

There is an attempt to pretend that none of this ever even occurred, which is what the President's remarks in his State of the Union is an example of, but even more so, look at the testimony of members of this administration before Congress this term.

You had Education Secretary Miguel Cardona give false testimony to the Education and the Workforce Committee when he claimed that he never encouraged States to adopt student vaccine mandates when he did precisely that.

You had Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra claim in testimony

before our committee that he never forced anyone to do anything and didn't impose a toddler mask mandate when, in fact, Head Start, which is under his jurisdiction, did have a mask mandate for 2-year-olds and up, which flew in the face of even the policy of the European counterparts of the CDC and the World Health Organization. Mr. Becerra, by the way, could not point to one public health benefit of that policy.

You also had Douglas Parker, who is the head of OSHA, in testimony before my subcommittee claim that the Biden administration never tried to do an employer vaccine mandate when, in fact, they tried to do just that, which would have applied to tens of millions of Americans if the United States Supreme Court had not struck it down.

The third statement from President Biden was a statement that he has already cut the Federal deficit by over \$1 trillion. This is just plainly numerically false.

When President Biden took office, the national debt was \$27.8 trillion. Today, it is \$34.2 trillion. In just a few years, it has gone from \$27.8 trillion to \$34.2 trillion.

The reason is no mystery. The President went on a massive spending spree with bills passed that included multiple trillion-dollar increases in spending, which, of course, has not only increased the debt beyond anything that we have ever seen but is what triggered this inflation crisis that is still causing so many American families to struggle.

That brings me to the next statement of the President during the State of the Union, which is that now our economy is the envy of the world. Far from being the envy of the world, our economy is a source of great dissatisfaction from the folks who live in our country.

A recent New York Times poll asked: Do you think the economy is better or worse than it was 4 years ago, or is it about the same?

Mr. Speaker, 21 percent said it is better; 63 percent said it is worse. Three times as many people said the economy is worse today than it was 4 years ago.

The Times poll also asked: Thinking about the Nation's economy, how would you rate economic conditions today? Mr. Speaker, 28 percent said either excellent or good, and 72 percent said only fair or poor—28 percent to 72 percent.

A related statement from the President's State of the Union was that wages keep going up, and inflation keeps coming down. Both are demonstrably false.

In fact, since President Biden took office, real wages and take-home pay have decreased in some sense because folks are not getting the same number of hours that they used to be getting. When it comes to inflation, here are just a few statistics for you. Prices today at this point compared to 3 years ago, the price of gasoline has gone up by over 33 percent, the price of hotel

rooms by 31 percent, the price of household energy by 29 percent, the price of transportation by 27 percent, the price of airfare by 23 percent, the price of groceries by 21 percent, the price of restaurant meals by 20 percent, the price of used vehicles, new vehicles, housing, rent, overall inflation, personal care, furniture, all in the high teens. The list goes on.

Here is the thing: The President's statement that inflation is coming down, that is not any source of great personal satisfaction or encouragement for folks who are having to deal with these prices.

The Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, recently noted we don't expect to see a decline in the overall price level. That doesn't tend to happen in economies.

We don't expect to see a decline in the overall price level. It has not happened yet, and it is not going to happen, according to the Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

The irresponsible spending policies of this administration have unleashed inflation and a rise in prices that is not going away for American families.

In President Biden's State of the Union, he also said that to remain the strongest economy in the world, we need the best education system in the world. The problem is that this President's policies have made it more difficult for us to have a good education system, let alone the best education system in the world.

Last week, we held a hearing in the Education and the Workforce Committee on charter schools, which have been shown across the board to produce tremendous results in expanding opportunity, lowering achievement gaps, and increasing student achievement across the board. Yet, one of the first things that the Biden administration did as soon as he took office is to go after charter schools and cut charter school grants, not to mention the school shutdowns that were enacted across this country in States like California. This President never came out and did a single thing to get Governors like Gavin Newsom to let kids go back to school.

We are going to be dealing with the harms from these school shutdowns for a very long time. If we look at all the mistakes during COVID, perhaps there was no bigger one than the school shutdown that did so much harm to so many kids.

□ 1845

President Biden also stated: ". . . on my first day in office, I introduced a comprehensive plan to fix our immigration system, secure the border. . . ."

He did no such thing. He did quite the contrary on his very first day in office and his first days in office with dozens of executive actions that made the border less secure. The results were utterly predictable.

We now have had 8 million illegal border crossings since the President took office.

He set the all-time record in his first year. He broke that record in his second year, and he broke that record in his third year.

For several years, going back to 2014 before he took office, there had only been 5 months, a handful of months, out of all of those months and all of those years, where there were more than 100,000 people that crossed the border illegally. That figure has been met each and every month since President Biden took office.

You can look at exactly what he did and trace these consequences to that change in policy, those unilateral changes in policy, where he ended the migrant protection protocols, remain in Mexico; he instituted catch and release; he ended title 42; he ended the border emergency. He completely distorted and warped the parole and asylum systems to let tens of thousands of people into the country.

These are the things that he did when he took office. The idea that he came into office and proposed fixing our system and securing the border could not be more out of touch with reality.

The President also stated that he is ready to fix it, referring to the border. That is what he said: I am ready to fix it.

If he was ready to fix it, he would have fixed it. He would have reversed the unilateral actions that he took when he became President that have caused this unprecedented number of people to come across the border.

What is more, he could provide encouragement for the Senate to pass the Secure the Border Act, H.R. 2, which we passed in the House toward the very beginning of last year. It has been gathering dust over in the Senate. The President hasn't done that.

If he was truly ready to fix it, if he was ready to fix the crisis at our border, he would have done so.

The ninth false and misleading statement from the President's remarks are that violent crime has fallen to its lowest offense level the last 50 years.

In reality, violent crime still has not gone back to what it was before COVID. What is more, property crime has skyrocketed across the country, including a huge increase in vehicle thefts.

The Judiciary Committee has held field hearings in Manhattan, in Chicago, right here in Washington, D.C., where we have seen the absolute horrifying amounts of violent crime and the number of victims that are being created as a result.

We see cities in California, like Los Angeles and San Francisco and Oakland, where they are literally collapsing.

In Oakland, Governor Newsom just sent in extra law enforcement because the crime there is so out of control.

In Los Angeles, the police will tell you not to go outside wearing jewelry to avoid getting mugged.

In Oakland, the In-and-Out just closed its first-ever restaurant because

it wasn't safe for their customers and their consumers.

In Oakland, Taco Bell just announced that its four restaurants are no longer going to have indoor dining and they are no longer going to accept cash.

In San Francisco, we see more and more businesses leaving each and every day. Even the store that inspired "Toy Story" that has been there for decades recently closed, as well.

Madam Speaker, the final truly misleading statement from the President that for many, many Americans could not be more false, is when he said that, "tonight we can proudly say the state of our Union is strong."

Americans overwhelmingly disagree with that statement. They are overwhelmingly dissatisfied with the direction of the country.

It is time for change. It is time for a new direction. My hope is that the President would have recognized that, would have acknowledged his mistakes when it comes to the economy, when it comes to the border, when it comes to public safety, and proposed a new direction, proposed turning the page.

