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No. 48

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### BIDEN'S ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, President Biden turned his attention to a campaign promise that he made in May of 2020, and he canceled the Keystone XL pipeline.

Since then, President Biden has continued his campaign against the energy resources that are underneath the feet of my constituents. He has created

more red tape regulations, he has canceled new permits, and he has imposed a ban on the shipment of liquefied natural gas.

All of these efforts are coordinated to appease President Biden's far-left base, all at the expense of American energy prices.

In 2022, the national average for a gallon of gas reached over \$5 a gallon for the first time in our history. Now, the average price for a gallon of gas is once again on the rise, recently hitting a 4-month high.

Pennsylvanians cannot afford these rising prices and cannot afford a President who puts politics ahead of what is best for American families.

It is time to put a stop on the war against American energy and return to using the baseload power that we can produce right here at home.

#### BIDEN'S BUDGET FAILURE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden offered a budget that fails to address the concerns of the American people.

Instead of working to secure our border, get a handle on inflation, and grow our economy, this budget proposal offers handouts to the far left, it grows bureaucracy, and it wastes taxpayers' dollars.

Instead of working to cut spending, this bill would include \$4.9 trillion in new taxes and spend \$86 trillion over the next 10 years.

Worst of all, this budget fails to secure our border. Instead of directing funds toward border security, President Biden has allocated \$4 billion in the Homeland Security budget for Green New Deal climate initiatives. The climate that he should be addressing is the porous open border that brings drugs and crime into our country.

It is clear that this administration is more focused on growing its agencies, investing in liberal policies, and spending trillions of taxpayer dollars at the

same time that our debt continues to spiral out of control. This is all unacceptable.

### CONGRATULATING CHARLA SCHAFER

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Washington-Centerville Public Library sponsors the Erma Bombeck writing competition, focused on humor and human-focused essays. Only four winners are chosen out of hundreds of entries from across the world. Among this year's winners is Charla Schafer from Muscatine, Iowa, who won the global humor category with her piece "Funeral Notes." In a world often fraught with challenges, Charla's ability to infuse humor and humanity into her writing is a true gift.

After serving with distinction in various leadership roles, including the vice president of marketing and retail banking at First National Bank of Muscatine, and executive director at the Muscatine Center for Social Action, she continues to lead by example as president of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine and as a board member of the Iowa Council of Foundations.

I congratulate Charla on this remarkable achievement.

#### NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Day.

In Iowa, agriculture isn't just an industry; it is a way of life. Our farmers, with their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts, not only feed our communities but also sustain our economy, nourish our Nation, and fuel the world.

The fertile soils of Iowa have long been recognized as some of the most

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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productive in the world. With over 80 percent of Iowa's land dedicated to agricultural purposes, our farmers serve as the backbone of our communities, economy, and State. Iowa stands as a leading producer of soybeans, corn, pork, and eggs in the United States. Notably, we also lead the Nation in ethanol biodiesel production, contributing to both domestic and global needs.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have had the privilege of engaging with many of Iowa's farmers, listening to their concerns, and championing their ideas. Today, I am proud to recognize their hard work and vow to continue fighting here in Congress to ensure that farmers have access to the resources and incentives they need to continue to feed and fuel our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED WAY OF MUSCATINE, IOWA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate United Way of Muscatine for 70 years of service to Muscatine County and the surrounding area. United Way of Muscatine has played a pivotal role in feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and educating children for several decades, and I laud them and their staff for their tireless service to make our communities better.

With rising food and rent prices causing mass uncertainty and anxiety among hardworking Americans, United Way serves as a beacon of hope for those in need of help. Their food and housing assistance programs, as well as their programs to help victims of abuse and trafficking, are an integral helping hand to southeastern Iowa. Their tireless work to serve their community is commendable, and I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the 70th anniversary of this wonderful organization.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID C. HILMERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I announce the induction of Dr. David C. Hilmers, an Iowa-born former astronaut and retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel, into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Dr. Hilmers, raised in DeWitt, Iowa, began his journey after graduating from Central Community High School in 1968. With five academic degrees, he stands as the second-most formally educated U.S. astronaut, showcasing his intellectual prowess and dedication. His illustrious career spans four space missions with NASA, totaling over 493 hours in space, and he is not the only Iowa-born and -raised astronaut.

Beyond his space endeavors, Dr. Hilmers earned his M.D. with honors from Baylor College of Medicine. Today, as professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, he continues his impactful work in global health and humanitarian relief efforts.

Dr. Hilmers' remarkable journey inspires us to pursue knowledge, explore new horizons, and serve our fellow human beings with compassion and dedication.

CELEBRATING KAITLYN THEDE, MADELYN THEDE, GRADY CLAUSSEN, COLLIER ROCKOW, AND LEXI HENNING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate students Kaitlyn and Madelyn Thede, Grady Claussen, Collier Rockow, and Lexi Henning from Wilton Junior-Senior High School for being the statewide winners of the 14th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national STEM competition.

They invented a grain elevator level tracker that will help farmers track the height of their grain with a system of lights that helps farmers determine the grain height inside the silo. This invention will protect hardworking Iowa farmers from dangerous grain elevator accidents and represents a monumental step forward in agricultural safety.

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition is a national competition that picks one winner from each of the 50 States. These students beat out hundreds of other submissions with their clever invention that will save lives and protect farmers across Iowa. These students will now aim to compete to be one of the 10 finalists, with 3 being named national winners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this incredible achievement and wishing these students the best as they continue marching toward the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I extend birthday wishes and greetings to my daughter. Happy birthday, Taylor.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

O Righteous One, we pause in stillness before You. We wait patiently for You as this new week begins. For we know You will give us the desires of our heart, speaking to us Your Word of truth.

On our part, may we come to trust You. Then may our trust in You know no boundaries. May no uncertainty, no doubt, no fear, or anxiety serve as barriers for our trust in Your steadfast love for us.

May our faith in You encourage us to walk closer to You, to follow where

You lead us, and to go where You call us to go, sure of Your grace plan.

Keep our eyes above the waves that threaten us. Keep our feet on the foundation You have laid beneath us. Keep our will away from the temptations that surround us, and keep our hearts within Your own loving embrace.

Today, on this day, in all we say or do, may we trust in You, O Lord, and do what is good.

Sure of Your omniscience and omnipotence, we are bold to pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS 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.

#### WILTON JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL—SAMSUNG COMPETITION

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate students Kaitlyn and Madelyn Thede, Grady Claussen, Collier Rockow, and Lexi Henning from Wilton Junior-Senior High School for being the statewide winners of the 14th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national STEM competition.

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These students will now aim to compete to be one of the 10 finalists, with 3 being named national winners.

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I wish my daughter a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Taylor.

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#### END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, the Biden-Harris administration recently announced nearly \$1.7 billion in new commitments as part of the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities.

In 2022, when President Biden hosted the second-ever White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, I told those in attendance that the event could not be a one-off. We couldn't gather in D.C., pat each other on the back, and not deliver on our ambitious goals.

These new bold commitments from 141 stakeholders from across the Nation, including health systems, insurers, nonprofits, philanthropic groups, academia, and local elected officials, show that we are not taking our foot off the gas to meet the President's goal of ending hunger and reducing diet-related diseases by 2030.

I want to thank President Biden; my good friend, Chef Jose Andres, from the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition; Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack; Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra; and everyone who is playing a part big and small to end hunger once and for all.

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#### A THWARTED FLEECE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, a Biden agency called PBGC wanted to fleece the taxpayer of \$127 million by funding pensions for dead participants.

Let me repeat: \$127 million for dead pension participants.

Only after repeated calls by the Committee on Education and the Workforce for PBGC to correct its work has it decided to claw back those funds. Thanks to the tireless work of the committee, PBGC is being held accountable.

Accountability and fiscal responsibility were once shared, bipartisan values.

A former Republican Senator has been famously quoted as saying: "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you are talking real money."

This Senator's colleague, William Proxmire, notoriously presented the Golden Fleece Award to the government organization that had fleeced the American taxpayer the worst on any given week.

The American people are tired of being fleeced. President Biden has already misspent billions in fraudulent COVID payments. I say not a dollar more.

#### TRUMP AND HIS EXTREME MAGA RETROGRESSIVE AGENDA

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, this Women's History Month, we find ourselves confronted by the regressive forces of Donald Trump and extreme MAGA Republicans. This faction seeks to propel our Nation backwards at the sacrifice of centuries of progress and the well-being of American lives for their own self-serving interests.

Their agenda aims to strip women of their reproductive freedoms nationwide, slash Social Security and Medicare, rip healthcare away from millions, and funnel even more wealth to the already wealthy through massive tax breaks for big corporations and billionaires. This radical agenda is something everyday Americans, including Virgin Islanders, who continue to receive the brunt of inequity in benefits and access to resources, simply cannot afford.

Extreme Republicans and the former President attack not just the American people, including veterans and elected officials, but as we saw January 6, the democratic institutions that are a bedrock of our Nation when things don't go their way. Their actions are an unequivocal declaration of war against our democracy.

Madam Speaker, Republicans must secure and defend our Republic and secure the rights and safety of all Americans, especially American women.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair reminds Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

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#### SCHOOLCHILDREN SUFFER FROM DISPARATE POLICIES

(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. As I traveled through the airport, I could sense the degree of excitement of many of the students who were traveling on spring break.

As I entered the Capitol, it was a joy to see so many classes and families enjoying the wonderment of democracy in this great place, the citadel of democracy.

Nonetheless, I rise today to talk about America's schoolchildren and particularly to talk about those who are impacted by disparate policies such as the policies in Barbers Hill.

I want to acknowledge the Congressional Black Caucus and the advocates who have supported and surrounded Mr. George. Mr. George is a young man who is isolated in a classroom, who has been going to school with no academic teaching, no ability to fraternize with his fellow students, no ability to eat in

the lunchroom, and no expectation of any kind of spring break.

Madam Speaker, you ask: Well, he has obviously misbehaved.

No. He has over a 3.0 grade point average. He is an excellent student, but he is being there because of his hairstyle. I need the Secretary of Education to help this young man and go to his classroom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Save him from this isolation and prison-like environment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

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#### CHEROKEE GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cherokee High School Girls Varsity Basketball team for winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 1A State Championship title for the first time since 1996.

The Cherokee Lady Braves defeated their opponent by a dominating 42 points, making the final score 74-32.

The entire team contributed to a historic State championship with every player on the Cherokee roster making an appearance in the game.

The Lady Braves showcased the very best high school athletics, and I am confident that their determination, leadership, and perseverance will prepare them for success on and off the court.

Fans tuned in at home and across the country, including Shaquille O'Neal, who shared his congratulations on Instagram.

Congratulations to the Lady Braves on a remarkable victory. They have made western North Carolina proud.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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

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

EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION  
INTEGRITY ACT OF 2023

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6306) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to prohibit the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity beneficially owned by the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6306

*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 "Embassy Construction Integrity Act of 2023".

## SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC POSTS BUILT OR OWNED BY CERTAIN ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall take such steps as may be necessary to avoid or minimize—

(1) acquiring or leasing a covered building—

(A) with respect to which a covered entity performed covered construction on or after January 1, 1949; or

(B) in which a covered entity has an ownership interest; or

(2) entering into or renewing a contract or other agreement with a covered entity to perform covered construction with respect to a covered building.

## (b) NOTIFICATION OF INCONSISTENT ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate—

(A) not later than 7 days before entering into an acquisition, lease, or agreement after the date of enactment of this Act that the Secretary is aware is inconsistent with the restriction under subsection (a); and

(B) not later than 7 days after becoming aware of an acquisition, lease, or agreement occurring after the date of enactment of this Act that is inconsistent with the restriction under subsection (a).

(2) DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall also include, to the extent applicable—

(A) a determination of whether the inconsistent acquisition, lease, or agreement is in the national security interest of the United States;

(B) an identification of the interest advanced by such inconsistent action;

(C) a detailed explanation for such determination; and

(D) any action the Secretary has taken or intends to take to mitigate national security vulnerabilities that may be posed by such inconsistent action.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED BUILDING.—The term "covered building" means a building that is used or intended to be used by personnel, or for a function, of a consular or diplomatic post located outside of the United States.

(2) COVERED CONSTRUCTION.—The term "covered construction"—

(A) means any construction, development, conversion, extension, alteration, repair, or maintenance performed with respect to a building; and

(B) includes the installation or maintenance of electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, communication, fire protection, and energy management systems with respect to such building.

(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term "covered entity" means an entity with respect to which the Government of the People's Republic of China, or an agent or instrumentality of the Government of the People's Republic of China, directly or indirectly, including through any contract, arrangement, understanding, or relationship—

(A) owns or controls a significant percent of the ownership interest; or

(B) otherwise exercises substantial control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLS), the author of this bill.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, the Embassy Construction Integrity Act is very simple: America's adversaries must not be involved in building our diplomatic and consular posts.

This, in my opinion, is a common-sense bill, or at least it should be. Last year, Congress was made aware that a Chinese state-owned enterprise was involved in the construction of a post in south Asia.

Despite all of the bureaucratic red tape the State Department goes through to establish these posts, somehow checking whether the Chinese Government controls the companies constructing the building didn't quite make the list.

The Chinese Government has established a pattern of leveraging its state-owned enterprise to serve dual functions during and after construction to spy on sensitive facilities.

Chinese-owned companies built the African Union headquarters. Like many things, they can't just build something, they have to build it with Chinese characteristics. In this case, those Chinese characteristics were spyware that was utilized to quietly siphon enormous amounts of data every night for the Chinese Government.

According to a study by Joshua Meservey, an expert in African geo-

politics, Chinese companies have built nearly 200 government facilities in Africa, a number that is sure to have only increased since the study was published.

I am not telling other countries who they can or cannot employ to construct their buildings. My bill is simple, however, that when our adversaries show us how they operate, that we should believe them and take steps to mitigate those risks.

Specifically, this bill requires the State Department, before establishing a new diplomatic or consular post, to identify the beneficial owners of the companies involved in the construction and maintenance of those buildings.

Further, this bill prohibits the State Department from entering into contracts or agreements if the beneficial owners of the companies are affiliated with the Chinese Government.

Finally, if inconsistent actions are discovered, the Secretary of State would be required to report it to Congress within 7 days.

Briefly, it is important to address the fact that it would be impossible for the State Department to operate in China if they weren't allowed to contract with some of these companies. The bill is carefully crafted to avoid stifling the important work of the State Department in China or the limited other locations where inconsistent measures may be the only option. However, even in these cases, Congress should be notified so that we do our job and have proper oversight for all of these activities.

Aside from those extraordinarily limited circumstances, the State Department must conduct greater due diligence to secure the integrity of our embassies and other consular posts around the world.

I express my sincere gratitude to Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member MEEKS, my bipartisan colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee who unanimously voted in favor of this bill during its markup, and each of their staffs who worked with me to secure it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 6306.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6306. Over the past 3 years, our country has made critical headway in expanding the United States' diplomatic footprint, including opening new, strategically located facilities in the Indo-Pacific region. Our Nation has always been at its best when we engage intensely in diplomatic efforts to defend and advance both interests and ideals around the world, and that is why it is so critical that we equip our diplomats with the resources they need.

As part of this work, the State Department works regularly to open, renew, or modernize its facilities around the world so that U.S. diplomats can effectively advance our interests around the world. I am proud

that this work has included reestablishing our embassy operations in Kyiv to stand with Ukraine after Russia's unprovoked, full-scale invasion in 2022.

When we raise the U.S. flag on a new or updated diplomatic facility abroad, it is a powerful signal of our commitment to democracy and peaceful, productive engagement between nations.

In maintaining its facilities around the world, the State Department mitigates security and counterintelligence risks through tailored, site-specific measures that address the particular challenges of a specific locale. The Department has deep expertise in this area, informed by decades of experience to harden our security posture, counter our adversaries, and open our doors to those who wish to learn about and engage with the United States.

Congress has played a role in developing this expertise, too, as evidenced in bipartisan reforms to the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act that we passed into law last Congress. We must continue to ensure the State Department has the flexibility to balance bold, expeditionary diplomacy, while mitigating operational risks.

With this bill before us today, the House Foreign Affairs Committee worked in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the Department has the needed flexibility to advance the Department's ongoing efforts to maintain and open new facilities, even as we seek to minimize risks in embassy construction or maintenance that our competitors could exploit.

I am pleased to support this measure, and I invite my colleagues to do the same. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

In closing, the State Department's efforts to expand our diplomatic footprint and enhance its existing facilities worldwide showcase America's dedication to effective diplomacy and international cooperation.