I would have been very happy to work with him if he had done that. I am still happy to work with him in any way possible, if it is going to change his approach to the economy, to immigration, to crime, and to several other areas.

Unfortunately, we have not seen that yet. As someone who comes from California, I can tell you where we are going, because we have already seen it play out in California.

This President continues to copy California's failed policies. He believes Gavin Newsome when Newsome says that California is a model for the Nation. In fact, California is losing people each and every day. It is very sad.

What used to be the State where anyone can get ahead, it has now become the State so many can't wait to leave behind. For the fourth straight year, we have led the Nation in one-way U-Haul rentals.

If Joe Biden's administration continues to copy California's policies, we are going to see similar results for the entire country.

#### INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR RULE

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, I think yesterday will be remembered as a very important and notorious day in the history of the United States workforce for two reasons.

First of all, it was the 1-year anniversary of Julie Su being installed as Acting Secretary of Labor.

Ms. Su was the Labor Secretary in California for Gavin Newsome. During her tenure, California had the worst unemployment in the country. Californians had the highest poverty rate and the lowest level of wage growth in the country. She was responsible for \$31 billion in fraud of the State's unemployment department, and she was the architect of one of the worst laws in our State, or truly our country's history, known as AB5.

Unfortunately, President Biden thought that this was a good resume to be the new Secretary of Labor, so he nominated her last year.

The administration set up a war room inside of the White House to get her confirmed. It was a very, very aggressive campaign to convince Senators to confirm her. Yet, all of that, the Senate rejected her nomination. It was never brought to the floor for a vote. There was bipartisan opposition. At the end of the year, the Senate returned the nomination to President Biden, not having confirmed Ms. Su. Yet, she remains as Acting Secretary of Labor, and has just passed her 1-year anniversary.

This is truly a lawless situation, an end run around the advice and consent process in the United States Constitution. The fact that Ms. Su has been there for a year despite the Senate rejecting her nomination, despite the White House doing everything they possibly could to get her confirmed, and the Senate still refusing to confirm her, is an insult to our Constitution, to our workers, and to the American people.

But it just so happened that on the very day that Ms. Su marked her 1-year anniversary as the unconfirmed Acting Secretary of Labor, the new rule that her department has proposed, the independent contractor rule which is modeled on Gavin Newsome and Julie Su's AB5 law from California, went into effect.

Now, AB5 has been a complete and utter disaster for our State. It has caused folks in over 600 different professions to lose their livelihood, their ability to make a living. What the new rule does, like AB5, is significantly restrict one's ability to be an independent contractor, to work on your own terms, to be your own boss, or to be able to set your own schedule.

In many industries and for many people, if you don't have that ability, then your entire enterprise or business model becomes nonviable, which is exactly what happened in California.

Before AB5 went into effect, in late 2019, early 2020, you had all kinds of people that suddenly had lost their ability to earn a living.

Now a few years later, we recently got some empirical evidence for this as well out of George Mason University, which studied the employment effects in California, specifically of AB5. What the study found is that it decreased self-employment by 10 percent and decreased overall employment by 4 percent, which might be one reason why just today, with the new job numbers out, California's unemployment rate has ticked up again. It is 5.2 percent. It is the second highest unemployment rate in the entire country.

Now, Ms. Su's independent contractor rule is modeled on AB5 in California. President Biden cited AB5 as his model for labor relations nationwide. It is worth noting, by the way, that AB5 has become so toxic, so infa-

mous, that when I asked Ms. Su about it in committee, she wouldn't even say or opine on whether it was a good law. She said she didn't know, had no opinion on the matter. She was the architect and lead enforcer of that very law.

But the new independent contractor rule that the administration is proposing is also creating an extraordinary amount of uncertainty. It has six different factors—in fact, more than that. It places an extraordinary amount of discretion in the enforcers; that is, in Ms. Su, the very architect of AB5.

By the way, AB5 was so bad in California that over 100 different professions were exempted and they are not exempted in this new independent contractor rule from the Department of Labor.

So when I asked the head of the Wage and Hour Division in a recent hearing: Does this apply to various different professions? She could not give an answer to any of them.

I asked her about realtors, a couple million realtors in this country: Can they be considered independent contractors? She couldn't say.

This new rule is about to throw our entire workforce into chaos. Fortunately, it has already invited four different lawsuits that are proceeding in different parts of the country.

On account of those legal challenges, I wrote a letter to Ms. Su yesterday saying, at the very least—obviously, she should withdraw the rule—but at the very least, given the pendency of this legislation, she ought to put the rule on hold until the matter is litigated—until these challenges, which are based on the process, which are based on statute, which are based on the Constitution and due process—until they can be heard, so that the affected individuals will not be in this whiplash, depending on what the courts do and what the Department decides to do from that moment forward.

I wrote that letter to Ms. Su yesterday with it being the effective date of the new rule.

But beyond that, I have also introduced legislation under the Congressional Review Act. The Congressional Review Act allows for a fast-tracked piece of legislation to nullify a rule or regulation that has been put out by a department or agency like this one.

So my Congressional Review Act resolution simply nullifies and stops this new rule propounded by the Department of Labor.

We already have 54 cosponsors for this legislation, and it will be marked up in committee very soon. I am strongly urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this legislation to take back Congress' rightful authority over this area and to prevent our workforce from being thrown into chaos at a time when the American economy simply cannot afford it.

AMICUS BRIEF CASE OF CITY OF GRANTS PASS, OREGON V. GLORIA JOHNSON

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, earlier this week I filed an amicus brief with the United States Supreme Court in the case of City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Gloria Johnson. This is challenging a Ninth Circuit decision.

It has been agreed to be heard by the Supreme Court. As a matter of fact, oral argument will be taking place next month, and we expect a decision later this year.

Several of my colleagues here in the House who serve and represent districts in California and on the West Coast have joined me and signed onto the amicus brief.

Madam Speaker, we are urging the Supreme Court to overturn a line of Ninth Circuit cases that started what is known as the Boise decision and that has contributed to the explosion of homelessness and crime in California.

California's homelessness situation has continued to get worst and worst, even as homelessness has gone down in many other parts of the country.

As a matter of fact, right now, about half of the unsheltered homeless in the United States, in the entire country, are in California. The Boise decision is one reason why.

What this decision and its progeny have done is handcuffed cities and counties and municipalities from being able to enforce camping bands or otherwise clear out homeless encampments in public spaces.

This has made it extremely difficult for cities that even want to take a smart and compassionate and pro-public safety approach from being able to do so for fear that they will immediately get sued.

So this is an opportunity for the U.S. Supreme Court to weigh in in a way that will reverse a legal error that was made by the Ninth Circuit that has created many different social problems. I am very encouraged by this opportunity, because if we can re-empower local jurisdictions to take accountability and ownership of this issue and give them the tools that they need to stop this disorder from playing out in our public spaces, then that is going to go a long way toward fighting the crisis of homelessness, toward combating crime, toward getting help to folks who need it who are suffering or abusing drugs or who otherwise have issues related to mental illness, then we can get the homelessness problem in California under control.

□ 1900

It happens to be coming at the same time as the citizens of California are working to place an initiative on the ballot to substantially reverse what is known as Proposition 47.

Proposition 47 decriminalized huge swaths of behavior in California when it came to retail theft and open drug use. By taking tools away from law enforcement and releasing many people from our jails and prisons early, it has

also contributed to the crises of the growing problem of homelessness and crime in California.

For folks in our State who look at the growing problems that we face, the disorder in places especially like Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and far too many communities, there may be hope on the horizon. There may be a path to sanity.

If the United States Supreme Court follows our advice in this amicus brief and if the voters pass the initiative to reverse Proposition 47, then we can bring some sanity back to the way we deal with these issues in California and improve the quality of life for people in our State.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. JEFFRIES) for today and tomorrow.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-3381. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the fiscal year 2022 report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 295c(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title VII, Sec. 768(d) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 10501(m)); (124 Stat. 1002); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3382. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; San Diego County; 2008 and 2015 8-Hour Ozone Non-attainment Area Requirements [EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0135; FRL-9538-01-R9] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3383. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Request From States for Removal of Gasoline Volatility Waiver [EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0513; FRL-9845-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV73) 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3384. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting

the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; CA; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0604; FRL-10574-02-R9] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3385. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Updates to the State Implementation Plan Incorporation by Reference Provisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2022-0279; FRL-10675-02-R6] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3386. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas; Negative Declaration for Existing Sulfuric Acid Plants; Plan Revision for Existing Kraft Pulp Mills [EPA-R06-OAR-2022-0984; FRL-11401-02-R6] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3387. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Triclopyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0890; FRL-11763-01-OCSPP] 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 Energy and Commerce.

EC-3388. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's FY 2023 Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act Report, 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-3389. A letter from the Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3390. A letter from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Report of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Its Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2023, as well as the cumulative report for calendar years 2020-2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3391. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — SF1, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustments to 2023 North Atlantic Albacore Tuna, North and South Atlantic Swordfish, and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Reserve Category Quotas [Docket No.: 230911-0216] (RTID 0648-XC870) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3392. A letter from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, OPR, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the Empire Wind Project, Offshore New York [Docket No.: 240118-0017]

(RIN: 0648-BL97) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3393. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery [Docket No.: 230929-0224] (RIN: 0648-BF01) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3394. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GAR, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Temporary Measures to Reduce 2023 Atlantic Mackerel Catch [Docket No.: 231006-0241] (RIN: 0648-BM61) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3395. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — [Southeast], National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 49 [Docket No.: 230920-0228] (RIN: 0648-BL93) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3396. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 230224-0053; RTID 0648-XD276] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3397. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 230224-0053; RTID 0648-XD331] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3398. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — HMS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the General Category October Through November Fishery for 2023 [Docket No.: 220919-0193; RTID 0648-XD387] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3399. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in

the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 230306-0065; RTID 0648-XD479] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3400. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; "Other Rockfish" in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 230224-0053] (RIN: 0648-XD210) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3401. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2023 Management Area 1A Possession Limit Adjustment [Docket No.: 230316-0077; RTID 0648-XD519] received March 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3402. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Adjustment to Sector Annual Catch Entitlements Under the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan [Docket No.: 231129-0282; RTID 0648-XD485] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3403. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-HMS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; 2024 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Year [Docket No.: 231030-0254] (RIN: 0648-BM33) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3404. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-PIRO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Island Fisheries; 5-Year Extension of Moratorium on Harvest of Gold Corals [Docket No.: 231215-0306] (RIN: 0648-BM34) 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3405. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason modification of 2023 management measures — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modification of the West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #27-#31 [Docket No.: 230508-0124; RTID 0648-XD444] 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 Natural Resources.

EC-3406. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Program; Service Provider Revisions [Docket No. 1115-0269] (RIN:0648-BM49), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-3407. A letter from the Acting Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States for the September 2023 session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3408. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Recruitment and Management, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Whistleblower Protection for Federal Bureau of Investigation Employees [Docket No.: JMD 154; AG Order No. 5872-2024] (RIN: 1105-AB47) received February 21, 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-3409. A letter from the Federal Highway Administrator and the Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation, transmitting the 25th edition of the biennial "Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance" Report to Congress, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 503(b)(8) and 49 U.S.C. 308(e); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3410. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Revisions to Regulations for Expedited Relief for Service Emergencies [Docket No.: EP 762] 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 Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3411. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification to Performance Standards During Natural Disasters and Other Calamities (RIN: 0970-AC95) 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 Ways and Means.

EC-3412. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled 'Report to Congress on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 18052(a)(4)(C); Public Law 111-148, Sec. 1332(a)(4)(C); (124 Stat. 205); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-3413. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting the Office's report on the Occupational Safety and Health Inspections conducted during the 116th Congress, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(2); Public Law 104-1, Sec. 215(e)(2) (as amended by Public Law 108-271, Sec. 8(b)); (118 Stat. 814); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6011. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to notify applicants of the completion status of right-of-way applications under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act; with an amendment (Rept. 118-420, Pt. 1). Referred to the

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 524. A bill to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites; with an amendment (Rept. 118-421). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1246. A bill to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes (Rept. 118-422). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 929. A bill to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-423). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 6421. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from enforcing energy efficiency standards applicable to manufactured housing, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-424). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6011 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 7621. A bill to prohibit certain uses of automated decision systems by employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. HUNT, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 7622. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require any member of the President's cabinet who is temporarily unable to perform the functions and duties of office to provide notice to the President, the Congress, and the public of their absence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 7623. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 7624. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to establish a shared savings incentive to return a portion of the savings attributable to an investment in grid-enhancing technology to the developer of that grid-enhancing technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. JAYPAL):

H.R. 7625. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue an annual report to Congress projecting and accounting for the economic costs directly and indirectly caused by the impacts of climate change, to require the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board to establish a Federal Advisory Panel on the Economics of Climate Change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 7626. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. MFUME, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 7627. A bill to establish the Dr. Percy and Dr. Anna Julian Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 7628. A bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 7629. A bill to facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California (for himself and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 7630. A bill to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. ALFORD, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 7631. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to reimburse fees charged for the late payment of bills that were delayed in the mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 7632. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to exempt from disclosure by NASA certain technical data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. JAMES (for himself and Mr. McCARTY):

H.R. 7633. A bill to provide authority to enhance security assistance with countries that are engaged in regional security cooperation efforts in the Middle East and North Africa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 7634. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 7635. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to ensure the accessibility of drugs furnished under the 340B drug discount program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7636. A bill to support international governance of seafloor resource exploration and responsible polymetallic nodule collection by allied partners, strengthen domestic processing and refining capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 7637. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MRVAN (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BALDERS, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. BOST, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BANKS, and Ms. BUDZINSKI):

H.R. 7638. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to reimpose duties on steel imported into the United States from Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 7639. A bill to establish a National Advisory Council on Unpaid School Meal Debt in Child Nutrition Programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 7640. A bill to prohibit the hiring of individuals who are not citizens of the United States to administer an election for Federal office in a State or local jurisdiction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. DOGETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. DELAUR):

H.R. 7641. A bill to prohibit the inclusion of mandatory predispute arbitration clauses and clauses limiting class action lawsuits in health insurance contracts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself and Mr. YAKYM):

H.R. 7642. A bill to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 719 et seq.); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 7643. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Department of Veterans Affairs work-study allowance to carry out casework, policy making, and oversight related to the activities of the Department at certain congressional offices; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. DELAUR, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. AMO, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER,

Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. PHIL-LIPS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SABLON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SHERILL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. CONNOLY:

H. Con. Res. 97. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity between wages paid to men and women; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CHU, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CONNOLY, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CASE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FROST, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. SWALWELL, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 1074. A resolution reaffirming the House of Representatives support of a two-state solution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H. Res. 1075. A resolution recognizing the contributions of AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the lives of the people and communities of the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 1076. A resolution recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 112th birthday and celebrating its legacy of providing girls with a secure, inclusive space where they can explore their world, build meaningful relationships, and have access to experiences that prepare them for a life of leadership; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

#### 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 Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 7621.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Employment protection from automated decision systems.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.R. 7622.