The operational security and effectiveness of these facilities is paramount, and the State Department has demonstrable success in building facilities tailored to mitigate country-specific risks. Our congressional reforms have supported this mission, providing the necessary framework for safe and dynamic diplomacy while ensuring that State has the flexibility it needs to build and maintain its facilities around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 6306, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Congressman MILLS for his leadership in fixing this national security vulnerability. I also thank Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member MEEKS, and our Committee on Foreign Affairs colleagues for bringing this critical, bipartisan bill to the floor.

This legislation will ensure that our diplomatic buildings overseas do not

fall victim to the active, ongoing surveillance and espionage efforts of the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous support for H.R. 6306, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6306, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of State to avoid or minimize the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### UPHOLDING THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4723) to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4723

*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 "Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act".

#### SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty, territorial integrity, multi-ethnic character and the prosperity of the Republika Srpska entity, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entity, and the Brcko District within one Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(2) to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration;

(3) to encourage officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina to resume institutional participation at all levels of government to advance functionality and common-sense reforms for greater prosperity;

(4) to call on Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights;

(5) to support the robust use of targeted sanctions against persons who undermine the Dayton Peace Agreement, as well as the democratic institutions and Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to support peace and stability in that country;

(6) to urge the European Union to join the United States and United Kingdom in sanctioning Milorad Dodik, a member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his actions that undermine the stability and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(7) to expose and condemn the Government of Russia for its role in fueling instability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement, the role of the Office of the High Representative, and the European Union Force in BiH's Operation Althea;

(8) to work with other regional states, including Serbia and Croatia, to support the territorial integrity and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

(9) to encourage the United States to use its voice and vote at the United Nations, the Peace Implementation Council and its Steering Board, and other relevant international bodies to support the Office of the High Representative.

#### SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS UNDERMINING THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT OR THREATENING THE SECURITY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

##### (a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) LIST 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 list of foreign persons that are determined—

(A) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, any action or policy that threatens the peace, security, stability, or territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including actions that seek to undermine the authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina's state-level institutions, such as forming illegal parallel institutions or actions that threaten the Office of the High Representative;

(B) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, any action or policy that undermines democratic processes or institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(C) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, or to have attempted, a violation of, or an act that has obstructed or threatened the implementation of, the Dayton Peace Agreement or the Conclusions of the Peace Implementation Conference Council held in London in December 1995, including the decisions or conclusions of the Office of the High Representative, the Peace Implementation Council, or its Steering Board;

(D) to be a member, official, or senior leader of an illegal parallel institution or any other institution that engages in activities described in subparagraph (A), (B) or (C), as determined by the Secretary of State;

(E) to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, or attempted to engage in, corruption related to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including corruption by, on behalf of, or otherwise related to the government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or a current or former government official at any level of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as the misappropriation of public assets, expropriation of private assets for personal gain or political purposes, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources or bribery;

(F) to be an adult family member of any foreign person described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E), unless the President determines that the adult family member—

(i) has condemned the activity or activities of the foreign person described in any such subparagraph; and

(ii) has taken tangible steps to oppose the activity or activities;

(G) to have knowingly facilitated a significant transaction or transactions for or on behalf of a foreign person described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E);

(H) to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, a foreign person described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E); or

(I) to have knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, a foreign person described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E).

(2) **IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**—Upon the submission of each list required by paragraph (1), the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each foreign person identified on the list.

(b) **ADDITIONAL MEASURE RELATING TO FACILITATION OF TRANSACTIONS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may, in consultation with the Secretary of State, prohibit or impose strict conditions on the opening or maintaining in the United States of a correspondent account or payable-through account by a foreign financial institution that the President determines has, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, knowingly conducted or facilitated a significant transaction or transactions on behalf of a foreign person on the list required by subsection (a)(1).

(c) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) **PROPERTY BLOCKING.**—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the President may exercise of all powers granted to the President by that Act to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the foreign person 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.

(2) **ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISION, OR PAROLE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien on the list required by subsection (a)(1) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible for a visa or travel to the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The visa or other documentation issued to an alien on the list required by subsection (a)(1) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other documentation is or was issued.

(ii) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A visa or other entry documentation revoked under clause (i) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), no longer be valid for travel to the United States.

(d) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Sanctions under subsection (c)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if the admission of the alien is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, the Convention on Consular Relations, done at

Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other applicable international obligations.

(3) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.**—Sanctions under this section may not be imposed with respect to transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

(A) the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices;

(B) the provision of humanitarian assistance;

(C) financial transactions relating to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian purposes; and

(D) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assistance or humanitarian purposes.

(4) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The authorities and requirements under this section 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.

(e) **WAIVER.**—The President may, on a case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 180 days each, waive the application of sanctions or restrictions imposed with respect to a foreign person under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take effect that the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, prescribe regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act.

(2) **NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 10 days before the prescription of regulations under paragraph (1), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees regarding the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act that the regulations are implementing.

(g) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—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 Act.

(h) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed to carry out this Act to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(i) **TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.**—The President may terminate the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person if the President determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days before the termination of the sanctions that—

(1) credible information exists that the foreign person did not engage in the activity for which sanctions were imposed;

(2) the foreign person has been prosecuted and sentenced appropriately for the activity for which sanctions were imposed; or

(3) the foreign person has credibly demonstrated a significant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate consequence for the activity for which sanctions were imposed, and has credibly committed to not engage in an activity described in subsection (a)(1) in the future.

#### SEC. 4. CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE WESTERN BALKANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each sanction imposed through Executive orders described in subsection (b), including each sanction imposed with respect to a person under such an Executive order, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, shall remain in effect, except as provided in subsection (c).

(b) **EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.**—The Executive orders specified in this subsection are—

(1) Executive Order 13219 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of persons who threaten international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) Executive Order 14033 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons contributing to the destabilizing situation in the Western Balkans), as in effect on such date of enactment.

(c) **TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.**—The President may terminate the application of a sanction described in subsection (a) with respect to a person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) such person—

(A) is not engaging in the activity that was the basis for such sanctions; or

(B) has taken significant verifiable steps toward stopping such activity; and

(2) the President has received reliable assurances that such person will not knowingly engage in activity subject to such sanctions in the future.

(d) **SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS UNCHANGED.**—This section may not be construed to create any new authorities or requirements related to sanctions on the importation of goods.

#### SEC. 5. CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION IN IMPOSING SANCTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a person or foreign person, as the case may be, meets the criteria of a person described in section 3(a)(1) or a person described in Executive Order 13219 or Executive Order 14033 as provided for in section 4(b), or any Executive order issued pursuant to this Act or under the Balkans regulatory regime, the President shall—

(1) determine if the person or foreign person, as the case may be, meets such criteria; and

(2) submit a classified or unclassified report to such chairman and ranking member with respect to such determination that includes a statement of whether or not the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions with respect to such person or foreign person.

(b) **SUNSET.**—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(3) **CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.**—The terms “correspondent account” and “payable-through

account" have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

(4) DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT.—The term "Dayton Peace Agreement", also known as the "Dayton Accords", means the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, initiated by the parties in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris on December 14, 1995.

(5) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term "foreign financial institution" has the meaning of that term as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury by regulation.

(6) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term "foreign person" means a person that is not a United States person.

(7) ILLEGAL PARALLEL INSTITUTION.—The term "illegal parallel institution" means an agency, structure, or instrumentality at the Republika Srpska entity level that disrupts the authority of the state-level institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and undermines its constitutional order.

(8) 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.

(9) PERSON.—The term "person" means an individual or entity.

(10) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term "United States person" means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

#### SEC. 7. SUNSET.

This Act and the authorities provided by this Act shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 1995, the Dayton Accords brought an end to more than 3 horrific years of war and genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina and ushered in a new era of peace.

Today, this peace is being threatened. Self-serving, corrupt politicians like Milorad Dodik are engaged in a sustained attack on Bosnia's unity, sovereignty, and multiethnic character.

As Dodik and his cronies know well, a prosperous and western-facing Bosnia and Herzegovina threatens their personal power and ill-gotten wealth. They are willing to tear the country apart to maintain control over their il-

llicit patronage networks, aided and abetted by the destructive Putin regime, which fears Bosnia's integration with the west.

Dodik, who has been under U.S. sanctions for more than 2 years, continues to threaten secession in public interviews and through reckless and inflammatory policies.

According to Treasury, he: "Has used his official BiH position and a network of personal ties and companies to accumulate personal wealth through graft, bribery, and other forms of corruption."

These actions have drastic consequences. The 2024 Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community concluded that the Western Balkans will face an increased risk of localized interethnic violence during 2024.

At a time when the United States faces conflicts and crises around the world, we cannot afford to see the Western Balkans descend into chaos.

The Dayton Peace Agreement that ended the Bosnian war may be flawed, but it is holding Bosnia together during this period of rising ethnic tension, corruption, and Russian aggression. However, because of the reckless actions of a few cynical elite, Bosnia's stability and sovereignty are at risk.

As a guarantor of the Dayton Peace Agreement, the United States must use its economic toolkit to deter corruption, obstructionism, and secessionism in Bosnia and promote its accession to Euro-Atlantic institutions.

My bill, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act, does just this. Through this bill, we will impose and codify sanctions against bad actors like Milorad Dodik, who continue their agenda of secessionism, corruption, and destabilization.

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Mr. Speaker, sanctions work. In a hearing before the Europe Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Deputy Assistant Secretary Gabriel Escobar shared with us that officials in Bosnia's Dodik-controlled Serb entity begged the U.S. to please, please, no more sanctions.

However, much more leverage needs to be brought to bear against Dodik's inner circle, their Russian backers, and the corrupt politicians who recklessly use their country's dysfunction to grow their power and their wealth. My bill would hold these criminals and politicians accountable and deter others who would seek to undermine peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TURNER, Representative KEAN, and Representative WILD for introducing this bill with me. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL McCaul,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCaul: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Financial Services regarding H.R. 4723, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act. I agree that the Committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4723 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

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

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2024.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4723, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. McCaul,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL McCaul,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCaul: I write regarding H.R. 4723, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way

alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4723 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, March 11, 2024.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4723, the Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCUAUL,  
Chairman.

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

As the lead Democrat on H.R. 4723, I rise in strong support of this bill.

The United States, working alongside Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia, crafted a tenuous diplomatic settlement to end the fighting and keep the peace in Balkans in the wake of the devastating wars of the 1990s. The resulting framework has been frustratingly imperfect, but it has provided a path forward for Bosnia and, indeed, for the entire region.

This legislation calls attention to the difficulties facing Bosnia as it seeks to join the EU. It calls for critically needed reforms to ensure that all Bosnians can have a voice in their government, and it addresses the forces that threaten the region's fragile peace.

Neither progress nor peace in the region are inevitable. These trends require an enduring commitment to fostering them. The bill reaffirms that U.S. commitment, along with our partners in Europe, to actively maintain peace.

The sanctions imposed under this bill provide a necessary disincentive to ensure that the Dayton Agreements hold

strong and do not unravel under political pressure. The sanctions section include waiver language and appropriate exceptions for intelligence activities, humanitarian aid, and to comply with our international agreements.

Despite clear challenges, Bosnia has made strides on meeting the EU membership criteria for integration. It is in the interest of the United States to help ensure that Bosnia meets its compliance with EU rules and standards, so that its accession to the bloc can happen as soon as viable.

I want to take a moment to recognize and thank my colleague, Representative WAGNER, for leading this effort, as well as for her longstanding work to support peace and progress in this region.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this bill turns our attention to a region where U.S. presence and diplomacy go a long way.

The European Union also realizes that progress in Bosnia and the surrounding region is not inevitable. In that light, I welcome the EU's decision to open membership negotiations.

Transatlantic cooperation between the U.S. and the EU is essential to not only keeping the peace in the western Balkans, but also ensuring a democratic and prosperous future.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 4723, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as the vice chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as Representative of the largest Bosnian community outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I know what the consequences will be if we fail to stand strong against destructive politicians who seek to undo years of peace.

If we let the Dayton Accords—a symbol of American leadership and commitment—collapse, then we risk seeing violence return to Bosnia. Adversaries like Russia and China would welcome these upheavals and solidify a stronger economic and security foothold.

I remind my colleagues that Congress has acted on this once before. Last Congress, I introduced a similar version of this bill which passed the U.S. House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support.

This time, the stakes are much higher. With our adversaries emboldened like never before, Congress must act and confront these potent threats to peace and stability.

Will we turn a blind eye to corrupt autocrats like Milorad Dodik, or will we uphold the peace secured by the Dayton Accords many years ago?

To me, the choice is obvious.

Time is running out to send a strong deterrent message to bad actors intent on destabilizing the country.

Let's pass this bill again and get it to the President's desk so that the United States has the tools that it needs to break the ethnonationalist and Russian hold on Bosnia's future.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4723, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PASSPORT SYSTEM REFORM AND BACKLOG PREVENTION ACT

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6610) to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6610

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Standards for passport issuance process.
- Sec. 5. Enhanced information technology solutions to improve the passport issuance process.
- Sec. 6. Research on commercially available information technology solutions.
- Sec. 7. GAO Report.
- Sec. 8. Rule of construction.
- Sec. 9. Definitions.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States experienced a major backlog of passport applications and passport processing wait times of up to 13 weeks, exclusive of shipping times.

(2) Over the past several years, the Department has experienced repeated delays in its attempts to modernize the passport issuance process.

(3) The adoption of additional commercially available information technology solutions at several stages of the passport issuance process could greatly enhance and accelerate such process.

(4) The United States passport is a widely recognized and trusted identity and travel document that is of tremendous importance to its bearer around the globe.

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) as a routine matter, an adult who has submitted a routine new or renewal passport application should be reliably able to expect that such application will be adjudicated by

the Department, at a reasonable cost, in a time frame which is conducive to international travel;

(2) the Department should seek to further modernize and streamline the passport issuance process to enable a decrease in processing times below pre-pandemic levels of six-to-eight weeks, specifically for routine adult passport renewals with respect to which the Department should seek to decrease average processing times to less than 30 days; and

(3) the Department should take all reasonable steps, including the use of available technology and best practices, to protect the integrity of the passport issuance process, the privacy of passport holders, and the efficiency of processing passport issuance requests.

#### SEC. 4. STANDARDS FOR PASSPORT ISSUANCE PROCESS.

In administering and modernizing the passport issuance process, the Assistant Secretary shall evaluate the performance of such process against the following criteria:

(1) To maintain a service standard of processing a routine new or renewal adult passport application from document submission until mailing of final documents in an expeditious and reliable timeframe.

(2) To maintain affordable passport fees and surcharges.

(3) To ensure world-class technical, security, and cybersecurity standards for United States passports and the passport issuance process.

(4) To minimize downtime for the Travel Document Issuance System.

(5) To minimize the suspense rate resulting from typographical, clerical, or picture-based errors, including by enabling such suspensions to be resolved electronically.

(6) To provide a streamlined customer experience for passport applicants.

(7) To provide reasonably convenient passport services to United States citizens and nationals living a significant distance from a passport agency, particularly residents in a significant population center more than a 5-hour drive from a passport agency.

#### SEC. 5. ENHANCED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE PASSPORT ISSUANCE PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall implement the information technology solutions described in subsection (b) in accordance with the timelines described in such subsection.

(b) ENHANCED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS AND TIMELINES DESCRIBED.—The enhanced information technology solutions and timelines described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall, including if necessary through the awarding of a contract or expanding an existing, establish a tool to enable congressional offices to monitor the status of individual passport applications being handled as casework by such offices.

(2)(A) Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall take all reasonable steps, including if necessary the awarding of a contract for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a service to provide to passport applicants automated, voluntary proactive communications, by email or text message, for each progress point in the passport issuance process, and for the notification of application errors, and delivery of mail tracking numbers, and reminders of renewal eligibility.

(B) Applicants shall be provided the choice of whether to use the services described in subparagraph (A) and data gained as a result of participation in such services shall not be transferred to any third party outside the Department or its contract awardees.

(C) The services described in subparagraph (A) shall provide separate options for email and text message notification, as well as separate options for processing-related notifications and renewal eligibility notifications.

(3)(A) Consistent with the Bureau's modernization plans and timelines, and subject to the availability of funds, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall seek to enter into a contract or contracts as appropriate, for the establishment and maintenance of a mobile application to allow for the centralization of applicant communication with the Department, including document submission, application status tracking, virtual appointments, access to the notification of application errors, and allowing for passport holders to receive messages from the Department and communicate emergencies to the Department.