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

Article I, Section 8 states that “The Congress shall have Power . . . To make Rules for the Government.”

The single subject of this legislation is: Reporting requirements for cabinet-level officials.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 7623.

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 amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 7624.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is: Electricity Regulation

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 7625.

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

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is: Federal pensions

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 7626.

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

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for room air conditioners that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 7627.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is: National Historic Site/Parks

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 7628.

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

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

“No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits certain federal funding to sanctuary jurisdictions, including 1) grants for public works and economic development; 2) grants for planning and administrative expenses; 3) supplementary grants, and 4) grants for training, research and technical assistance.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 7629.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation focuses on the US Postal Service and the safety of letter carriers.

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:

H.R. 7630.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make improvements to the cybersecurity and telecommunication capabilities of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 7631.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the United States Postal Service to reimburse fees charged for the late payment of bills that were delayed in the mail, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 7632.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Disclosure of technical information by NASA.

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 7633.

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

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Affairs

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 7634.

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

## Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environmental Protection

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 7635.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

health care

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 7636.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

International materials governance

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 7637.

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

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 7638.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause I provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States"

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill reinstates 25 percent Section 232 tariffs on Mexican steel imports for no less than one year and empowers the President to impose quotas on specific goods where there have been major surges.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 7639.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Child Nutrition

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 7640.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the hiring of individuals who are not citizens of the United States to administer an election for Federal office in a State or local jurisdiction, and for other purposes.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 7641.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the inclusion of mandatory predispute arbitration clauses and clauses limiting class action lawsuits in health insurance contracts.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 7642.

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

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Program reauthorization.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 7643.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Government Reform

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. AMO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 82: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 148: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 175: Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 239: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 324: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 537: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 704: Mrs. TRAHAN and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 743: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 766: Mr. KILEY.

H.R. 782: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 830: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 838: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 866: Mrs. MCBAUGH.

H.R. 957: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 964: Ms. SALINAS and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 982: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 984: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 987: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 1002: Mrs. MCBAUGH and Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 1073: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1088: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 1097: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1230: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1279: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 1310: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1359: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1406: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1477: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 1485: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1538: Mr. HORSFORD and Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 1582: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 1591: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1737: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1775: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 1787: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1794: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2474: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 2552: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 2720: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 2743: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 2768: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 2777: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 2828: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 2870: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 2907: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2955: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 3005: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 3012: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. MANNING, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3031: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Ms. DELAURIO.

H.R. 3039: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 3106: Ms. BALINT and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 3127: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3161: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 3170: Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. SYKES, and Ms. TENEN.

H.R. 3204: Mr. LIEU, Ms. SALINAS, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 3238: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 3269: Mr. OGLES and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.

H.R. 3350: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3413: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3416: Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 3519: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3783: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 3842: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 3933: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 3998: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 4040: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 4157: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 4173: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 4184: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 4293: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 4335: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 4389: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 4550: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 4565: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 4581: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 4646: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4740: Mr. BIGGS and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 4758: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 4794: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4818: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 4893: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 4903: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5030: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 5049: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 5099: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 5186: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 5403: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. MANN.

H.R. 5478: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 5555: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 5572: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 5699: Mr. NADLER and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 5763: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5813: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 5827: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 5885: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 5968: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 5985: Mr. KILEY and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 6003: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 6049: Ms. OMAR and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 6111: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 6201: Mr. PETERS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LIEU, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. SPARTZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6203: Mr. CASTEN, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 6205: Mr. CAREY and Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 6235: Mrs. GONZALEZ-COLÓN and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 6267: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 6301: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 6319: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 6394: Ms. NORTON and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 6470: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 6538: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 6542: Mr. VAN ORDEN.

H.R. 6564: Mr. COMER.

H.R. 6576: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 6600: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 6608: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 6716: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 6744: Mrs. HOUCHEIN.

H.R. 6783: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6802: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 6828: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 6929: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. IVEY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 6946: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 6951: Mr. LATURNER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 7007: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 7046: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 7050: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H.R. 7079: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 7096: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 7108: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 7109: Mrs. WAGNER.  
 H.R. 7127: Mr. PALLONE.  
 H.R. 7234: Mr. KILDEE.  
 H.R. 7244: Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 7247: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 7257: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 7361: Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 7379: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.  
 H.R. 7384: Mr. HERN, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. CROW.  
 H.R. 7391: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 7397: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.  
 H.R. 7432: Mr. SOTO.  
 H.R. 7438: Mr. CORREA and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 7455: Mr. MANN.  
 H.R. 7469: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 7481: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
 H.R. 7547: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 7594: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.  
 H.R. 7600: Mr. NORCROSS and Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 7620: Mr. MCCORMICK and Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.J. Res. 111: Mr. ISSA and Mr. GALLAGHER.  
 H.J. Res. 117: Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. ARMSTRONG.  
 H. Con. Res. 82: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. CRENSHAW.  
 H. Con. Res. 92: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
 H. Res. 228: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
 H. Res. 237: Mr. FULCHER and Mr. ROSE.  
 H. Res. 542: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H. Res. 735: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H. Res. 806: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BACON, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H. Res. 861: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H. Res. 946: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H. Res. 971: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H. Res. 991: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H. Res. 1012: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Ms. MENG.  
 H. Res. 1031: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H. Res. 1048: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H. Res. 1064: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

#### AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5673

OFFERED BY: MS. DELAUR

AMENDMENT No. \_\_\_: Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Security Act, 2024”.

#### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Table of Contents.

Sec. 3. References.