(B) The Assistant Secretary shall provide each passport applicant with the option of whether to use the mobile application described in subparagraph (A) or another service of the Department.

(C) As a condition for awarding any contracts described in subparagraph (A), the awardee shall demonstrate that it can begin tests on the solution within one year of the award of the contract and complete implementation, including bug fixes, cybersecurity audits, and customer service testing, not later than two years from the award of the contract.

(4)(A) Consistent with existing law, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall expand the online passport renewal system, including to accommodate electronic acceptance of routine first-time adult applications as applicable, in addition to adult renewal applications in sufficient volume to be able to accommodate most applications by the date that is four years from the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) Planning carried out to implement subparagraph (A) shall prepare the Bureau to verify applications without recourse to the information gained through appearance in person described in section 1 of the Act of June 15, 1917 (22 U.S.C. 213), subject to any additional authorities required.

(C) To meet the objectives described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make use of commercially-available technology solutions, including by seeking to enter into a contract or contracts for the expansion and maintenance of the online passport renewal system to accommodate the functionality described in such subparagraphs.

(D) In expanding the online passport renewal system pursuant to subparagraph (C), the following services should be included or otherwise accounted for:

(i) A customer-friendly, user-friendly internet website or portal to facilitate internet-based submission of passport applications by adults.

(ii) To the extent possible, remote document verification tools and infrastructure, to allow for a passport transaction to be completed entirely remotely.

(iii) To the extent possible, information technology infrastructure not already maintained by the Department.

(5)(A) The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall take all reasonable steps and to the

maximum extent practicable make use of commercially-available technology solutions to implement additional rules-based tools, including by seeking to enter into a contract or contracts for such tools and their maintenance, to adjudicate online passport renewal applications in which no biographical information was changed for citizenship, identity, and entitlement against internal and commercial databases.

(B) The tools described in subparagraph (A) shall be fully operational within 4 years of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) The Chief Information Officer shall ensure that the use of the tools do not make passport adjudication more vulnerable to cyberattack.

(D) The Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall ensure that the tools described in subparagraph (A) are implemented consistent with the maintenance of standards appropriate to ensuring the integrity of the United States passport.

(E) For purposes of using the tools described in subparagraph (A), the requirement that a passport be issued by the personnel described in the first section of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the issue and validity of passports, and for other purposes", approved July 3, 1926 (22 U.S.C. 211a), shall be satisfied provided that such personnel oversee the tools described in such subparagraph consistent with the requirements in subparagraph (D).

(c) CERTIFICATION.—In addition to other requirements in this section, not later than 30 days before the Assistant Secretary begins work to procure internally any of the information technology solutions described in subsection (b), the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer, shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the reasons for procuring such service internally;

(2) the Bureau has sufficient capacity to implement and maintain such services; and

(3) the Bureau cannot procure such services for significantly reduced cost externally.

(d) PREFERENCE.—In procuring and implementing the information technology solutions described in subsection (b), preference should be given to entities with the technical expertise necessary for the project and capacity to deliver timely solutions.

(e) ROLE OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Information Officer's concurrence shall be required before the Assistant Secretary awards a contract pursuant to this section.

(2) RELATING TO SYSTEMS.—With respect to the contracting and implementation of the systems described in subsection (b), the Chief Information Officer shall have—

(A) final decision making authority on the technical feasibility and specifications, cybersecurity requirements, compatibility with existing Department information technology infrastructure, and the feasibility of timelines from a technical standpoint; and

(B) final approval of all technical matters before full implementation.

(3) EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS.—In selecting the services described in subsection (b), the Assistant Secretary and the Chief Information Officer shall include in the criteria for selection—

(A) the ability of the proposal to maintain security, including the cybersecurity, standards appropriate to the United States passport and to protect personally identifiable information;

(B) scalability to accommodate current and future passport demand; and

(C) long-term viability and upgradability.

(f) INTERIM ACTION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an action plan on how the Bureau plans to complete the modernization described in this section in conjunction with other related, ongoing steps to modernize the passport issuance process.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The action plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) Progress made on implementing the information technology solutions described in subsection (b) within specific timelines, and additional steps planned.

(B) The expected cost and timeline for implementation of the information technology solutions described in subsection (b).

(C) An evaluation of the information technology solutions described in subsection (b) to determine whether the full implementation of such solutions will require additional funding or authorities, including budget estimates and a description of such authorities, as appropriate.

(D) Efforts to ensure world-class cybersecurity standards for protection of passport applicant data and the passport issuance process infrastructure, particularly such infrastructure involved in adjudication of passport applications.

(E) Other specific planned steps that the Bureau will take to achieve the criteria described in section 4.

(g) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

(1) Progress on each information technology solution described in subsection (b).

(2) Additional information technology solutions the Bureau intends to adopt.

(3) Changes in the cost for implementation of the steps described in the action plan, if applicable.

(h) FORM.—The plans and report required by this section shall be submitted in an unclassified form and may include a classified annex, if necessary.

#### SEC. 6. RESEARCH ON COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer, shall establish a working group of appropriate Department employees, and contractors as appropriate, to liaise with the private sector for the purposes of identifying commercially available technologies that may be adopted by the Bureau to advance the criteria described in section 4, evaluating proposed technological solutions, and augmenting the Bureau's ongoing modernization efforts.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The working group established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be composed of personnel who can consult on the policy, legal, and technical aspects of the passport issuance process with entities that wish to provide such technologies to the Department.

(c) PILOT PROJECTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group established pursuant to subsection (a) should consider piloting not fewer than three commercial information technology systems with potential to accelerate the passport renewal process, reduce the backlog of requests, and backup legacy systems with cloud-based software solutions.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary, in coordination with

the Chief Information Officer, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

(1) describing the usefulness of the working group to the Department's ongoing modernization efforts and its reception by private sector actors;

(2) containing a summary of each proposal made to the working group pursuant to this section and whether the Secretary intends to adopt each proposal;

(3) providing recommendations to scale successful solutions.

#### SEC. 7. GAO REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a comprehensive review of the passport issuance process, including—

(1) the Bureau's goals for timeliness of passport issuance, the basis for such goals, and its performance compared to those goals;

(2) key factors affecting timeliness of passport issuance and the extent to which the Bureau has addressed those factors;

(3) key factors affecting the implementation of technological solutions by the Bureau;

(4) the Bureau's efforts to implement the Travel Document Issuance System (TDIS) and other related information technology systems that support the passport issuance process with a focus on—

(A) whether the Bureau is following leading practices for developing, acquiring, and overseeing related system and infrastructure investments and leveraging existing technologies where appropriate;

(B) whether the program has the workforce to resolve technical issues within the systems; and

(C) identifying any vulnerabilities and limitations of the system that may impact performance, including single points of failure;

(5) opportunities to streamline, expedite, and otherwise enhance the Bureau's passport issuance processes, including opportunities to reduce costs in the passport issuance process;

(6) opportunities to partner with other Federal and State agencies and leverage existing United States Government information sources, such as biometric databases, in support of the application and identity verification and resolution components of the passport issuance process; and

(7) other matters as the Comptroller General may deem appropriate.

(b) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) brief the appropriate congressional committees on the review required by subsection (a); and

(2) submit a final report upon completion of such review.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the report required by subsection (b)(2) is submitted, the Assistant Secretary and the Chief Information Officer shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress toward resolution of each recommendation made in the report required by such subsection and planned steps that will be taken to resolve each recommendation.

#### SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed as an offer to procure a service or services or as a guarantee of a contract for such services.

#### SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(2) the term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs;

(3) except as otherwise provided, the term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department;

(4) the term “Chief Information Officer” means the Chief Information Officer of the Bureau;

(5) except as otherwise provided, the term “Department” means the Department of State;

(6) the term “passport issuance process”—

(A) means all steps of passport issuance for a new passport or renewal of a passport, as appropriate, from the applicant's submission of documents through document processing and application adjudication to mailing of printed passports; and

(B) includes—

(i) the passport application submission, which includes—

(I) the portion of the passport issuance process from and including passport acceptance by a passport acceptance agent until documents are received by the Department; and

(II) payment processing and mail shipping times; and

(ii) the passport application processing, which includes the portion of the passport issuance process from the reception of completed applications and their distribution to passport agencies for adjudication until finished passports and application documents are mailed to applicants; and

(7) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I will try not to take more time than is necessary for a bipartisan bill that has broad support, but I do rise today in support of H.R. 6610, the Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act.

I became the author of this bill not in the usual way as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, but actually as a man who has three constituent service personnel who spend a great deal of their time dealing with the fact that when a backlog becomes pervasive, what ends up happening is every passport renewal becomes an emergency, and it becomes an expedited payment. It becomes, in short, a problem that should not have happened.

We certainly understand that during COVID there were a number of problems. One of them was the State Department had never prepared for being able to, in any remote way, process passports. So during that time, the backlog became understandably immense.

Be that as it may, in the several years since COVID has passed, the backlog has continued, and it has never reached an acceptable point for the American people.

Even today, Mr. Speaker, when you surrender a passport for renewal, you have no idea whether it will be weeks or even months before you get one. Most people are advised to pay the expedited fee. In fact, the expedited fee seldom gives them the speed that was intended.

We have talked to several countries, if you will, not necessarily our peers, but countries that have the same challenges we have. Britain, Japan, and Australia routinely reauthorize within a matter of days while we take a 5- to 8-week turnaround.

That is unacceptable. We are the country that effectively created the computer, created automation, and created the ability for something as mundane as adding a new picture to a previously issued passport. We should and could beat this.

The modernization is the first since the days of the early modem, the item that made sound and certainly could transport only a small amount of information.

Congressional intervention is needed. The State Department understands that, and for that reason, we have five basic principles in this, the most important of which is that we ask for private-sector techniques to be used and, in fact, for the State Department to work with the private sector that is more than capable of creating a faster system. In fact, some American companies are processing passports for other countries.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6610.

As we all recall, the State Department experienced an unprecedented level of demand for passports after a global slowdown in travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our constituents were frustrated by the significant processing wait times they faced in securing their passports.

As this bill moved through the Foreign Affairs Committee, we were pleased to learn that the State Department had achieved prepandemic passport processing times again. Nonetheless, the work we must undertake going forward is to ensure that the Bureau of Consular Affairs and other relevant department entities have the tools, analysis, and resources that they need to sustain ups and downs in consular demand. The State Department is

already working to modernize and streamline its passport processing, and this legislation supports those efforts.

This bill, as amended by the Foreign Affairs Committee, will further modernize passport processing through a range of important mechanisms. We must not saddle the department with unfunded mandates or inefficient solutions.

Congress must offer guidance and support to ensure that the State Department can get the job of modernization done. Americans deserve the best practices and smartest technologies to inform the department's provision of consular services.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to partner with my colleagues in Congress, at the State Department, and beyond to advance this objective.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the unprecedented demand for passports postpandemic created significant backlogs at the Department of State and frustratingly long passport processing times. I am glad that those processing times are now back at prepandemic levels and that the State Department's consular bureau is already modernizing its passport processing.

Be that as it may, it is our responsibility to ensure that the department has what it needs to handle any future shifts in demand. This bill will ensure that American travelers can always count on efficient and reliable passport services by integrating cutting-edge practices and technologies into our consular services.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 6610, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have worked with Mr. ISSA and our Foreign Affairs colleagues to bring this bill before the House today.

H.R. 6610 modernizes processing capabilities at the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs. That means new performance standards for issuing passports, new tools for our case-workers to track our constituents' passport requests, and new text and email notifications for Americans throughout the whole passport process so they know where their applications stand and how much longer the process is likely to take.

Finally, H.R. 6610 requires the State Department to expand the online passport renewal system so that Americans can apply for and get the travel documents they need as efficiently as possible.

I commend Representative ISSA for prodding the State Department to adopt the best commercially available technology solutions. The private sector has much to offer that will reduce wait times and streamline bureaucracy at the State Department.

I also thank Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member MEEKS, and the bipartisan members of the Foreign Af-

fairs Committee who voted unanimously for this bill during the committee markup.

The American people deserve a more responsive passport process when they seek to exercise their right to travel. For that reason, H.R. 6610 deserves our unanimous support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6610, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

#### CONDEMNING THE ILLEGAL ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 149) condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 149

Whereas, on January 12, 1951, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (commonly known as the "Genocide Convention"), of which the Russian Federation is a party, came into effect;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation escalated its eight-year-long occupation of sovereign Ukrainian territory by launching an unprovoked large-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 9, 2022, Russian Forces attacked a maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of 5 individuals and injuries to 17 other individuals;

Whereas, on March 22, 2022, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry announced that the Russian military had illegally abducted and forcibly transferred 2,389 Ukrainian children from temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine;

Whereas, on June 2, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that 200,000 children are among the Ukrainians who have been forcibly transferred to Russia;

Whereas forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the Genocide Convention;

Whereas Maria Lvova-Belova, Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of Russia, admitted to abducting and forcibly transferring Ukrainian children and facilitating forced adoptions to Russian families;

Whereas Ukrainian authorities have stated that a number of the abducted and forcibly transferred Ukrainian children have families who remain in Ukraine, but have been separated due to the renewed Russian invasion;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, Russian authorities announced that children born in occupied Ukrainian territories after the February 24, 2022, invasion will be deemed Russian citizens;

Whereas, on June 22, 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner verified that at least 320 children have been killed since Russia's renewed invasion began;

Whereas, on July 11, 2022, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres ordered an investigation into the deaths and injuries of Ukrainian children; and

Whereas, on July 13, 2022, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken issued a statement calling upon Russia to "immediately halt its systemic filtration operations in Ukraine", which have caused the disappearance, detention, or forcible deportation of between 900,000 and 1,600,000 Ukrainians (approximately 260,000 of whom are children): Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) declares that the abduction and forcible transfer of children and facilitation of illegal adoptions is contrary to Russia's obligations under the Genocide Convention and amounts to genocide;

(2) further declares that the Russian Federation is attempting to wipe out a generation of Ukrainian children, thereby crippling Ukraine's ability to nurture the next generation of Ukrainian citizens and leaders and to rebuild their country after Russia's unprovoked war, with the purpose of demolishing Ukraine's unique language, culture, history, and identity;

(3) notes with concern that the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has significantly increased the risks of children being exposed to human trafficking and exploitation, child labor, gender-based violence, hunger, injury, trauma, deprivation of education and shelter, and death; and

(4) holds the Government of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, responsible for the wrongful and illegal abduction and forcible transfer of children from Ukraine and officially condemns these actions in the strongest terms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine, we continue to witness unspeakable acts perpetrated by Vladimir Putin's forces. Since the start of the war, Ukrainian officials estimate that over 120,000 war crimes have been committed by lawless Russian invaders.

One of the most horrific acts being conducted by the Putin regime is the kidnapping of Ukrainian children to Russia and occupied territories. Since February 2022, more than 19,000 children have been forcibly deported from their homeland—possibly many, many more.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations has stated that: "Ukraine has

strong grounds to believe that several hundred thousand Ukrainian children were forcibly, unlawfully taken."

Not only have these children been kidnapped and handed over to Russian families, but they have also been forced into pro-Russia reeducation systems. They are being brainwashed, taught to hate their home country and to love their oppressors, Russia.

Kidnapped Ukrainian children are being taught that Ukraine does not exist as a sovereign country and that Russia is conducting some sort of justified mission for mankind. Additionally, if they don't comply or fall in line, these children face punishment and abuse.

Russia's depravity gets even more twisted, Mr. Speaker. There are reports that kidnapped Ukrainian teenagers are being conscripted to fight in Ukraine on behalf of the Russian Federation. Ukrainian officials say Russia's efforts specifically target teenagers so that they can be turned into soldiers once they reach the age of 18.

Vladimir Putin and his commissioner for children's rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, can claim all they want that they are saving these children, but we know their true intent—the complete eradication of Ukrainian culture and identity.

Both U.S. statute and international law define genocide as acts committed with intent to destroy a people, in whole or in part, including forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

I was proud to join my colleague from Pennsylvania, Representative WILD, in introducing the resolution before us today. It rightfully condemns this barbarism and calls it what it is: genocide. We were there together on the Ukrainian border. We were there and saw Ukrainian refugees and children who have suffered this kind of abuse at the hands of Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Speaker, during our markup, this resolution received unanimous bipartisan support from the Foreign Affairs Committee. Today, the entire House has the opportunity and the moral duty to denounce Russia's genocide against these children of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Representative WILD, for shedding light on these heartbreaking abuses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this important resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 149. I introduced this resolution on behalf of my district, which counts one of the country's largest Ukrainian-American communities. Together, we have advocated and organized for this moment, and I recognize my Ukrainian-American constituents and all the extraordinary Ukrainian-American leaders whose tireless efforts led to this legislation coming to the floor of the House for a vote.

I also remember the time that Representative WAGNER and I and a couple of other members of the Foreign Affairs Committee stood right at the border of Ukraine on the Poland side and watched as children and mothers streamed across the border. It was tragic and really hard to watch, but those were the fortunate children, as we have learned. Far too many Ukrainian children have been abducted to Russia.

This vote is about sending an unequivocal message to Vladimir Putin that we stand with the Ukrainian people and that we will not stop working for justice and accountability when it comes to the atrocities that Russian forces have systemically employed in this war of aggression.

We must be clear. Russian forces have engaged in an effort to destroy Ukraine's democracy, its sovereignty, its territorial integrity, and, ultimately, its identity itself. Their crimes against children stand out as the most heinous aspect of a much larger strategy, a relentless campaign of state violence against the most vulnerable members of Ukrainian society.

As part of this effort, Russian forces have abducted and forcibly relocated thousands of Ukrainian children to Russian-occupied and affiliated areas in blatant violation of Article II(e) of the Genocide Convention.

The Russian objective is clear: to eradicate the young generations of the Ukrainians by attempting to destroy their sense of national and cultural identity. We cannot be silent in the face of these violations of Ukrainians' most fundamental rights and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working to pass this legislation unanimously through the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Finally, as meaningful as this vote is to me and my constituents, I call on the leadership of this House to hold an even more consequential vote. Mr. Speaker, the people's Representatives must be able to vote on the Senate's supplemental package containing critical assistance for Ukraine as well as humanitarian assistance for the people of Ukraine, for the Palestinian people, and for so many other populations around the world who are in dire need of assistance. We must come together in support of this national and global priority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think about the Ukrainian Americans across this country whose relatives in Ukraine are facing a relentless campaign of aggression simply because of their unrelenting quest for a democratic Ukrainian state.

We must stand with them. We must stand with the next generation of Ukrainians and ensure that they are able to continue their proud legacy.

As a people, Ukrainians have endured despite extraordinary hardship experienced across generations. Today, they are fighting for their future as a sovereign, independent democracy whose

freedom has been hard-won and is imperiled today.

Together, let us join in passing this resolution here on the floor of the House of Representatives by a resounding bipartisan margin, and let us work toward passing the assistance for the Ukrainian people that they so urgently need.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin's barbarism knows no bounds. The actions of his lawless forces against the people of Ukraine, including the forcible deportation of innocent Ukrainian children, constitute genocide.

We have the opportunity to state that truth plainly today and to stand with the grieving families of Ukraine whose children are still kidnapped inside Russia.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 149, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### REVIEW OF INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6602) to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6602

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

#### SECTION 1. REVIEW OF INTERAGENCY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS.

Section 1763(c) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4822(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “In any case” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case”;

(2) by inserting “countries subject to a comprehensive United States arms embargo,” after “matters relating to”;

(3) by striking “may be decided” and inserting “shall be decided”;

(4) by adding at the end the following: “The chair of the Committee is authorized to decide any case or matter described in the preceding sentence in which the Committee is unable to decide the case or matter by majority vote.”; and

(5) by further adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEFINITION.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘country subject to a comprehensive United States arms embargo’ means—

“(A) any country listed on table 1 to paragraph (d)(1) of section 126.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (as such section is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this paragraph); and

“(B) the Russian Federation.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, is waging an all-out economic war against the United States. The CCP is using unfair and illegal means to try to dominate the market in dual-use technologies that are shaping the modern battlefield.

Fortunately, the CCP still significantly relies on technologies from the United States, our allies, and our partners to develop advanced dual-use capabilities. For that reason, export controls are a critical tool for the United States to slow down and, in some cases, stop China's ability to develop certain capabilities.

For this strategy to work, we have to deny Chinese licenses to use American technology. Unfortunately, based on data reviewed and released by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, those licenses are rarely denied by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security, known as BIS.

For instance, during a 6-month period spanning 2020 and 2021, BIS denied less than 2 percent of licenses and approved \$100 billion worth of licenses to Huawei and SMIC. Both of those companies are considered CCP military companies by the Department of Defense and are CCP national champion technology firms.

When deciding whether to approve or deny a license, BIS generally consults other agencies that make up the Operating Committee for Export Policy, the Departments of Defense, Energy, State, and Commerce.

However, BIS is not required to follow those other agencies' advice. Sometimes, BIS actively ignores it. Statistics provided by BIS for fiscal years 2017 through 2019 show that there was a 60 percent increase of nonconsensus decisions by the operating com-

mittee during that time. In other words, over half the time, 60 percent of the time, they ignored everybody else's objections and went ahead and did whatever they wanted to, just one person's decision. That is not good.

More than 10 percent of the time, it appears the operating committee chair, which is part of the BIS, took the position that only one other operating committee member supported—also not good.

Since the Department of Commerce is both the chair and a member, this data raises concerns that Commerce may be abusing its position on the operating committee to override the considered objections of other agencies. Otherwise, why even be there?

□ 1615

This bill provides a commonsense solution to those dangers: When a license for China comes before the operating committee, the decision to approve or deny the license should be based on a majority vote by all of its members.

Each agency brings a unique view to a license and should have a voice and a vote. It makes little sense for BIS to have sole discretionary and decisional authority on those consequential issues.

In fact, when dealing with satellites and hot section jet engines, the operating committee already requires a majority vote. So my bill simply puts licenses to China on the same level as licenses for certain advanced technologies.

Chairman Xi has ordered his military to have the capability to invade Taiwan by 2027. This is a country that produces 100 percent of the chips in AI that we consume here in America, I might add.

It makes no sense for our Department of Defense to not have a vote on what capabilities may fall into the hands of the Chinese military.

I thank my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee for their unanimous, bipartisan support for this important national security reform bill during the committee markup back in December.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6602, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6602.

In recent years, our use of export controls to safeguard our national security has expanded greatly. However, these efforts have not come with a commensurate increase in the budget of the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security, or BIS, which is the U.S. Government entity leading export control efforts.

The Biden administration has vastly expanded controls against Russia and Belarus since the horrific invasion of Ukraine and has imposed unprecedented unilateral controls against China in the semi-conductor space.

This has resulted in a large increase in the license review and enforcement burden at BIS, which now processes nearly 40,000 licenses per year.

For our controls to be effective, I strongly believe that they need to be laser-focused on the highest priority cases where the national security concerns are most clear. At the moment, the Departments of State, Defense, Energy, or Commerce can individually block the approval or denial of a license by an interagency committee by escalating a decision if they don't agree with it.

This legislation will allow the chair of the operating committee to decide cases where the agencies are divided 2-2, which should mitigate the number of escalations that we see and result in a more streamlined and effective process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative McCORMICK and Chairman McCaul for working with the minority to address our concerns. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, to safeguard our national security in an ever-changing global landscape and to ensure that we are putting American workers and families first, our policies must be robust and effective, not counterproductive. If we want our export controls to work, we need to do a few things.

First and foremost, we need to make sure that we are blocking the transactions that pose a clear threat to our national security. This requires focusing on key chokepoints and specific technologies and not having blanket rules that will inundate the Bureau of Industry and Security with a review of items that are not problematic.

Second, we need to ensure that those controls are multilateral, so that the intended party isn't simply able to buy the same goods from other global suppliers or nations. Unilateral actions don't work, and they hurt American workers and families by ceding market share to foreign competitors resulting in job losses here at home.

Third, we need to ensure that the license review process is fast, effective, and that BIS has the resources and tools necessary to effectively implement and enforce controls.

So while I stand in support of Mr. McCORMICK's bill, I also urge the House to think seriously about increasing funding for BIS. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman McCaul, Ranking Member MEEKS, and my bipartisan colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee for supporting this bill before us today.

The committee is made up of a five-member panel with representatives

from the Departments of Commerce, Defense, State, and Energy, with the chair being the Bureau of Industry and Security representative who, per the governing statute, should act impartially when the Operating Committee for Export Policy convenes.

Under current law, OCEP, which is the Operating Committee for Export Policy, may resolve these issues and disputes by a majority vote. However in practice, the chair typically issues a ruling without calling a vote and most often rules in favor of the Department of Commerce, which draws into question their adherence to the directive to be impartial.

It is critical that we deny our adversaries the opportunity to access our American private sector innovation. Our innovation should not be giving a leg up to our enemies in competition.

An increasingly aggressive Chinese Communist Party is posing a growing threat to American values and American interests around the world. In many cases, they are threatening us with our own technology.

For that reason, we must ensure that our national security agencies have a real voice and vote in deciding what technologies can be exported to the People's Republic of China. We want to ensure that the BIS does not produce BS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6602, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DR. MICHAEL C. BURGESS PREVENTIVE HEALTH SAVINGS ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 766) to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 766

[REPORT NO. 118-426]

To amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

*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 "Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act".*

#### SEC. 2. SCORING OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SAVINGS.

*Section 202 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"(h) SCORING OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SAVINGS.—*

*"(1) DETERMINATION BY THE DIRECTOR.—Upon request by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and chairman and ranking minority member of the committee of primary jurisdiction of the Senate or by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee of primary jurisdiction of the House of Representatives, the Director shall determine if proposed legislation would result in net reductions in budget outlays in budgetary outyears through the use of preventive health care.*

*"(2) PROJECTIONS.—If the Director determines that proposed legislation would result in net reductions in budget outlays as described in paragraph (1), the Director—*

*"(A) shall include, in any projection prepared by the Director on such proposed legislation, a description and estimate of the reductions in budget outlays in the budgetary outyears and a description of the basis for such conclusions; and*

*"(B) may prepare a budget projection that includes some or all of the budgetary outyears, notwithstanding the time periods for projections described in subsection (e) and sections 308, 402, and 424.*

*"(3) LIMITATION.—Any estimate provided by the Director pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be used as a supplementary estimate and may not be used to determine compliance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or any other budgetary enforcement controls.*

*"(4) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subsection—*

*"(A) the term 'budgetary outyears' means the 2 consecutive 10-year periods beginning with the first fiscal year that is 10 years after the current fiscal year; and*

*"(B) the term 'preventive health care' means an action that focuses on the health of the public, individuals, and defined populations in order to protect, promote, and maintain health and wellness and prevent disease, disability, and premature death, including through the promotion and use of effective, innovative health care interventions that are demonstrated by credible and publicly available evidence from epidemiological projection models, clinical trials, observational studies in humans, longitudinal studies, and meta-analysis."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. 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 into the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 766, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act.

This pivotal piece of legislation seeks to establish a mechanism for the Congressional Budget Office to more accurately reflect the long-term, cost-saving potential of preventive healthcare initiatives.

This bipartisan, bicameral effort underscores our commitment to promoting the health and well-being of all

Americans. We encourage the use of data-informed preventive health measures, and we are taking proactive steps toward not only saving lives, but also saving taxpayer dollars in the long run.

Chronic illnesses account for over 70 percent of all our healthcare spending, and they continue to pose a significant burden on our system and our economy.

However, by enacting measures like H.R. 766, we can begin to bend the cost curve and provide a more accurate understanding of the long-term cost savings from preventive healthcare policies.

H.R. 766 specifically allows the Congressional Budget Office, upon the instruction of Congress, to extend its analysis beyond the existing 10-year budget window to two additional 10-year periods. This provision will enable us to conduct a fuller analysis of the potential budgetary savings and the impact of preventive health legislation, ensuring that we make informed decisions based on sound evidence and data.

Moreover, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act narrowly defines preventive health to encompass actions that focus on the health of the public, individuals, and defined populations.

By relying on credible and publicly available evidence from various sources, such as epidemiological projection models, clinical trials, and meta-analysis, we can ensure that our policies are both meaningful and impactful.

Lastly, H.R. 766 protects against estimates being used to justify partisan policies that might be used as budget gimmicks by requiring the request for a long-term estimate to be bipartisan and by stipulating such estimates cannot be used to comply with budget rules.

The successes of past legislation, such as the passage of Medicare part D in 2003, under a Republican majority in Congress, serves as a reminder of the profound impact preventive care can have on our healthcare. Despite initial concerns about its costs, Medicare part D has proven to be a wise investment, yielding savings and benefits that far outweigh its initial expenses.

In conclusion, I believe that an ounce of prevention is, indeed, worth a pound of cure, and preventive care in 2003 has yielded more than a pound of cure today. This undeniable truth underscores the case for preventive, personalized medicine and should only serve to encourage us to redouble our efforts and pass this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support signed by 53 organizations as part of H.R. 766.

MARCH 4, 2024.

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

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: We, the 53 undersigned or-

ganizations, would like to express our support for H.R. 766, the “Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act,” which removes outdated statutory constraints which currently prevent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates from correctly assessing preventive health initiatives that might achieve long-term health savings in federal programs.

As leaders in health care representing patients, providers, associations, and employers, we all agree on the need for a continued focus on wellness and disease prevention if healthcare costs are to be contained. We share a bipartisan, bicameral view with many in Congress that to move forward with policy solutions to address the growing burden of long-term chronic disease, Congress needs new tools to rise above traditional legislative approaches to health care.

Simply put, we know we can’t “cut” our way to a healthier America by shaving dollars from federal programs that provide care to people in need every time Congress finds a new approach. As such, we all agree that the statutory constraints that CBO must currently follow to “score” legislation severely constrains the ability of policymakers to accurately assess legislation that would prevent chronic disease. We believe this legislation represents a significant step toward the goal of including new ideas and tactics to improve care that have proven successful in the private sector, or in health systems abroad that don’t have the same regulatory or budgetary constraints.

Chronic disease places a significant burden on our health and economy, but it can be reversed:

We know that chronic diseases are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths among Americans each year, and they account for 90 percent of the \$4.1 trillion our nation spends annually on medical care. These figures will worsen as the population ages.

Much of the illness, suffering, and early death related to chronic diseases is caused by modifiable health risk behaviors such as lack of physical activity, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and alcohol and substance misuse.

Preventing or delaying the onset of new cases and mitigating the progression of chronic disease will improve the health of people in America while lowering healthcare costs and overall spending.

The current scoring process does not give Congress a complete picture of efforts to combat chronic disease:

Research has demonstrated that certain expenditures for preventive health interventions generate savings when considered in the long term, but those cost savings may not be apparent when assessing only the first ten years—those in the “scoring” window.

Long-term benefits from current preventive health expenditures may not be fully reflected, if at all, in cost estimates from CBO.

Lawmakers need sound information, and today’s methods and procedures may not work as well as needed in analyzing certain efforts to prevent costly complications of chronic diseases.

CBO has already begun to examine prevention in new ways:

In 2012, CBO published long-term estimates of the effect of a hypothetical tobacco tax on the federal budget.

Also, in 2012, CBO published a study which found greater prescription drug access and adherence can reduce healthcare costs in other areas.

In the 118th Congress, the House of Representatives continues to require CBO to score certain large bills by considering projected impacts on revenue and spending from assumed economic effects the bills.

The Preventive Health Savings Act will permit leaders in Congress to request that

CBO estimate the long-term health savings that are possible from preventive health initiatives:

This legislation provides that the Chairman or Ranking member of either budget or health-related committees can request an analysis of the two 10-year periods beyond the existing 10-year window.

The bill requires CBO to conduct an initial analysis to determine whether the provision would result in substantial savings outside the normal scoring window.

CBO must include a description of those future-year savings in its budget projections but would retain the option of creating a formal projection that includes some or all the budgetary out years.

This bill is necessary to bring greater attention to the longer-term value of wellness and prevention policies specifically.

The bill defines preventive health as an action designed to avoid future healthcare costs that are demonstrated by credible and publicly available epidemiological projection models, incorporating clinical trials or observational studies in humans.

This narrow, responsible approach discourages abuse while encouraging a sensible review of health policies and programs Congress believes will further the public’s health.

As the chronic disease epidemic continues to worsen, so does the need for legislation that will properly allow Congress to see the full savings of enacting prevention-focused policy measures.

We applaud your efforts in sponsoring this important legislation and look forward to joining with you in transforming our nation to one that prioritizes efforts to achieve wellness and wellbeing for all.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Alliance for Aging Research, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Gastroenterology, American College of Lifestyle Medicine, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American College of Preventive Medicine, American Society for Nutrition, Ascension, Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists, Avery’s Hope.