#### DIVISION A—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

#### DIVISION B—FEND OFF FENTANYL ACT

Title I—Sanctions matters

Title II—Anti-money laundering matters

Title III—Exception relating to importation of goods

Title IV—Budgetary effects

#### SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

#### DIVISION A—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

##### TITLE I DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY PERSONNEL MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$207,158,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$3,538,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$23,302,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Space Force”, \$4,192,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$4,887,581,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$1,534,163,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$976,405,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses. *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$557,758,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$69,045,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$846,869,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Space Force”, \$8,443,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$34,230,780,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, to respond to the situations in Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$13,772,460,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative shall be available to the Secretary of Defense under the same terms and conditions as are provided for under this heading in the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117-328), and shall be available notwithstanding section 8135 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023 (division C of Public Law 117-328) or any similar provision in any other Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, up to \$4,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the Government of Israel or to foreign countries that have provided support to Israel at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That up to \$13,414,432,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified

for provision to the Government of Ukraine or to foreign countries that have provided support to Ukraine at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That up to \$1,900,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the Government of Taiwan or to foreign countries that have provided support to Taiwan at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds transferred pursuant to the preceding three provisos shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of such transfers not less than 15 days before any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back and merged with this appropriation: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### PROCUREMENT

##### MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Army”, \$2,742,757,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, \$6,414,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$801,400,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$5,612,900,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Army”, \$308,991,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”, \$706,976,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related

expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, \$2,155,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, funds shall be available as follows:

Columbia Class Submarine (AP), \$1,955,000,000; and

Virginia Class Submarine (AP), \$200,000,000: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Navy”, \$319,570,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$26,000,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$293,570,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Marine Corps”, \$212,443,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Air Force”, \$366,001,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Air Force”, \$2,808,678,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for other expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Defense-Wide”, \$5,246,780,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$4,000,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That of the total amount

provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,200,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Beam defense system to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That funds in the preceding provisos shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters and are in addition to funds provided pursuant to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading in this Act shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems or for the procurement of the Iron Beam defense system: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$46,780,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For an additional amount for “Defense Production Act Purchases”, \$331,200,000, to remain available until expended, for activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4518, 4531, 4532, and 4533): *Provided*, That such amounts shall be obligated and expended by the Secretary of Defense as if delegated the necessary authorities conferred by the Defense Production Act of 1950: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

##### RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army”, \$18,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy”, \$20,825,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$13,825,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$7,000,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force”, \$406,834,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses:

Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, \$194,125,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of the Inspector General”, \$8,000,000, to remain available until December 31, 2024, which shall be for operation and maintenance of the Office of the Inspector General, including the Special Inspector General for Operation Atlantic Resolve, to carry out reviews of the activities of the Department of Defense to execute funds appropriated in this Act, including assistance provided to Ukraine: *Provided*, That the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RELATED AGENCIES

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for “Intelligence Community Management Account”, \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to \$1,000,000,000 only between the appropriations or funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

(b) Upon the determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to \$250,000,000 only between the appropriations or funds made available in this

title for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That the Director of National Intelligence shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8093 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

SEC. 102. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate on measures being taken to account for United States defense articles designated for Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly measures with regard to such articles that require enhanced end-use monitoring; measures to ensure that such articles reach their intended recipients and are used for their intended purposes; and any other measures to promote accountability for the use of such articles: *Provided*, That such report shall include a description of any occurrences of articles not reaching their intended recipients or used for their intended purposes and a description of any remedies taken: *Provided further*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing United States security assistance provided to Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, including a comprehensive list of the defense articles and services provided to Ukraine and the associated authority and funding used to provide such articles and services: *Provided*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 104. For an additional amount for the Department of Defense, \$2,440,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for transfer to military personnel accounts, operation and maintenance accounts, procurement accounts, research, development, test and evaluation accounts, and the Defense Working Capital Funds, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, only for U.S. operations, force protection, deterrence, and the replacement of combat expenditures in the United States Central Command region: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided under this section may be obligated or expended until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense provides to the congressional defense committees an execution plan: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon transfer, the funds shall be merged with and available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided*

further, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 105. For an additional amount for the Department of Defense, \$542,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for transfer to operation and maintenance accounts, procurement accounts, and research, development, test and evaluation accounts, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purpose, only for unfunded priorities of the United States Indo-Pacific Command for fiscal year 2024 (as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code): *Provided*, That none of the funds provided under this section may be obligated or expended until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense, through the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), provides the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed execution plan for such funds: *Provided further*, That not less than 15 days prior to any transfer of funds, the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon transfer, the funds shall be merged with and available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
ENERGY PROGRAMS  
SCIENCE

For an additional amount for “Science”, \$98,000,000, to remain available until expended, for acquisition, distribution, and equipment for development and production of medical, stable, and radioactive isotopes: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES  
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY  
ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For an additional amount for “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation”, \$143,915,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(1)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Federal Salaries and Expenses”, \$5,540,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously appropriated under

the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) that were made available for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, up to \$2,720,000,000 shall be available, in addition to amounts otherwise available, for necessary expenses to carry out the Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31)): *Provided*, That if insufficient unobligated balances are available from such fiscal year 2022, 2023, and 2024 amounts to fund a total amount for such purpose of up to \$2,720,000,000, then up to \$800,000,000 from amounts previously appropriated under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) that are made available for fiscal year 2025, may be made available, in addition to amounts otherwise available, for such purpose to meet such total amount: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section may be transferred to “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—American Energy Independence Fund” in either fiscal year 2024 or fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred by this section shall be subject to the same authorities and conditions as if such section were included in the Department of Energy title of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other similar transactions with public agencies and private organizations and persons, as authorized by section 646(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7256(a)), for such periods of time and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate, without regard to section 161(u) of Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201(u)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from the sale or transfer of LEU and HALEU or from any other transaction in connection with the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section shall hereafter be credited to the “American Energy Independence Fund” as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided *Provided further*, That receipts may hereafter be collected from transactions entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(iii) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(iii)) and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from any transaction entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii)) shall hereafter be credited to the “American Energy Independence Fund” as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use funds repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section for a commitment only if the full extent of the anticipated costs stemming from that commitment is recorded as an obligation at the time that the commitment is made and only to the extent that up-front obligation is recorded in full at that time: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency

requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

(b) Amounts may not be repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section until a law is enacted or administrative action is taken to prohibit or limit importation of LEU and HALEU from the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity into the United States.

(c) The Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023 (section 3131 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31)) is amended—

(1) in subsections (f)(1)(B)(i) and (h)(4)(B)(i) to read as follows:

“(i) may not make commitments under this subsection (including cooperative agreements (used in accordance with section 6305 of title 31, United States Code), purchase agreements, guarantees, leases, service contracts, or any other type of commitment) for the purchase or other acquisition of HALEU or LEU unless funds are specifically provided for those purposes in advance in appropriations Acts enacted after the date of enactment of this Act; and”; and

(2) in subsection (j) to read as follows:

“(j) **REASONABLE COMPENSATION.**—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that any LEU and HALEU made available by the Secretary under 1 or more of the Programs is subject to reasonable compensation, taking into account the fair market value of the LEU or HALEU and the purposes of this section.”.