Biocom California, Blooming Health, Inc., California Chronic Care Coalition, Caregiver Action Network, Chronic Care Policy Alliance, Connected Health Initiative, COPD Foundation, Council For Affordable Health Coverage, Determined Health, Fight Colorectal Cancer, FundPlay Foundation, Geneoscopy, Gerontological Society of America, Global Liver Institute.

Healthcare Leadership Council, HealthyWomen, HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute, Johnson & Johnson, Marshfield Clinic Health System, MemorialCare Health System, Merck, National Minority Quality Forum, Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative, NourishedRx, NTM Info & Research, Obesity Action Coalition, Obesity Medicine Association.

Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease, PLAY Sports Coalition, Premier Inc., Sports & Fitness Industry Association, Team Titin, Texas Health Resources, The Obesity Society, Tivity Health, UsAgainstAlzheimer’s, Vizient, Wellvana, YMCA of the USA.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 766 and ensuring that we continue to prioritize preventive healthcare initiatives for the betterment of all Americans, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 766. The Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act provides Congress with more information on the budgetary impact of preventive healthcare services.

Investing in prevention, such as early detection screenings, could improve healthcare outcomes while lowering healthcare costs in the long run.

Such lifesaving, evidence-based policies often have significant fiscal benefits for the government. The bill also ensures that the requests for this out-year estimate are bipartisan.

Both the chair and the ranking member of the Budget Committee and the primary committees of jurisdiction must all together request this information.

This request should be about our continued focus on wellness and disease prevention for the American people and not be used to justify any partisan policies.

□ 1630

Finally, the bill ensures that the out-year impact of prevention healthcare policies are only used as a supplemental estimate. It cannot be used for any budgetary enforcement controls. This would simply help Congress make more informed policy decisions and prevent out-year estimates to be used for any budget gimmicks.

I fully support this sensible piece of legislation, bringing us closer to more transparent and holistic budget reporting.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH).

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding me the time and for bringing this piece of legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, we know that investing in preventive care benefits an individual's health and pocketbook in the long run. Unfortunately, current statute only allows the Congressional Budget Office to assess a 10-year cost estimate window, despite the fact that assessing the impact of preventive care usually takes much longer than that.

I proudly support the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act, which allows the CBO to score the long-term cost benefit of preventive care. This is a simple bill, and it will not only benefit the health of Americans, but it will also save taxpayer dollars.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), the coauthor of the legislation.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act.

A great frustration for those of us who work a lot on healthcare policy is the difficulty in accurately predicting the cost of preventive care. Right now,

as you heard from my coauthor of the bill, Dr. BURGESS, when Congress looks at the cost and benefits of preventive healthcare, we only look at a 10-year window. That is true even when the savings associated with preventive care would accrue 15, 20, 30 years in the future.

That is why Dr. BURGESS and I wrote this bill, so that we could look at preventive care over a longer time frame and actually see the cost savings that it will give us. That will help us refocus our healthcare legislation on prevention rather than waiting until serious diseases occur.

Preventive care averts illnesses, helps catch problems before they get too bad, and also saves lives. It has another benefit. It saves money. Therefore, Congress should be able to consider how preventive healthcare saves taxpayers' dollars when we prepare to vote on legislation.

This bill provides a framework for committees to request an extended estimate for legislation related to preventive healthcare from the Congressional Budget Office. With the framework laid out in this bill, committees can, on a bipartisan basis, request an estimate of the effects of a preventive healthcare bill up to a 30-year window.

This sounds a little technical but, frankly, I believe it will revolutionize how Congress considers preventive healthcare legislation. It is going to make it so Congress will have long-term cost estimates on preventive care legislation from a nonpartisan, trusted source.

As new innovations to keep Americans healthy are developed, we can better consider their long-term effects as we try to make them more available to the American people.

At the same time, as you heard, this bill does not allow any new budgetary gimmicks. Instead, it just gives us the framework to get the information we need.

Part of the genesis of this bill was when Dr. BURGESS and I and others were working on the Affordable Care Act. I really wanted to put in the mandated benefits the inclusion of smoking cessation.

Now, everybody in this room and in the gallery knows, helping Americans stop smoking cigarettes is one of the most obvious areas where preventive care can just save lives but also save money. We all know the terrible results of smoking: higher risks of lung cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart disease, COPD, and more. Treating these conditions is expensive, but it is also deadly for people.

CBO was working on this 10-year window when it made an estimate on my ideas, and they said: Congresswoman, we think the idea of smoking cessation is a great idea, but, unfortunately, the smoking cessation programs like the patch and Nicorette and things like that are just too expensive, and so we can't afford to pay for them as part of the mandated benefits of the ACA. To

me, that is crazy, and that is why we need this bill.

Dr. BURGESS and I have been working on this bill ever since, over 10 years now, and I am proud to see it come to the floor. Here it is now. It is among the first bipartisan bills from the Budget Committee to be reported to the full House in years.

We talk a lot about needing a long-term view. I can't think of a better example of a long-term view than a bill that takes more than 10 years, but yet we persevere.

Finally, I thank MIKE BURGESS for his partnership on this bill and his partnership on the Energy and Commerce Committee for many other bills. We disagree a lot, but we have found a lot of common ground, and we always work in good faith to deliver for our constituents and the American people.

This bill is a perfect example of how we work together to write common-sense legislation that centers on what Americans need to lead healthy lives. It is truly a bipartisan victory. It is good legislation. I am going to miss Dr. BURGESS and his vision on the committee. I hope that we can work together to get this bill through the other body just as quickly as we can. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is now my great privilege and high honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chairman of the Budget Committee, as we debate the first bipartisan budget bill to pass the floor of the House I think in the history of Congress.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas. What a great career he has had in public service. He has truly been an inspiration and a leader among his equals here in the people's House on healthcare issues. He was the founder of the Doctors Caucus. He was the Health Subcommittee chair at the Energy and Commerce Committee and the chair of the Health Care Task Force on the Budget Committee. There is nobody in this Chamber, and I would submit in the United States Congress, who knows more about healthcare and who has endeavored more over the years to make healthcare work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democratic colleagues, Ms. OMAR and Ms. DEGETTE. This is proof that we can work together in good faith, find common ground and consensus solutions to make this country and its government work for the people.

I thank Ms. DEGETTE for her kind words. We have young people in the gallery who got to hear something they don't often hear on cable news, which is a colleague from one side of the aisle complimenting another. What great decorum. What a great example of civil discourse in their Nation's Capitol. They need to see more of it.

I am grateful that we have an opportunity to address the triple aim in healthcare that often is underutilized because of simply the way we score it.

Healthcare innovation and technology can improve access and quality outcomes while bending the curve on costs, not just to our patients and to our fellow Americans, but also to the taxpayers. Healthcare is a third of the budget. It is a big driver of our debt, and we have got to look for common-sense solutions to improve across the board these important outcomes. Again, I thank Ms. OMAR and Ms. DEGETTE for their leadership.

To my friend from the great State of Texas, what a legacy. We named this bill after Dr. BURGESS. He was loath to allow that, but it is appropriate because of all that he has done to leave this country better than he found it. This no doubt will have a tremendous impact for the future. May God bless my friend, and Godspeed.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), the co-chair of the Doctors Caucus.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I am here today in support of the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Saving Act, a bill aptly named after my colleague and friend, my co-chair on the Doctors Caucus, Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS.

This important legislation is going to allow the Congressional Budget Office to measure the long-term impact of health policies, breaking free from the arbitrary 10-year budget window that currently constrains our ability to help our fellow Americans to live a healthier and longer life.

This is something that we as the Doctors Caucus have met with CBO on. They were not sure how to do it. Dr. BURGESS put forward a way that we can get this done. We worked in a bipartisan manner to enact policies that can bring patients more access to drugs, treatments, cures.

Yet, when looking at the initial cost of bringing new treatments and drugs to patients, the long-term savings that are associated with keeping Americans healthier for longer are not considered. They need to be. The Congressional Budget Office should have the ability to fully score the impact that reductions in obesity, access to early and preventive treatments, and keeping patients healthier will have on Medicare, for example.

It has been my great honor to serve with Dr. BURGESS on the Doctors Caucus and here in Congress. I am glad to support this bill led by Dr. BURGESS, whose expertise and desire for quality care for all Americans has inspired many to practice medicine and encourage them to get involved with government. I encourage support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Medical Association supporting H.R. 766.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,  
Chicago, IL, March 18, 2024.  
Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*  
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing in support of H.R. 766, the “Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act.” This bipartisan bill would provide leaders in Congress with the ability to request that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provide an estimate of the long-term health savings that are possible from preventive health initiatives.

Chronic disease is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year more than 877,500 Americans died of heart disease or stroke, more than 1.7 million people were diagnosed with cancer, and more than 37.3 million Americans have diabetes, with an additional 96 million adults diagnosed with prediabetes, which puts them at risk for type 2 diabetes. These diseases, along with other conditions such as obesity, Alzheimer’s, and mental health issues, place a significant burden on the economy, accounting for 90 percent of our nation’s \$4.1 trillion in annual health care spending. These figures will undoubtedly worsen as the population ages.

Congress should be able to consider the long-term economic benefits of legislation that would promote wellness and disease prevention initiatives that reduce chronic conditions. However, the way in which the CBO currently “scores” legislation severely constrains the ability of policymakers to accurately assess legislation that would prevent chronic disease. For example, while research has demonstrated that certain expenditures for preventive medicine generate savings when considered in the long term, those cost savings may not be evident when evaluating only the first 10-year “scoring” window.

We believe this legislation represents a significant step towards providing Congress with the means to obtain a more relevant long-term economic picture of the benefits of legislation to prevent chronic diseases. The legislation would allow, among other things, the Chair and Ranking member of the budget and health-related committees in the House or Senate to jointly request an analysis of the two 10-year periods beyond the existing initial 10-year window. The provisions requiring these requests to come jointly from the Chair and Ranking Member of the budget and health-related committees in the House or the Senate will ensure the CBO is not diverted to frivolous or overly partisan analyses. Furthermore, the legislation’s definition of “preventive health” appropriately captures the unique nature of this concept by including actions that focus on the health of the public, individuals, and defined populations to protect, promote, and maintain health and wellness, as well as prevent disease, disability, and premature death as demonstrated in credible, publicly available studies and data.

The AMA applauds your leadership in bringing this important legislation to the House floor for consideration and looks forward to working with you on this and other efforts to promote wellness and increase chronic disease prevention.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. MADARA, MD.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a member of the Doctors Caucus.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the legacy of Dr. MICHAEL BURGESS and support this bill, H.R. 766.

If Members of Congress can agree on one thing, it is that we seek to improve the lives of our constituents. Unfortunately, CBO’s current approach to how it develops cost estimates for healthcare legislation interferes with that goal by failing to take into account all the future benefits of the legislation.

CBO’s current approach keeps Federal healthcare programs stuck in the status quo of simply providing care when you get sick, including expensive care, instead of focusing on providing care that keeps you healthy and hopefully from needing more expensive forms of care down the road.

CBO’s current approach defies common sense, and it is imperative that Congress directs CBO to more accurately reflect the long-term cost saving potential of preventive healthcare initiatives. That is why I am proud to support H.R. 766.

To ensure Congress can better evaluate meaningful and impactful healthcare policies that bolster access and quality of care, Congress must pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Community Oncology Alliance supporting H.R. 766.

COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY ALLIANCE,  
Washington, DC, March 18, 2024.  
Re Community Oncology Alliance Support of  
The Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventative  
Health Savings Act (H.R. 766).

Hon. JODEY ARRINGTON,  
*Chairman, House Budget Committee,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARRINGTON: On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Community Oncology Alliance (“COA”), we applaud the House Budget Committee for advancing *The Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventative Health Savings Act* (H.R. 766) to a floor vote of this important bipartisan legislation sponsored by Congressman Dr. Burgess with Congresswoman Diana DeGette.

As you know, COA is an organization dedicated to advocating for the complex care and access needs of patients with cancer and the community oncology practices that serve them. COA is the only non-profit organization in the United States dedicated solely to independent community oncology practices, which serve the majority of Americans receiving treatment for cancer. Since its grassroots founding over 20 years ago, COA’s mission has been to ensure that patients with cancer receive quality, affordable, and accessible cancer care in their own communities where they live and work, regardless of their racial, ethnic, demographic, or socio-economic status.

The limitation of the 10-year scoring window is a severe obstacle to realizing the savings from preventive health care legislation. It is unrealistic to expect that many, if not most, preventative health care initiatives can return positive savings by 10 years. As a result of the current scoring mandate on the Congressional Budget Office, many, if not most, preventative health care initiatives

are not implemented because of funding constraints.

With cancer, we have more effective treatments, but it is essential that we look for ways of preventing this disease that impacts so many Americans. Unfortunately, artificial scoring mandates undermine the adoption of preventive care initiatives. As a result, COA supports the passage of H.R. 766, and we greatly appreciate your work and that of your staff in the landmark advancement of this legislation out of your committee.

Sincerely,

TED OKON,  
*Executive Director.*

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend Dr. BURGESS for his steadfast leadership working in a bipartisan and bicameral manner to bring this important piece of legislation forward.

This bill ensures that the Congressional Budget Office, the official scorekeepers of Congress, is more accurately reflecting the long-term fiscal impact of policies; in this case, policies that have the potential to lower the cost of the ever-growing Federal spending on healthcare, a major part of our Nation's annual budget.

It also has the added benefit of encouraging preventive healthcare policies that can lower the risk of illness and chronic disease among our fellow citizens, leading to a healthier Nation.

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, these are exactly the type of policies I want our committee to consider, which can truly upend the healthcare system as we know it.

In short, this bill promotes both the fiscal health of the country and the physical health of its people.

□ 1645

As the former Republican leader of the House Budget Committee, I have had the honor of fighting alongside Dr. BURGESS in the trenches of fiscal policy. Together, we have worked to ensure CBO is aiding, not preventing, investments in bold healthcare reform.

This bill is a key victory in every effort.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a fellow member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 766, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act.

This bipartisan legislation will reform the Congressional Budget Office's scoring to better reflect the savings from preventive health initiatives by expanding the budgetary window that CBO evaluates. Currently, CBO scores a bill's budget impacts over a 10-year window, often missing the long-term

savings achieved through preventative care.

As we all know, preventative healthcare lowers costs and ensures Americans can live healthier lives, while also saving money for patients and taxpayers. However, current restrictions prevent CBO from considering long-term savings generated by preventative healthcare when it evaluates legislation.

The Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act would allow CBO to expand its analysis beyond the existing 10-year budget window to two additional 10-year periods, which will enable Congress to better evaluate meaningful and impactful policies.

As Dr. BURGESS often says, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This bipartisan bill is commonsense legislation that would help bend the cost curve and provide better patient care.

I thank Dr. BURGESS for working on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Council for Affordable Health Coverage supporting H.R. 766.

COUNCIL FOR AFFORDABLE  
HEALTH COVERAGE,  
March 18, 2024.

Hon. JODEY ARRINGTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Budget,  
Washington, DC.*

Hon. BRENDAN BOYLE,  
*Ranking Member, House Budget Committee,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARRINGTON AND RANKING MEMBER BOYLE: The Council for Affordable Health Coverage (CAHC) writes to express our support for H.R. 766, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act because it will begin to change how Congress views preventing health illnesses before they become expensive chronic conditions.

In any given year, the healthiest half of the population accounts for less than 3 percent of health care spending. Most spending goes toward the treatment of chronic conditions, such as heart failure or diabetes, which are long in duration and have no definite cure. Patients with two or more chronic diseases account for 84 percent of health spending. Left untreated, chronic conditions multiply. For example, diabetes carries high risks of heart disease and hypertension, which in turn carry high risks of heart attacks and strokes. For this reason, self-neglect is a major driver of medical spending. Many patients under care for chronic conditions fail to take their medicines—a problem that could cost as much as \$6 trillion over the next decade. Obesity, a precursor to diabetes, is among the most expensive cost drivers.

When Congress first enacted the Medicare Modernization Act, Medicare Part D, CBO gave Congress no savings that would accrue to the benefits of taking medicines that prevent heart attacks, stroke, cancers, diabetes, obesity, and other chronic conditions. None. Faced with mountains of evidence, CBO revised their methodology in 2012 to reflect the benefit of adherence to medications as a way to lower spending on medical services, giving partial savings to increased drug utilization. That change reflects common sense—people take medicines to stay healthy and treat disease.

The way CBO scores legislation downplays the long term benefit of preventing illness in the first place. This constrains the ability of

Congress to judge the merits of health legislation by skewing costs in favor of benefits. A balanced approach is required to allow sound decisions.

The Preventive Health Savings Act will permit leaders in Congress to request that CBO estimate the long-term health savings that are possible from preventive health initiatives. Without an independent and unbiased understanding of how these benefit mandates impact premiums, we cannot understand how policy changes may impact taxpayer and individual costs.

We applaud your leadership on this critical issue and encourage Congress to pass the legislation quickly to bring more clarity to its deliberations.

Sincerely,

JOEL C. WHITE,  
*President.*

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reintroduction of H.R. 766, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act, named in honor of my fellow Texan, friend, and champion for patients, Dr. Burgess.

This bipartisan, bicameral, lifesaving legislation would direct the CBO to more accurately reflect the long-term cost-saving potential of preventive healthcare initiatives.

Congress should recognize the impact that preventive healthcare can have on an individual's life, as well as the long-term cost-saving potential.

Current restrictions prevent the CBO from fully examining the accurate economic impacts of preventive measures when they evaluate health legislation, but H.R. 766 goes beyond the normal 10-year window to allow Congress to better evaluate the potential for budgetary savings of preventive healthcare legislation and to ensure that it is done with the best interest of the American taxpayers in mind.

If we are going to tackle the growing cost of medical care for individuals and find legislative solutions to mandatory healthcare parameters that account for at least one-third of the Federal budget, then we must seek transparency first.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 766.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM).

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act.

This bipartisan bill is essential to helping us, as lawmakers, make the most informed decisions possible when it comes to preventive healthcare legislation.

So often, when the CBO scores preventive health measures, the 10-year scoring window greatly limits their ability to show the full impact of the legislation. This bill would allow such

measures to be scored over a 30-year timeframe, giving us a more accurate picture of the impact the policy would have.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill, which originated in the House Budget Committee. I look forward to voting in favor of this piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Bipartisan Policy Center in support of H.R. 766.

BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER ACTION.

Washington, DC, March 18, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.,  
Washington, DC.  
Hon. DIANA DEGETTE,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURGESS AND CONGRESSWOMAN DEGETTE, BPC Action commends you for your leadership in introducing and advancing H.R. 766, The Preventive Health Savings Act (PHSA). BPC Action supports this bipartisan effort to better account for the full impact of preventive health care in Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates and encourages all members to support the bill on the House floor this week.

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) has long focused on the importance of prevention. In 2014, BPC's Prevention Task Force—advised by former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, and former CBO director Alice Rivlin—recommended that the CBO use "present discount accounting" to bring long-term savings from prevention "up" in time and to align better with CBO's current 10-year scoring window. This could have helped ensure that CBO accounts for benefits that might be seen 20–25 years out. While slightly distinct in method but similar on principle, the Preventive Health Savings Act would provide policymakers with information related to the benefits of disease prevention and health promotion beyond the 10-year scoring window to 20- and 30-years out.

Further, in 2019, BPC Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anand Parekh in his book *Prevention First* (advised by former Senate Majority Leaders Bill Frist and Tom Daschle) recommended greater funding for prevention research so that there are more published studies and a better evidence-base for CBO to determine the cost-effectiveness of prevention interventions and more appropriately score future federal legislation related to prevention.

BPC Action applauds your commitment to this issue and urges Congress to pass the Preventive Health Savings Act.

Sincerely,

MICHELE STOCKWELL,  
President.

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

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

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, preventive healthcare services can save lives and lower costs

for families. It is time for Congress to evaluate and prioritize such innovative policies that have the potential to improve our healthcare system.

I appreciate the hard work of Representative BURGESS and congratulate him on his retirement and Representative DEGETTE in championing this important effort 11 years in the making. I was proud to vote for this bill in committee, and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sincere gratitude to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my friend and the chairman of the Budget Committee, for his leadership. Also, I extend my appreciation to my fellow members of the Budget Committee for their unwavering support of this critical legislation.

I thank my former and current staff: James Paluskiewicz, Alexa Roberts, and Jacquelyn Incerto. Additionally, I express my appreciation for the Budget Committee staff—namely, Gary Andres, Paige Decker, Braden Murphy, and Charles Chapman—for their work in advancing this incredibly important bill.

I introduced the Preventive Health Savings Act back in 2012, driven by the belief that, too often, potentially transformative legislation is sidelined due to short-sighted budget constraints. We cannot afford to overlook the long-term benefits of preventive health measures for the well-being of our patients and the well-being of our Nation.

Preventive healthcare is not just about addressing immediate health concerns. It is about laying a foundation for a healthier future by proactively managing risks, reducing the incidence of chronic illnesses, and, ultimately, cutting down on healthcare costs.

With over 70 percent of healthcare spending attributed to chronic diseases, it is clear that investing in prevention is not just prudent but essential.

H.R. 766 is a crucial step forward. By establishing a mechanism for the Congressional Budget Office to accurately assess the long-term cost-savings potential of preventive health initiatives, this legislation enables us to make a more informed and forward-thinking policy decision.

Once again, I am grateful to everyone who played a part in moving this bill. I express my gratitude to Congresswoman DEGETTE for her invaluable partnership. I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), for her kind words today. Donna Christian-Christensen, our former colleague from the Virgin Islands, also assisted in this effort.

Words cannot express how grateful and honored I am. Let me just say, as a general rule, Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is a good idea that things be

named after people while they are still alive. However, in this case, I actually made an exception. I am happy that my name is attached to this critical piece of legislation.

Let's continue to work together toward a future where preventive health is not just an afterthought but a cornerstone of our national healthcare policy and our public strategy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 766, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF CONSTRUCTION USE AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6260) to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6260

*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 "Federal Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act" or the "FOCUS Act".*

##### SEC. 2. ELIMINATING PROJECT ESCALATIONS.

*Section 3307(c) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "The Administrator shall notify, in writing, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of any increase of more than 5 percent of an estimated maximum cost or of any increase or decrease in the scope or size of a project of 5 or more percent. Such notification shall include an explanation regarding any such increase or decrease. The scope or size of a project shall not increase or decrease by more than 10 percent unless an amended prospectus is submitted and approved pursuant to this section."*

##### SEC. 3. PUBLIC SAFETY AT FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

*(a) DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator of General Services shall collect data from tenant Federal agencies reports of any safety incidents as a result of criminal or other activity impacting public safety in and around public buildings, as defined in section 3301 of title 40, United States Code.*

*(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that—*

*(1) contains the data collected under subsection (a); and*

*(2) describes any actions taken or planned, if necessary, to improve building management and operations to address such incidents.*

##### SEC. 4. REDUCING WASTE IN NEW PROJECTS.

*Section 3307(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—*

(1) in paragraph (7) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) information on any space occupied by the relevant agency in the geographical area of the proposed facility, including uses, utilization rates, any proposed consolidations, and, if not proposed to be consolidated, a justification for such determination;

“(10) a statement by the Administrator of whether the public building needs of the Government for the proposed space to be leased were formerly met by a federally owned building, including any building identified for disposal or sale; and

“(11) details on actual utilization rates, including number of personnel assigned to the facility, number of personnel expected to work in-person at the facility and whether all personnel identified reflect filled and authorized positions.”.

#### SEC. 5. REVIEW OF SPECIAL USE SPACE.

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review the use of special use spaces in Federal buildings, including conference centers, fitness centers, and similar spaces to determine levels of utilization, opportunities for sharing, collocating, and other efficiencies.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report containing the review under subsection (a).

#### SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY SPACE COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### §3319. Interagency space coordination

“Unless a Federal agency specifically restricts the sharing of the information described in this section for national security purposes, the Administrator of General Services shall share with tenant Federal agencies pursuing new or replacement office space information on any other Federal agencies located in the same geographical area for purposes of determining opportunities for consolidations, collocations, or other space sharing to reduce the costs of space and maximize space utilization.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 33 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3319. Interagency space coordination.”.

#### SEC. 7. NOTIFICATION OF MILESTONES.

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

(i) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—For each project approved under this section, the Administrator shall notify, in writing, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate of any project milestones that are accomplished, including—

“(1) the solicitation and award of design and construction services;

“(2) the completion of any actions required for such project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

“(3) any ceremonies for the beginning or completion of such project;

“(4) a naming ceremony for such project; and

“(5) the completion of such project.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. 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. 6260, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the bill’s sponsor, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER), for her leadership on H.R. 6260, the FOCUS Act.

The gentlewoman is a remarkable Member of Congress. She is hard-working, diligent, and smart as a whip. H.R. 6260 is just one of the many examples of her leadership that she has blessed the 118th with.

Specifically, the FOCUS Act increases transparency and oversight. It does that by implementing a number of measures that increase the information that the General Services Administration provides to Congress that is going to give us a better opportunity to strengthen oversight of Federal space and public building projects.

More specifically, this bill would ensure Congress is notified if the costs for authorized GSA projects change by more than 5 percent.

We have all seen, I suspect, outside of government how often cost overruns have been happening in the broader economy and what kind of costs and confusion they can impose. This bill would help us get better data on what is going on with government projects, and it would require GSA to include in its new project proposals more details on space utilization rates and ensures GSA’s tenant agencies have information on other agencies nearby to support consolidation of space.

I think this has taken on renewed importance as we have seen additional studies about the low occupancy rates that we continue to see within a number of GSA-managed buildings.

This bill would also require GSA to collect data and report on criminal activity that may be impacting public safety in and around public buildings.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6260, as amended. H.R. 6260, the Federal Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act, introduced by Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER, makes a good faith effort at reducing the costs of the General Service Administration’s capital projects.

The bill requires GSA to notify the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on the Environment and

Public Works—GSA’s congressional authorizers—when GSA construction or renovation project costs increase or decrease by 5 percent. It also requires GSA to submit an amended prospectus to congressional authorizers when project costs increase or decrease by more than 10 percent.

The FOCUS Act requires GSA to collect data from tenants about safety incidents in and around public buildings and submit that data to congressional authorizers.

It requires GSA to include utilization and occupancy data and prospectuses submitted to congressional authorizers. Additionally, the bill requires GSA to share location information between Federal agencies in the same geographical area to facilitate opportunities for space sharing and consolidations.

□ 1700

This bill also requires GSA to notify congressional authorizers when project milestones are accomplished, such as the solicitation and award of design services, the completion of any actions required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and when the project is completed.

Finally, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to require the use of special spaces, such as fitness centers and conference centers, in Federal buildings.

With strong provisions like these, this bill will likely help reduce the costs of GSA capital projects.

I support H.R. 6260, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FOCUS Act, a bill that makes much-needed reforms to the Federal Government’s real estate practices.

With our national debt at \$34 trillion and rising, it is our duty as lawmakers to root out wasteful spending and restore fiscal responsibility.

Recently, the Government Accountability Office reviewed 24 Federal agencies to analyze office space usage. The study found that of the 24 offices reviewed, 17 of the agencies used just 25 percent or less of the building’s capacity.

It is clear that office space utilization has decreased dramatically in both the public and private sectors. Many companies have adjusted by downsizing or selling office space to save money.

As a small business owner myself, consolidating office space to reduce costs would be a straightforward, sensible decision to make.

Unfortunately, we often see the bureaucracy treat Americans’ tax dollars like monopoly money. We throw it around. The FOCUS Act would change

that and, by promoting consolidation, ensure taxpayer money isn't being wasted on unused real estate.

Transparency leads to accountability, and that is why this bill also requires Congress to be notified of significant increases in rent payments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense proposal to rein in unnecessary spending and improve transparency in Federal real estate practices.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6260, the Federal Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER, makes a good faith effort at reducing the costs of GSA's capital projects.

I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

So often our attention is pulled to the massive issues, the sexy fights that sometimes divide this Chamber. The bill before us, Mr. Speaker, of course, is not that. It is commonsense legislation. It is the kind of meat and potatoes, blocking and tackling legislation that so many Americans, I think, are hungry for. It is a data-driven proposal.

We heard from Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER that 17 of 24 buildings in the study that she cited were dramatically underutilized. This is an opportunity for good managers within the GSA and good managers within Congress to use the data that her bill would provide to make better decisions. What a delightful outcome that would be.

As we have discussed, this bill would increase transparency, strengthen accountability, assist the committee in its oversight of Federal space utilization, and help us increase safety at our public buildings.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6260, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IMPACT OF CRIME ON PUBLIC BUILDING USAGE ACT OF 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6261) to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

#### H.R. 6261

*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 "Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON IMPACT OF CRIME ON PUBLIC BUILDING USAGE.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review and submit to Congress a report outlining—

(1) the effects of increased crime rates and safety concerns, including use of fentanyl and other drugs and homelessness, in urban areas on building usage for in-person work at Federal buildings;

(2) how usage of different commuting modes of transportation to Federal buildings are affected by increased crime rates;

(3) the effects of low office utilization rates on safety around Federal buildings;

(4) any agency exceptions given to the policy set forth in the memorandum of the Office of Management and Budget titled "Measuring, Monitoring, and Improving Organizational Health and Organizational Performance in the Context of Evolving Agency Work Environments" and issued on April 13, 2023, due to unsafe commuting conditions; and

(5) any costs associated with safety issues impacting Federal building.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT ON COSTS OF CRIME AROUND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the inspector general of the General Services Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the impacts on and costs associated with building operations related to crime and public safety in and around Federal buildings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 6261.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Periodically, we get 1,000-page bills or 2,000-page bills or 4,000-page bills that we debate on this floor. It can be a little hard for the people in the gallery and the people at home to make sense of what we are doing. This bill is not that.

This excellent piece of legislation from Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER fits on a single piece of paper. She and I were talking about that, Mr. Speaker, before we began debate on this bill, about how much good wisdom is packed into a single page. We will probably talk about the merits of this legislation for longer than it would take us to read the entirety of the bill, but it is just that good.

The Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023, which is this piece of paper, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6261, directs the Government Accountability Office, or the GAO, to examine how crime in and around public buildings affects building usage, how it affects how workers might commute to the office, and how it might impose any additional costs to maintain those public buildings.

In 2020, Mr. Speaker, we saw crime rates spike across the country. In many of the downtown areas in many of our States, areas that used to be bustling with workers became near ghost towns that changed the crime profile in many of those areas, to be sure.

We are in a little bit different era today, and now we have differing, conflicting data community by community. In some, crime rates are continuing to go up. In some, they are going down. In some, the data might differ between property crimes and violent crimes.

One thing we do know, Mr. Speaker, is that, of course, the crime that exists can continue to have an impact—a perhaps profound impact—on how we use our Federal buildings.

I will just give you one example, Mr. Speaker, from perhaps 6 months ago. In August 2023, employees who worked in a Federal building in San Francisco were told not to come to work because of safety concerns. These weren't safety concerns related to an earthquake or to a blizzard, an occurrence that we might experience at Federal buildings in South Dakota but not in San Francisco. No, those weren't safety concerns. They weren't weather related. They were crime related.

It seems like, as good managers, we would want to better understand that issue and what we can do to have it be less common in the future.

It is particularly true as we work to bring employees back to the office. We know there is study after study that shows that people working in close physical proximity can share real benefits. Remote work has benefits, too, but as we talk to employees about coming back to the office in those times and in those places where it makes sense, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that their public safety is well cared for—not just when they are in the building, but when they are on their way to or from work as well.

I thank the bill's sponsor, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER). She has exhibited real leadership on this legislation. She has shown real advocacy to make sure that Federal employees are able to return safely to Federal office buildings and that, while they are there, they are effective and efficient.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY,

Washington, DC, March 4, 2024.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Oversight and Accountability. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability agrees to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6261, the Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023, so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

I agree that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 6261 at this time, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability should be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. I support your effort to represent the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability on the conference committee if a conference on the bill becomes necessary.

As discussed, I appreciate your inclusion of a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill in the bill report filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration thereof. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this bill and look forward to future opportunities to work together on matters of shared jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

JAMES COMER,  
Chairman.

—  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 4, 2024.

Hon. JAMES COMER,  
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMER: I write to you concerning H.R. 6261, the *Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023*. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, with additional referrals to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on the Judiciary.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Oversight and Accountability to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Committee on Oversight and Accountability represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,  
Chairman.

—  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, March 4, 2024.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES: I write regarding H.R. 6261, the Impact of Crime on Public

Building Usage Act of 2023. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 6261 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman.

—  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 4, 2024.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6261, the Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act of 2023. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively to ensure that H.R. 6261 is considered expeditiously before the House of Representatives.