### TITLE III DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for necessary expenses related to the administration of nonprofit security grants: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, \$390,000,000, of which \$160,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2024, and \$230,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, for Nonprofit Security Grant Program under section 2009 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609a) for eligible nonprofit organizations to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism or other threats: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall make programmatic adjustments as necessary to expedite the disbursement of, and provide flexibility in the use of, amounts made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any provision of 6 U.S.C. 609a, and in addition to amounts available under 6 U.S.C. 609a(c)(2), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may permit a State to use up to two percent of a grant awarded under this heading in this Act to provide outreach and technical assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist them with applying for Nonprofit Security

Grant Program awards under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such outreach and technical assistance should prioritize rural and underserved communities and nonprofit organizations that are traditionally underrepresented in the Program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

### TITLE IV DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Refugee and Entrant Assistance”, \$481,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants or contracts with qualified organizations, including nonprofit entities, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including wraparound services, housing assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, and case management assistance: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used by the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (Director) to issue awards or supplement awards previously made by the Director: *Provided further*, That the Director, in carrying out section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1552(c)(1)(A)) with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, may allocate such amounts among the States in a manner that accounts for the most current data available: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 401. Section 401(a)(1)(A) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-128) is amended by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

### TITLE V DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$281,914,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such funds may be obligated or expended for planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## TITLE VI

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED

## AGENCY

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic Programs”, \$210,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and areas and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Worldwide Security Protection, including to respond to the situation in Israel and areas impacted by the situation in Israel: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$12,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, to meet unforeseen emergencies arising in the Diplomatic and Consular Service, as authorized: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

## OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, \$39,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$13,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “International Disaster Assistance”, \$5,655,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs in response to the situations in Israel and Ukraine, including the provision of emergency food and shelter, and for assistance for other vulnerable populations and communities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For an additional amount for “Transition Initiatives”, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$7,899,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$7,849,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine, which may include budget support and which may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available for budget support pursuant to the preceding proviso may be made available for the reimbursement of pensions: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$50,000,000 shall be to prevent and respond to food insecurity: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPE, EURASIA AND CENTRAL ASIA

For an additional amount for “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, \$1,575,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance and related programs for Ukraine and other countries identified in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801) and section 3(c) of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5402(c)): *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Migration and Refugee Assistance”, \$3,495,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address humanitarian needs and assist refugees in response to the situations in Israel and Ukraine, and for assistance for other vulnerable populations and communities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, \$375,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$300,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso may be made available to support the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and National Police of Ukraine, including units supporting or under the command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$75,000,000 shall be for assistance for the Middle East, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, including to enhance law enforcement capabilities, counter terrorism, combat narcotics trafficking, and meet other critical partner requirements: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “Non-proliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the prioritization of demining efforts and how such efforts will be coordinated with development activities: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Peacekeeping Operations”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for a United States contribution to the Multi-national Force and Observers mission in the Sinai to enhance force protection capabilities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for “Peacekeeping Operations”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for a United States contribution to the Multi-national Force and Observers mission in the Sinai to enhance force protection capabilities: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Foreign Military Financing Program”, \$7,100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$3,500,000,000 shall be for assistance for Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the Government of Israel requests that funds be used for such purposes, grants made available for Israel under this heading in this Act shall, as agreed by the United States and Israel, be available for advanced weapons systems, of which up to \$769,300,000 may be available for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services: *Provided further*, That the limitation in the preceding proviso may be exceeded, if agreed by the United States and Israel, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That any congressional notification requirement applicable to funds made available under this heading in this Act for Israel may be waived if the Secretary of State determines that to do so is in the national security interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$2,000,000,000 shall be for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,600,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act and unobligated balances of amounts made available under this heading in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for fiscal year 2024 and prior fiscal years shall be available for the cost of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by section 2606 of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division N of Public Law 117-

103, subject to the terms and conditions provided in such section, or as otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That loan guarantees made using amounts described in the preceding proviso for loans financed by the Federal Financing Bank may be provided notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the percentage of loan principal that may be guaranteed: *Provided further*, That up to \$5,000,000 of funds made available under this heading in this Act, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used by the Department of State for necessary expenses for the general costs of administering military assistance and sales, including management and oversight of such programs and activities: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS  
MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

For an additional amount for "Contribution to the International Development Association", \$250,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be made available for a contribution to the International Development Association Special Program to Enhance Crisis Response Window: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 601. During fiscal year 2024, up to \$250,000,000 of funds deposited in the Consular and Border Security Programs account in any fiscal year that are available for obligation may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by any Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs under the headings "Diplomatic Programs" (including for Worldwide Security Protection) and "Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service" for emergency evacuations or to prevent or respond to security situations and related requirements: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and any such transfers are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 602. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1)) shall be applied by substituting "\$7,800,000,000" for "\$100,000,000".

SEC. 603. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(2)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2)(B)) shall be applied by substituting "\$400,000,000" for "\$200,000,000" in the matter preceding clause (i), and by substituting "\$150,000,000" for "\$75,000,000" in clause (i).

SEC. 604. During fiscal year 2024, section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348a(c)(2)) shall be applied by substituting "\$50,000,000" for "\$25,000,000".

SEC. 605. Section 12001 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287) is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (2) of subsection (a), by striking "armor" and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting "defense articles that are in the inventory of the Department of Defense as of the date of transfer, are intended for use as reserve stocks for Israel, and are located in a

stockpile for Israel as of the date of transfer".

(2) In subsection (b), by striking "at least equal to the fair market value of the items transferred" and inserting "in an amount to be determined by the Secretary of Defense".

(3) In subsection (c), by inserting before the comma in the first sentence the following: "or as far in advance of such transfer as is practicable as determined by the President on a case-by-case basis during extraordinary circumstances impacting the national security of the United States".

SEC. 606. For fiscal year 2024, section 514(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)) shall not apply to defense articles to be set aside, earmarked, reserved, or intended for use as reserve stocks in stockpiles in the State of Israel.

SEC. 607. Unobligated balances from amounts appropriated in prior Acts under the heading "Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contributions to the International Monetary Fund Facilities and Trust Funds" shall be available to cover the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a), of loans made by the Secretary of the Treasury only to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust of the International Monetary Fund, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$21,000,000,000 in the aggregate, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to make such loans.

SEC. 608. Section 17(a)(6) of the Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C. 2862-(a)(6)) is amended by striking "December 31, 2025" and inserting "December 31, 2030".

SEC. 609. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings "International Disaster Assistance" and "Migration and Refugee Assistance" may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under such headings.

(b) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings "Economic Support Fund" and "Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia" to respond to the situation in Ukraine and in countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine may be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the headings "United States International Development Finance Corporation—Corporate Capital Account", "United States International Development Finance Corporation—Program Account", "Export-Import Bank of the United States—Program Account", and "Trade and Development Agency" for such purpose.

(c) Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement" for assistance for countries in the Middle East may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under the headings "Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs", "Peacekeeping Operations", and "Foreign Military Financing Program" for such purpose.

(d) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

(e) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

SEC. 610. Section 1705 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117-328) shall

apply to funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "Economic Support Fund" for assistance for Ukraine.

SEC. 611. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title in this Act may be made available for assistance for the Governments of the Russian Federation or Belarus, including entities owned or controlled by such Governments.

SEC. 612. (a) Section 2606 of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division N of Public Law 117-103) is amended as follows:

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies" and inserting "North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, major non-NATO allies, and the Indo-Pacific region"; by striking "\$4,000,000,000" and inserting "\$8,000,000,000"; and by striking "except that such rate may not be less than the prevailing interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar maturity"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "and NATO allies" and inserting "NATO allies, major non-NATO allies, and the Indo-Pacific region"; by striking "\$4,000,000,000" and inserting "\$8,000,000,000"; and by inserting at the end of the second proviso "except for guarantees of loans by the Federal Financing Bank".

(b) Funds made available for the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees for major non-NATO allies and the Indo-Pacific region pursuant to section 2606 of division N of Public Law 117-103, as amended by subsection (a), may only be made available from funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "Foreign Military Financing Program" and available balances from under such heading in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs: *Provided*, That such funds may only be made available if the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees, not less than 15 days prior to the obligation of such funds, that such direct loan or loan guarantee is in the national security interest of the United States, is being provided in response to exigent circumstances, is addressing a mutually agreed upon emergency requirement of the recipient country, and the recipient country has a plan to repay such loan: *Provided further*, That not less than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with such committees on the implementation of this subsection.

(c) Amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 613. Funds appropriated under the headings "Economic Support Fund" and "Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia" in this title in this Act may be made available as contributions, following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 614. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs may be made available for a contribution, grant, or other payment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

SEC. 615. (a) CERTIFICATION. The Secretary of State shall certify and report to the appropriate congressional committees not later than March 1, 2024, that—

(1) oversight policies, processes, and procedures have been established by the Department of State and the United States Agency

for International Development, as appropriate, and are in use to prevent the diversion, misuse, or destruction of assistance, including through international organizations, to Hamas and other terrorist and extremist entities in Gaza; and

(2) such policies, processes, and procedures have been developed in coordination with other bilateral and multilateral donors and the Government of Israel, as appropriate.

(b) OVERSIGHT POLICY AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, concurrent with the submission of the certification required in subsection (a), a written description of the oversight policies, processes, and procedures for funds appropriated by this title that are made available for assistance for Gaza, including specific actions to be taken should such assistance be diverted, misused, or destroyed, and the role of Israel in the oversight of such assistance.

(c) REQUIREMENT TO INFORM.—The Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall promptly inform the appropriate congressional committees of each instance in which funds appropriated by this title that are made available for assistance for Gaza have been diverted, misused, or destroyed, to include the type of assistance, a description of the incident and parties involved, and an explanation of the response of the Department of State or USAID, as appropriate.

(d) THIRD PARTY MONITORING.—Funds appropriated by this title shall be made available for third party monitoring of assistance for Gaza, including end use monitoring, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) OFFICES OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading “Office of Inspector General” for the Department of State, \$7,000,000 shall be made available for the oversight and monitoring of assistance made available for Gaza by this title and in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs.

(2) UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading “Office of Inspector General” for USAID, \$3,000,000 shall be made available for the oversight and monitoring of assistance made available for Gaza by this title and in prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the initial obligation of funds appropriated by this title that are made available for assistance for Gaza, and every 90 days thereafter until all such funds are expended, the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the amount and purpose of such assistance provided during each respective quarter, including a description of the specific entity implementing such assistance.

(g) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2025, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and other heads of elements of the intelligence community that the Secretary considers relevant, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing whether funds appropriated by this title and made available for assistance for the West Bank and Gaza have been diverted by Hamas or other terrorist and extremist entities in the West Bank and Gaza: *Provided*, That such report shall include details on the amount and how such funds were

made available and used by such entities: *Provided further*, That such report may be submitted in classified form, if necessary.

(h) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act but prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title for humanitarian assistance for Gaza, the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the amount and anticipated uses of such funds.

SEC. 616. Prior to the initial obligation of funds made available in this title in this Act, the Secretary of State, USAID Administrator, and the Secretary of the Treasury, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations—

(1) spend plans, as defined in section 7034(s)(4) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117-328), at the country, account, and program level, for funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Economic Support Fund”, “Transition Initiatives”, “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-terorism, Demimng and Related Programs”, “Peacekeeping Operations”, “Foreign Military Financing Program”, and “Contribution to the International Development Association”: *Provided*, That plans submitted pursuant to this paragraph shall include for each program notified—(A) total funding made available for such program, by account and fiscal year; (B) funding that remains unobligated for such program from prior year base or supplemental appropriations; (C) funding that is obligated but unexpended for such program; and (D) funding committed, but not yet notified for such program; and

(2) operating plans, as defined in section 7062 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117-328), for funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Operating Expenses.”

## TITLE VII

### GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 701. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 702. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 703. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 704. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives a strategy regarding United States support for Ukraine against aggression by the Russian Federation: *Provided*, That such strategy shall be multi-year, establish specific and achievable objectives, define and prioritize United States national security interests, and include the metrics to be used to measure progress in achieving such objectives: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include an estimate, on a fiscal year-by-fiscal

year basis, of the resources required by the United States to achieve such objectives, including to help hasten Ukrainian victory against Russia’s invasion forces in a manner most favorable to United States interests and objectives, and a description of the national security implications for the United States if those objectives are not met: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall describe how each specific aspect of U.S. assistance, including defense articles and U.S. foreign assistance, is intended at the tactical, operational, and strategic level to help Ukraine end the conflict as a democratic, independent, and sovereign country capable of deterring and defending its territory against future aggression: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include a classified independent assessment from the Commander, U.S. European Command, describing any specific defense articles and services not yet provided to Ukraine that would result in meaningful battlefield gains in alignment with the strategy: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include a classified assessment from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the provision of specific defense articles and services provided to Ukraine does not pose significant risk to the defense capabilities of the United States military: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment in coordination with the Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation provide an assessment of the executability and a production schedule for any specific defense articles recommended by the Commander, U.S. European Command that require procurement: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall include information on support to the Government of the Russian Federation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the People’s Republic of China, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, related to the Russian campaign in Ukraine, and its impact on such strategy: *Provided further*, That such strategy shall be updated not less than quarterly, as appropriate, until September 30, 2025, and such updates shall be submitted to such committees: *Provided further*, That unless otherwise specified by this section, such strategy shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 705. (a) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees, in classified form, if necessary, on the status and welfare of hostages being held in Gaza.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(1) The Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(3) The Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(4) The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 706. Funds appropriated by this Act for foreign assistance (including foreign military sales), for the Department of State, for broadcasting subject to supervision of United States Agency for Global Media, and for intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for the purposes of section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C.

6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 707. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 708. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This division may be cited as the “National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024”.

## DIVISION B—FEND OFF FENTANYL ACT

### SEC. 3001. SHORT TITLES.

This division may be cited as the “Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence Off Fentanyl” or the “FEND Off Fentanyl Act”.

### SEC. 3002. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the proliferation of fentanyl is causing an unprecedented surge in overdose deaths in the United States, fracturing families and communities, and necessitating a comprehensive policy response to combat its lethal flow and to mitigate the drug’s devastating consequences;

(2) the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States is a national security threat that has killed hundreds of thousands of United States citizens;

(3) transnational criminal organizations, including cartels primarily based in Mexico, are the main purveyors of fentanyl into the United States and must be held accountable;

(4) precursor chemicals sourced from the People’s Republic of China are—

(A) shipped from the People’s Republic of China by legitimate and illegitimate means;

(B) transformed through various synthetic processes to produce different forms of fentanyl; and

(C) crucial to the production of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, contributing to the ongoing opioid crisis;

(5) the United States Government must remain vigilant to address all new forms of fentanyl precursors and drugs used in combination with fentanyl, such as Xylazine, which attribute to overdose deaths of people in the United States;

(6) to increase the cost of fentanyl trafficking, the United States Government should work collaboratively across agencies and should surge analytic capability to impose sanctions and other remedies with respect to transnational criminal organizations (including cartels), including foreign nationals who facilitate the trade in illicit fentanyl and its precursors from the People’s Republic of China; and

(7) the Department of the Treasury should focus on fentanyl trafficking and its facilitators as one of the top national security priorities for the Department.