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

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included our Committee report to accompany this legislation and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 6261 on the House floor. Thank you again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6261. This bill introduced by my colleague, Representative CHAVEZ-DEREMER, directs the Government Accountability Office to study and report to Congress on the effects that crime and safety concerns have on in-person work in Federal buildings.

Federal buildings must be safe and secure places for Federal employees, contractors, and the American public.

Evaluating the safety in and around Federal buildings is a good idea. I recommend that the GAO gather and include in the report data from the Federal Protective Service, the agency responsible for protecting Federal buildings and assessing the security of Federal buildings, as well as the employees who populate them.

I also recommend that GAO include the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security in the development of the report. DHS' OIG has access to historical data and current trends which may assist in the evaluation of the impacts noted in the bill.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DeREMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6261, which would commission a Federal study on public safety issues in and around public office buildings.

In Oregon and in communities across the country, rampant fentanyl use and homelessness understandably cause workers to worry about their safety, and some just might choose to stay home as a result.

Public buildings are running parallel to private buildings. Let me quote from an article in Willamette Week from August 16, 2023—I know my colleague recognized San Francisco—titled:

Empty and Unwanted, the Iconic Buildings of Portland's Skyline Are in Trouble. The question—and it is a contentious one—is whether Portland is worse than any place else because of blight. Plywood that went up during the protests is still there. Homeless camps that took root during the pandemic are only now being removed. On some downtown blocks, you will see someone smoking fentanyl while drinking a Frappuccino.

That has the same effect on our Federal buildings. Additionally, the GAO would be required to examine any costs that are associated with safety issues at these buildings.

To make more informed spending decisions on Federal real estate moving forward, Congress needs to understand how factors like crime contribute to building costs and employee decisions.

H.R. 6261 will shine a light on public safety concerns and help Congress identify improvements that can be made to protect Federal workers.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Federal buildings must be safe and secure places for Federal employees, contractors, and the American public.

I believe evaluating the safety in and around Federal buildings is a good idea, which is why I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

□ 1715

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

As we encourage Federal employees to return to an in-person working posture, at those times when it is appropriate, it is crucial that we ensure that they are coming back to a safe work environment.

I urge support of H.R. 6261 so we can ultimately address the unsafe working conditions deterring employees from returning to work.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6261.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1836) to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1836

*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 “Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act of 2023”.

#### TITLE I—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

##### SEC. 101. PURPOSES.

Section 40101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “with” and all that follows through “regulatory costs”;

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking “in the ocean commerce of the United States” and inserting “for the common carriage of goods by water in the foreign commerce of the United States”;

(3) in paragraph (3) by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “promote” and inserting “support”; and

(B) by striking “, and” and all that follows through the period and inserting “; and”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) promote reciprocal trade in the common carriage of goods by water in the foreign commerce of the United States.”.

##### SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 40102(9) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively and by moving the margins of clauses (i) and (ii), as redesignated, accordingly;

(2) by striking “means an ocean common carrier” and inserting the following: “means—“(A) an ocean common carrier”;

(3) in subparagraph (A)(ii), as so redesignated, by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) such a carrier that is owned or controlled by, a subsidiary of, or otherwise related legally or financially (other than a minority relationship or investment) to a corporation based in a country—

“(i) identified as a nonmarket economy country (as defined in section 771(18) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)) as of the date of enactment of this paragraph;

“(ii) identified by the United States Trade Representative in the most recent report required by section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242) as a priority foreign country under subsection (a)(2) of that section; or

“(iii) subject to monitoring by the United States Trade Representative under section 306 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2416).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46106(b)(7) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “ocean common carriers, particularly such carriers that are controlled carriers” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “controlled carriers;”.

#### SEC. 103. COMPLAINTS AGAINST SHIPPING EX-CHANGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 40504(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking “EXEMPTION” and inserting “EXEMPTION AND INVESTIGATION”;

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by striking “may exempt” and inserting the following: “may—

“(1) exempt”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) investigate complaints submitted under section 40505.”.

(b) COMPLAINTS AGAINST SHIPPING EX-CHANGES.—Chapter 405 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### §40505. Complaints against shipping ex-changes

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A person may submit to the Federal Maritime Commission, and the Commission shall accept, information concerning alleged incidents of market manipulation or other anticompetitive practices by shipping exchanges registered under section 40504.

“(b) INVESTIGATION.—Upon receipt of a submission of information under subsection (a), the Commission shall promptly investigate the accuracy of such information.

“(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Commission shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of any investigation in which the Commission finds incidents of market manipulation or anticompetitive practices by shipping exchanges registered under section 40504.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 405 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“40505. Complaints against shipping ex-changes.”.

#### SEC. 104. REPEAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 40706 of title 46, United States Code, is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 407 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 40706.

#### SEC. 105. DATA COLLECTION.

Section 41110 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The Federal Maritime Commission” and inserting “(a) QUARTERLY REPORT.—The Federal Maritime Commission”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) LIMITATION ON DUPLICATION.—Unless the data described in paragraphs (1) and (2) is not

available in a timely manner or in a form that allows the Commission to meet the requirements of subsection (a), data required to be reported under subsection (a) may not duplicate information—

“(1) submitted to the Corps of Engineers pursuant to section 11 of the Act entitled ‘An Act authorizing the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes’, approved September 22, 1922 (33 U.S.C. 555), by an ocean common carrier acting as a vessel operator;

“(2) submitted pursuant to section 481 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1481) to U.S. Customs and Border Protection by merchandise importers; or

“(3) submitted to the Department of Commerce pursuant to section 301 of title 13.”.

#### SEC. 106. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) NATIONAL SHIPPER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 42502 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “Committee.” and inserting “Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Shipper Committee’).”;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b); and

(4) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by striking “Committee” each place it appears and inserting “Shipper Committee”.

(b) NATIONAL PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Chapter 425 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 42503 as section 42506; and

(2) by inserting after section 42502 the following:

#### “§42503. National Port Advisory Committee

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a National Port Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Port Committee’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Port Committee shall consist of 13 members appointed by the Commission in accordance with this section.

“(2) EXPERTISE.—Each member of the Port Committee shall have particular expertise, knowledge, and experience in matters relating to the function of the Port Committee.

“(3) REPRESENTATION.—Members of the Port Committee shall be appointed as follows:

“(A) 5 members shall represent marine terminal operators, as defined in section 40102.

“(B) 5 members shall represent port authorities.

“(C) 3 members shall represent longshore and maritime labor.

#### “§42504. National Ocean Carrier Advisory Committee

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a National Ocean Carrier Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Carrier Committee’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Carrier Committee shall consist of 9 members appointed by the Commission in accordance with this section.

“(2) EXPERTISE.—Each member of the Carrier Committee shall have particular expertise, knowledge, and experience in matters relating to the function of the Committee.

“(3) REPRESENTATION.—Members of the Carrier Committee shall represent ocean carriers serving such seaports and terminals, of which at least three shall be ocean transportation intermediaries (as such term is defined in section 40102).”.

#### “§42505. Function

“The covered Committees shall advise the Federal Maritime Commission on policies relating to the competitiveness, reliability, and efficiency of the international ocean freight delivery system.”.

#### “(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 42501 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

**(2) COVERED COMMITTEE.**—The term ‘covered Committee’ means—

“(A) the National Shipper Advisory Committee established under section 42502; and

“(B) the National Seaport Advisory Committee established under section 42503; and

“(C) the National Ocean Carrier Advisory Committee established under section 52504.”.

**(2) ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 42506 of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (b)(1), is amended—

(A) by striking “The Committee” each place it appears except in subsection (k) and inserting “Each covered Committee”;

(B) in subsection (a) by striking “the Committee” and inserting “each such Committee”;

(C) in subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (j) by striking “the Committee” each place it appears and inserting “a covered Committee”;

(D) in subsection (h)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “Chair of the Committee” and inserting “Chair of each covered Committee”; and

(II) by striking “function of the Committee” and inserting “function of the applicable Committee”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “the Committee” and inserting “each covered Committee”;

(E) in subsection (i)—

(i) in paragraph (1) by striking “the Committee if the function of the Committee” and inserting “any relevant covered Committee if the function of such Committee”;

(ii) in paragraph (2) by striking “the Committee” and inserting “each such Committee”;

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking “from the Committee” and inserting “from a covered Committee”; and

(II) in subparagraph (B) by striking “to the Committee” and inserting “to the submitting Committee”; and

(iv) in paragraph (4) by striking “from the Committee” and inserting “from a covered Committee”; and

(F) in subsection (k) by striking “The Committee” and inserting “Covered Committees”.

#### SEC. 107. ANNUAL REPORT AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURES.

**(a) REPORT ON FOREIGN LAWS AND PRACTICES.**—Section 46106(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by striking “under this part” and inserting “under chapter 403”;

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by inserting “anticompetitive, nonreciprocal trade, or” before “otherwise concerning practices”;

(B) by inserting “or marine terminal operators” after “controlled carriers”; and

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) an analysis of any trade imbalance resulting from the business practices of ocean common carriers, including an analysis of the data collected under section 4110; and

“(9) the aggregated findings and results of the Vessel-Operating Common Carrier Audit Program established by the Commission on July 18, 2021, pursuant to the Commission rule interpreting section 41102(c).”.

**(b) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.**—Section 46106(d)(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or marine terminal operator” after “common carrier”.

#### SEC. 108. CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEXES.

**(a) IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Maritime Commission shall promulgate an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on price indexes for containerized ocean freight for shippers (as such term is defined in section 40102 of title 46, United States Code) in the United States

published by a shipping exchange registered under section 40504 of title 46, United States Code.

**(b) FINAL RULE.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall publish a final rule with respect to the advance notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (a).

#### TITLE II—OTHER AGENCIES

##### SEC. 201. DATA STANDARD FOR MARITIME FREIGHT LOGISTICS.

**(a) IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Maritime Commission shall promulgate an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on a data standard for maritime freight logistics and ocean transportation in the foreign commerce of the United States.

**(b) CONSULTATION.**—During the public comment period for the rulemaking under subsection (a), the Commission shall consult with—

(1) the National Shippers Advisory Board established under section 42502 of title 46, United States Code; and

(2) the Secretaries of Transportation, Commerce, and Agriculture.

**(c) CONTENTS.**—The rulemaking under subsection (a) shall—

(1) develop a data standard for the voluntary sharing of appropriate supply chain data with—

(A) a common lexicon of standard terms and methods of measurements;

(B) a method to exchange data in real time amongst relevant stakeholders;

(C) appropriate data protections to ensure confidentiality of proprietary business information; and

(D) appropriate cybersecurity measures to protect data from unauthorized use;

(2) incorporate data from stakeholders to facilitate—

(A) the arrival, unloading, loading, and departure of vessels;

(B) cargo availability and pick up reservation;

(C) chassis availability; and

(D) other data elements the Commission consider prudent; and

(3) consider relevant data standards used or under development within the private sector and whether to adopt or otherwise incorporate such standards into the rule finalized under this subsection, with priority given to standards that—

(A) are developed in open, transparent, impartial, balanced, consensus-based processes;

(B) are performance-based, technology neutral, and vendor neutral;

(C) are interoperable, allowing for the exchange and use of data between devices and systems;

(D) are market relevant and globally applicable;

(E) are nonduplicative of, and coherent with, other relevant standards, guides, best practices, and frameworks; and

(F) allow information owners to control what information is shared, when information is shared, with whom, and for what purpose; and

(4) be consistent with section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–113; 15 U.S.C. 272 note) including any standard for the voluntary sharing of appropriate supply chain data developed thereunder.

**(d) THIRD-PARTY AGREEMENT.**—The Commission may enter into an agreement with 1 or more appropriate independent entities based in the United States that operate as voluntary consensus standards setting organizations as defined for purposes of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–113) and Office of Management and Budget Revised Circular A–119, published in the Federal Register on January 27, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 4673), to develop the data standard for maritime freight logistics and ocean transportation in the foreign commerce of the United States for the rulemaking under sub-

section (a) and for procurement or other relevant programmatic activities, consistent with the requirements of this section.

**(e) GRANT CRITERION.**—If the rulemaking under subsection (a) is finalized, the Secretary of Transportation may require a covered port authority to adopt any data standard issued pursuant to this section for relevant operational use cases, as determined by the Secretary.

**(f) DEFINITION OF COVERED PORT AUTHORITY.**—In this section, the term “covered port authority” means a port authority that receives funding after the date on which a rule is finalized under this section under—

(1) the port infrastructure development program under section 54301(a) of title 46, United States Code; or

(2) the maritime transportation system emergency relief program under section 50308 of title 46, United States Code.

**(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Commission to develop a data standard that violates the confidentiality and disclosure policies established under subchapter III of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.

#### SEC. 202. INDEPENDENT STUDY AND REPORT ON SHANGHAI SHIPPING EXCHANGE.

**(a) STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate independent entity described in subsection (d) to conduct a study and assessment of the business practices of the Shanghai Shipping Exchange, including—

(1) any anticompetitive advantages benefitting the Shanghai Shipping Exchange; and

(2) the ability of the Ministry of Transport of the People’s Republic of China and the Shanghai Shipping Exchange to manipulate container freight markets.

**(b) ELEMENTS.**—The study and assessment required under subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) The influence of the government of the People’s Republic of China on the Shanghai Shipping Exchange.

(2) The impact of such business practices or influence on American consumers and businesses.

(3) The ability of a shipping exchange registered under section 40504 of title 46, United States Code, and based in the United States to identify market manipulation as described in subsection (a)(2) or any otherwise concerning practices by the Shanghai Shipping Exchange and report such incidents to the Federal Maritime Commission and other Federal regulators.

(4) Any other matters the Secretary or the appropriate independent entity that enters into an agreement under this section determines to be appropriate for the purposes of the study.

#### (c) REPORT.

**(1) IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary of Transportation enters into an agreement under this section, the appropriate independent entity shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report setting forth the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

**(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary shall publish the report required under paragraph (1) on a publicly accessible website of the Department of Transportation.

**(d) APPROPRIATE INDEPENDENT ENTITY DESCRIBED.**—An appropriate independent entity described in this subsection is—

(1) a federally funded research and development center sponsored by a Federal agency;

(2) the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies;

(3) the Government Accountability Office; or

(4) an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(e) **OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.**—The appropriate independent entity that enters into an agreement under this section may secure directly from any department or agency of the Federal Government information necessary to enable such entity to carry out this section. Upon request of such entity, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the appropriate independent entity, unless doing so would not be in the public interest.

**SEC. 203. POLICY WITH RESPECT TO LOGINK.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§50309. Prohibited use**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A covered entity shall not utilize covered logistics software.

“(b) **GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary of Transportation shall publish on the website of the Department of Transportation, and update regularly, a list of prohibited logistics information technologies provided by the People’s Republic of China or Chinese state-affiliated entities.

“(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission established under section 1238 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398) in carrying out this section.

“(d) **REVIEW.**—In preparing the guidance under subsection (b), the Secretary shall review the list of Chinese state-affiliated entities included in—

“(1) the list of Communist Chinese military companies released by the Department of Defense in accordance with section 1260H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113 note); and

“(2) the most recent ‘Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List’ published by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to Executive Order 14032 of June 3, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 30145; relating to Addressing the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Certain Companies of the People’s Republic of China).

“(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **COVERED LOGISTICS SOFTWARE.**—The term ‘covered logistics software’ means—

“(A) the public, open, shared logistics information network known as the ‘National Public Information Platform for Transportation & Logistics’ by the Ministry of Transport of China or any affiliate or successor entity;

“(B) any other transportation logistics software designed to be used by covered entities subject to the jurisdiction, ownership, direction, or control of a foreign adversary; or

“(C) any other logistics platform or software that shares data with a system described in paragraphs (a) or (b).

“(2) **COVERED ENTITY.**—The term ‘covered entity’ means an entity that receives funding after the date of enactment of this section under—

“(A) the port infrastructure development program under subsections (a) and (b) of section 54301; or

“(B) the maritime transportation system emergency relief program under section 50308.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chapter 503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“50309. Prohibited use.”.

**TITLE III—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS**

**SEC. 301. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

(a) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 15109 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2) by striking “15102,” and inserting “15102”; and

(2) in subsection (k)(1) by inserting “or to which this chapter applies” after “under this chapter”.

(b) **INVESTIGATIONS.**—Section 41302(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “conduct agreement” and inserting “conduct, agreement”.

(c) **AWARD OF REPARATIONS.**—Section 41305(c) is amended by striking “section subsection” and inserting “subsection”.