### SEC. 3003. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person”—

(A) means—

(i) any citizen or national of a foreign country; or

(ii) any entity not organized under the laws of the United States or a jurisdiction within the United States; and

(B) does not include the government of a foreign country.

(3) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) TRAFFICKING.—The term “trafficking”, with respect to fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, has the meaning given the term “opioid trafficking” in section 7203(8) of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302(8)).

(5) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “transnational criminal organization” includes—

(A) any organization designated as a significant transnational criminal organization under part 590 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations;

(B) any of the organizations known as—

(i) the Sinaloa Cartel;

(ii) the Jalisco New Generation Cartel;

(iii) the Gulf Cartel;

(iv) the Los Zetas Cartel;

(v) the Juarez Cartel;

(vi) the Tijuana Cartel;

(vii) the Beltran-Leyva Cartel; or

(viii) La Familia Michoacana; or

(C) any successor organization to an organization described in subparagraph (B) or as otherwise determined by the President.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

## TITLE I—SANCTIONS MATTERS

### Subtitle A—Sanctions in Response to National Emergency Relating to Fentanyl Trafficking

#### SEC. 3101. FINDING; POLICY.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and is a national emergency.

(b) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to apply economic and other financial sanctions to those who engage in the international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids to protect the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

#### SEC. 3102. USE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES; REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this subtitle.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch pursuant to this subtitle and any national emergency declared with respect to the trafficking of fentanyl and trade in other illicit drugs, including—

(A) the issuance of any new or revised regulations, policies, or guidance;

(B) the imposition of sanctions;

(C) the collection of relevant information from outside parties;

(D) the issuance or closure of general licenses, specific licenses, and statements of licensing policy by the Office of Foreign Assets Control;

(E) a description of any pending enforcement cases; and

(F) the implementation of mitigation procedures.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include the matters required under subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of such paragraph in a classified annex.

#### SEC. 3103. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING BY TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines—

(1) is knowingly involved in the significant trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, including such trafficking by a transnational criminal organization, or

(2) otherwise is knowingly involved in significant activities of a transnational criminal organization relating to the trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The President, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), may block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch with respect to the foreign persons identified under subsection (a).

#### SEC. 3104. PENALTIES; WAIVERS; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) PENALTIES.—Any person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this subtitle or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this subtitle shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this subtitle with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

#### (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—This subtitle shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this subtitle shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at

Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity of the United States.

(3) HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION.—The President may not impose sanctions under this subtitle with respect to any person for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

**SEC. 3105. TREATMENT OF FORFEITED PROPERTY OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) TRANSFER OF FORFEITED PROPERTY TO FORFEITURE FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any covered forfeited property shall be deposited into the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established under section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, or the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund established under section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any deposits made under paragraph (1) during the 180-day period preceding submission of the report.

(3) COVERED FORFEITED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered forfeited property” means property—

(A) forfeited to the United States under chapter 46 or section 1963 of title 18, United States Code; and

(B) that belonged to or was possessed by an individual affiliated with or connected to a transnational criminal organization subject to sanctions under—

(i) this subtitle;

(ii) the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

(iii) Executive Order 14059 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note, relating to imposing sanctions on foreign persons involved in the global illicit drug trade).

(b) BLOCKED ASSETS UNDER TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002.—Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to affect the treatment of blocked assets of a terrorist party described in section 201(a) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (28 U.S.C. 1610 note).

**Subtitle B—Other Matters**

**SEC. 3111. TEN-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS.**

(a) INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.—Section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

“(B) COMMENCEMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action, suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

“(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (c) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.”.

(b) TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.—Section 16 of the Trading with the Enemy Act

(50 U.S.C. 4315) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

“(B) COMMENCEMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action, suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

“(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (a) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within 10 years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.”.

**SEC. 3112. CLASSIFIED REPORT AND BRIEFING ON STAFFING OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on the staffing of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, disaggregated by staffing dedicated to each sanctions program and each country or issue.

**SEC. 3113. REPORT ON DRUG TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND USE OF VESSELS WITH MISLABELED CARGO.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on efforts to target drug transportation routes and modalities, including an assessment of the prevalence of false cargo labeling and shipment of precursor chemicals without accurate tracking of the customers purchasing the chemicals.

**SEC. 3114. REPORT ON ACTIONS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS INVOLVED IN FENTANYL SUPPLY CHAIN.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China with respect to persons involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills.

**TITLE II—ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING MATTERS**

**SEC. 3201. DESIGNATION OF ILLICIT FENTANYL TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 7213 the following:

**SEC. 7213A. DESIGNATION OF TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Treasury determines that reasonable grounds exist for concluding that 1 or more financial institutions operating outside of the United States, 1 or more classes of transactions within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, or 1 or more

types of accounts within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, is of primary money laundering concern in connection with illicit opioid trafficking, the Secretary of the Treasury may, by order, regulation, or otherwise as permitted by law—

“(1) require domestic financial institutions and domestic financial agencies to take 1 or more of the special measures provided for in section 9714(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note); or

“(2) prohibit, or impose conditions upon, certain transmittals of funds (to be defined by the Secretary) by any domestic financial institution or domestic financial agency, if such transmittal of funds involves any such institution, class of transaction, or type of accounts.

“(b) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In any judicial review of a finding of the existence of a primary money laundering concern, or of the requirement for 1 or more special measures with respect to a primary money laundering concern made under this section, if the designation or imposition, or both, were based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)), such information may be submitted by the Secretary to the reviewing court *ex parte* and *in camera*. This subsection does not confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding made or any requirement imposed under this section.

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The exemptions from, and prohibitions on, search and disclosure referred to in section 9714(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to any report or record of report filed pursuant to a requirement imposed under subsection (a). For purposes of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, this subsection shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section.

“(d) PENALTIES.—The penalties referred to in section 9714(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to violations of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a), in the same manner and to the same extent as described in such section 9714(d).

“(e) INJUNCTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may bring a civil action to enjoin a violation of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a) in the same manner and to the same extent as described in section 9714(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7213 the following:

“Sec. 7213A. Designation of transactions of sanctioned persons as of primary money laundering concern.”.

**SEC. 3202. TREATMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS REPORTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK.**

(a) FILING INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network shall issue guidance or instructions to United States financial institutions for filing reports on suspicious transactions required under section

1010.320 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, related to suspected fentanyl trafficking by transnational criminal organizations.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF REPORTS RELATING TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING OR TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Director shall prioritize research into reports described in subsection (a) that indicate a connection to trafficking of fentanyl or related synthetic opioids or financing of suspected transnational criminal organizations.

**SEC. 3203. REPORT ON TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING IN TRADE WITH MEXICO, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND BURMA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the first update to the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance submitted to Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall include a report on trade-based money laundering originating in Mexico or the People's Republic of China and involving Burma.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance” means the national strategy for

combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance required under section 261 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 934), as amended by section 6506 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81; 135 Stat. 2428).

### **TITLE III—EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS**

**SEC. 3301. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority or a requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this division shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

### **TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

**SEC. 3401. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be

entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.