(d) **NATIONAL SHIPPER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—Section 42502(b)(3) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended by striking “(3) REPRESENTATION” and all that follows through “Twelve members” and inserting the following:

“(3) **REPRESENTATION.**—Members of the Committee shall be appointed as follows:

“(A) Twelve members”.

(e) **MONETARY PENALTIES OR REFUNDS.**—The analysis for chapter 411 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 41107 and inserting the following:

“41107. Monetary penalties or refunds.”.

(f) **NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—The analysis for subtitle IV of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to chapter 425 and inserting the following:

“425. National Advisory Committees ..... 42501”.

(g) **ANALYSIS.**—The heading and analysis for chapter 425 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“CHAPTER 425—NATIONAL PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

“Sec.

“42501. Definitions.

“42502. National Shipper Advisory Committee.

“42503. National Seaport Advisory Committee.

“42504. National Ocean Carrier Advisory Committee.

“42505. Function.

“42506. Administration.”.

(h) **ANNUAL REPORT AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.**—

(1) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The heading for section 46106 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting “**and public disclosure**” after “**report**”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The analysis for chapter 461 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 46106 and inserting the following:

“46106. Annual report and public disclosure.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 1836.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Dakota?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1836, my bill with Mr. GARAMENDI, who has been a partner in this work for years. This bill builds upon our work from last Congress to improve our maritime supply chain.

There are three main goals of this bill that I would like to highlight. First, our bill seeks to get tough on China. It protects U.S. ports and shippers from the influence of the Chinese

Communist Party, or CCP, by first banning LOGINK and other state-sponsored logistics software. Second, it establishes a formal process to report complaints against shipping exchanges like the Shanghai Shipping Exchange. They will be able to make those reports to the Federal Maritime Commission for investigation. Third, the bill directs the U.S. DOT to contract an independent auditor to examine the influence of the People’s Republic of China on the business practices of the Shanghai Shipping Exchange and report to Congress.

The second major thrust of this bill is that it will help streamline data sharing throughout the supply chain. It requires the FMC to work with industry experts to set a new data standard for maritime freight logistics including their ability to contract with an expert third party to develop a new standard, if needed.

Finally, our bill enacts general good government policies. It prohibits the FMC from requiring ocean carriers to report duplicative information that is already reported to other Federal agencies.

As I noted at the top of my comments, I do thank my partner, Mr. GARAMENDI. He and I serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and have really had a passion for the ocean supply chain.

A lot of people wonder why somebody in a landlocked State like South Dakota would care so much about maritime law. The reality is that 60 percent of South Dakota soybeans are exported overseas. South Dakota exports \$7 billion a year of manufactured and agricultural goods. Madam Speaker, that is \$7,700 a year for every single South Dakotan. Clearly, maritime law matters. Clearly, supply chains matter, and clearly, the Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act matters.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1836, as amended.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act is bipartisan legislation championed by my colleagues, Representative DUSTY JOHNSON and Representative GARAMENDI. This bill improves upon the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022, which passed into law last Congress.

Throughout the pandemic, Members of Congress from across the country were hearing from shippers in their districts about problems importing and exporting cargo. This bill protects American importers and exporters, standardizes data, establishes the National Port and National Ocean Carrier Advisory Committees, and builds upon efforts to improve the resiliency of the U.S. supply chain.

I thank Representative DUSTY JOHNSON and Representative GARAMENDI for their work on this legislation, and I

thank Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN for their continued support.

Madam Speaker, the Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act is bipartisan legislation that will protect American importers and exporters and build upon past efforts to improve the resiliency of the U.S. supply chain.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I serve on the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, and we have heard expert after expert talk to us about the Chinese Government working to get coercive economic power over our country and, frankly, every other country in the world, and one of the primary tools of that push for coercive economic power is data.

One real focus of this bill before us is that it makes it harder for the Chinese Communist Party to be able to use the Shanghai Shipping Exchange or the LOGINK platform to be able to gather up all of this exquisite data about the world's supply chains and shipping information and have it be used against our country and others.

This also builds upon the strong bipartisan track record that Mr. MENENDEZ spoke of, and it will make for a fuller and fairer supply chain and ocean shipping environment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1836, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PROTECTING AMERICANS' DATA FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES ACT OF 2024

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7520) to prohibit data brokers from transferring sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7520

*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 "Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024".

#### SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE SENSITIVE DATA OF UNITED STATES INDIVIDUALS TO FOREIGN ADVERSARIES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for a data broker to sell, license, rent, trade, transfer, release, disclose, provide access to, or otherwise make available personally identifiable sensitive data of a United States individual to—

- (1) any foreign adversary country; or
- (2) any entity that is controlled by a foreign adversary.

#### (b) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this section shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or a deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

#### (2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

#### (c) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) CONTROLLED BY A FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term "controlled by a foreign adversary" means, with respect to an individual or entity, that such individual or entity is—

(A) a foreign person that is domiciled in, is headquartered in, has its principal place of business in, or is organized under the laws of a foreign adversary country;

(B) an entity with respect to which a foreign person or combination of foreign persons described in subparagraph (A) directly or indirectly own at least a 20 percent stake; or

(C) a person subject to the direction or control of a foreign person or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

#### (3) DATA BROKER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "data broker" means an entity that, for valuable consideration, sells, licenses, rents, trades, transfers, releases, discloses, provides access to, or otherwise makes available data of United States individuals that the entity did not collect directly from such individuals to another entity that is not acting as a service provider.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "data broker" does not include an entity to the extent such entity—

(i) is transmitting data of a United States individual, including communications of such an individual, at the request or direction of such individual;

(ii) is providing, maintaining, or offering a product or service with respect to which personally identifiable sensitive data, or access to such data, is not the product or service;

(iii) is reporting or publishing news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest;

(iv) is reporting, publishing, or otherwise making available news or information that is available to the general public—

(I) including information from—

(aa) a book, magazine, telephone book, or online directory;

(bb) a motion picture;

(cc) a television, internet, or radio program;

(dd) the news media; or

(ee) an internet site that is available to the general public on an unrestricted basis; and

(II) not including an obscene visual depiction (as such term is used in section 1460 of the United States Code); or

(v) is acting as a service provider.

(4) FOREIGN ADVERSARY COUNTRY.—The term "foreign adversary country" means a country specified in section 4872(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE SENSITIVE DATA.—The term "personally identifiable sensitive data" means any sensitive data that identifies or is linked or reasonably linkable, alone or in combination with other data, to an individual or a device that identifies or is linked or reasonably linkable to an individual.

(6) PRECISE GEOLOCATION INFORMATION.—The term "precise geolocation information" means information that—

(A) is derived from a device or technology of an individual; and

(B) reveals the past or present physical location of an individual or device that identifies or is linked or reasonably linkable to 1 or more individuals, with sufficient precision to identify street level location information of an individual or device or the location of an individual or device within a range of 1,850 feet or less.

(7) SENSITIVE DATA.—The term "sensitive data" includes the following:

(A) A government-issued identifier, such as a Social Security number, passport number, or driver's license number.

(B) Any information that describes or reveals the past, present, or future physical health, mental health, disability, diagnosis, or healthcare condition or treatment of an individual.

(C) A financial account number, debit card number, credit card number, or information that describes or reveals the income level or bank account balances of an individual.

(D) Biometric information.

(E) Genetic information.

(F) Precise geolocation information.

(G) An individual's private communications such as voicemails, emails, texts, direct messages, mail, voice communications, and video communications, or information identifying the parties to such communications or pertaining to the transmission of such communications, including telephone numbers called, telephone numbers from which calls were placed, the time calls were made, call duration, and location information of the parties to the call.

(H) Account or device log-in credentials, or security or access codes for an account or device.

(I) Information identifying the sexual behavior of an individual.

(J) Calendar information, address book information, phone or text logs, photos, audio recordings, or videos, maintained for private use by an individual, regardless of whether such information is stored on the individual's device or is accessible from that device and is backed up in a separate location.

(K) A photograph, film, video recording, or other similar medium that shows the naked or undergarment-clad private area of an individual.

(L) Information revealing the video content requested or selected by an individual.

(M) Information about an individual under the age of 17.

(N) An individual's race, color, ethnicity, or religion.

(O) Information identifying an individual's online activities over time and across websites or online services.

(P) Information that reveals the status of an individual as a member of the Armed Forces.

(Q) Any other data that a data broker sells, licenses, rents, trades, transfers, releases, discloses, provides access to, or otherwise makes available to a foreign adversary country, or entity that is controlled by a foreign adversary, for the purpose of identifying the types of data listed in subparagraphs (A) through (P).

(8) SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term "service provider" means an entity that—

(A) collects, processes, or transfers data on behalf of, and at the direction of—

(i) an individual or entity that is not a foreign adversary country or controlled by a foreign adversary; or

(ii) a Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, or local government entity; and

(B) receives data from or on behalf of an individual or entity described in subparagraph (A)(i) or a Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, or local government entity.

(9) UNITED STATES INDIVIDUAL.—The term "United States individual" means a natural person residing in the United States.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 7520, the Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024.

Data brokers are harvesting people's sensitive data and selling or sharing it without people's knowledge or consent. To make matters worse, they often do this without any safeguards against this sensitive information going to foreign adversaries who could easily exploit it for nefarious purposes.

This sensitive information includes everything from a person's physical and mental health to their geolocation data. Oftentimes, it is sold to the highest bidder, including to foreign adversaries like China and the companies they control.

H.R. 7520 will limit how data brokers are able to share Americans' personally identifiable and sensitive information abroad.

I commend my Energy and Commerce Committee colleague Ranking Member PALLONE for his leadership on this legislation. It is an important

complement to our ongoing efforts to establish a comprehensive data privacy standard, one that cracks down on abuses of Americans' personal information by narrowing the information that is collected in the first place and putting people back in control of their personal information.

Today is an opportunity to send a very clear message that the U.S. will not tolerate the continued targeting, surveilling, and exploitation of Americans' data.

This bill advanced out of our committee with a unanimous, bipartisan 50-0 vote. I look forward to it passing the House this week, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7520, the Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act. I thank Chair RODGERS for all her help in bringing this bill to the floor today.

National security experts are sounding the alarm, warning that the government of Beijing in China and other foreign adversaries are amassing troves of sensitive data about individual Americans. That information can be used to launch sophisticated influence campaigns, conduct espionage, undermine Americans' privacy expectations, and otherwise impair American interests.

Just last week, this Chamber took decisive, bipartisan action to mitigate the national security and privacy threat that was posed by foreign-owned or -controlled social media applications collecting Americans' information by passing H.R. 7521, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act.

Today, we take further action to close the pipeline of Americans' sensitive information flowing to our foreign adversaries. This bill prohibits the data brokers from selling Americans' sensitive personal information to China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and to entities controlled by those countries.

Data brokers collect and sell billions of data elements on nearly every consumer in the United States, including information about children and active members of the U.S. military.

With this sensitive information, data brokers and their customers can make invasive inferences about an individual, including inferences about a person's travel patterns, health, political beliefs, personal interests, and financial well-being. Right now, there are no restrictions on who they can sell this information to.

Most Americans are unaware that data brokers complete detailed dossiers about their interests, beliefs, actions, and movements. Even when they are aware that these dossiers of sensitive information are being compiled, Americans are powerless to stop this invasion of privacy. While the best response

to the privacy risk posed by data brokers is a comprehensive national data privacy law, I firmly believe we must do what we can now to prevent data brokers from selling Americans' personal data to our foreign adversaries.

The breadth and scope of sensitive personal information aggregated by data brokers makes the sale of that data to our foreign adversaries a unique threat to national security and individual privacy. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence has concluded that commercially available data provides foreign adversaries with a valuable stream of intelligence, rivaling the effectiveness of sophisticated surveillance techniques. Researchers from Duke University successfully purchased sensitive information about Active-Duty members of the military, their families, and veterans from data brokers.

□ 1730

Their research has concluded that foreign and malicious actors could use data from data brokers to undermine America's national security.

This legislation complements the work done by this body last week to curb the threat posed by apps owned or controlled by foreign adversaries by closing a loophole that would allow those entities to simply buy sensitive information on Americans from data brokers. Unless we pass H.R. 7520, data brokers will still be permitted to aggregate information with vast amounts of Americans' sensitive data and sell it to the highest bidder, including foreign adversaries.

Again, I thank our chair, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, for her partnership on the Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act, which unanimously passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee by a 50-0 vote.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who is the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7520, the Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act.

Last week, the House took historic action to protect Americans' data from foreign-owned subsidiaries such as ByteDance. Today, we have legislation that will protect Americans' data privacy from data brokers seeking to sell our personally identifiable sensitive information to these foreign entities.

The subcommittee that I chair has done significant work to get this done to lay the foundation for why we need a strong Federal data privacy and security law and why a Federal standard is needed to protect Americans here at home while balancing the needs of business, government, and civil society.

As there is no Federal comprehensive data privacy and security law, data brokers are often unfettered when it comes to selling personally identifiable information. Our adversaries can all too easily purchase this sensitive data of American citizens, including information that identifies our servicemen and -women, and can target individuals based on their connection to the military and the Federal Government more broadly.

H.R. 7520 will prohibit data brokers from selling our personally identifiable sensitive information and ensure proper enforcement authorities are in place to go after these bad actors.

This small and targeted change to an otherwise free market will help ensure citizens' personal data is kept safe from entities seeking to manipulate Americans, while still respecting broader business decisions in the marketplace.

I thank Chair RODGERS and Ranking Member PALLONE for their great work here on this particular issue. It takes leadership, Madam Speaker, and we have it here in the Energy and Commerce Committee. Our wonderful staff is the best. They are second to none, and they got this done.

To me, this only underscores the need to complete our subcommittee's top priority this Congress. We must enact a comprehensive Federal data privacy and security law as soon as possible.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7520. This is vital for our national security. As many alluded to last week, I urge my colleagues to support our efforts on moving forward toward enacting stronger data privacy and security protections broadly for Americans nationwide. So great work has been done by the leadership and the committee in the full Congress. Let's get this across the finish line and over to the United States Senate and the President's desk.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who is the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to talk about this because Americans are very worried about how their data is being used. They want to know who is collecting it, where it is going, and how it is being used.

For far too long, people's privacy has been invaded. They don't know exactly how, and they don't know exactly who. In fact, one of the big players, of course, are the data brokers.

Now, Madam Speaker, ask anyone on the street: Who are data brokers? What do they do?

These are the people who buy, sell, and trade your information. Most people don't have a clue about that.

So this legislation makes a good step forward when it says that none of this information that is collected by data

brokers can go to China or any other adversary information that we have listed in this legislation.

It is time, though, I want to add, that while this bill is important for national security and for the security of our people, right now people's data is at risk and children's data is at risk.

We need comprehensive reform on privacy, and we did that in the Energy and Commerce Committee last Congress where we passed the American Data and Privacy Protection Act, and we need to go forward.

People are tired of not only wondering how are so many people collecting our data but how are they buying and selling it. It is a national security interest. This bill is important, but we have to go a step further.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7520, the Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act.

H.R. 7520 is the next step in securing Americans' sensitive data from China and other adversaries. The bipartisan legislation would prohibit data brokers from selling our constituents' health history, precise geolocation, biometric data, and other extremely personal information to North Korea, Iran, China, and Russia, or any entity controlled by those countries.

It also specifically includes protections for servicemembers and for any data from those under the age of 17.

This is a commonsense measure that piggybacks off our efforts to decouple TikTok from the Chinese Communist Party and protect our national security.

Our foreign adversaries should not have access to our most sensitive data. Allowing so risks manipulation and espionage.

The bill is also another step in our efforts to protect Americans' privacy online. We will continue to work toward comprehensive data privacy protections, and especially protections for kids and teens online.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is the right move for our constituents' privacy and security, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI), who is the ranking member of the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party and was the Democratic sponsor of the other bill that we passed last week.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair McMORRIS RODGERS and Ranking Member PALLONE for their extraordinary leadership in protecting our privacy and our data privacy. I thank them for their excellent leadership in helping to pass legislation last week that is going to force

ByteDance to sell TikTok precisely because the CCP can access Americans' sensitive data under its current ownership.

This bill is extremely, extremely important.

Why?

It is important because it prevents our foreign adversaries from buying American data through other sources.

Right now, so-called data brokers can sell Americans' sensitive data in bulk, including internet browsing history and geolocation data, and they can resell it to foreign adversaries who can then target military personnel, public officials, and others.

This bill addresses this national security threat head-on by prohibiting data brokers from selling our data to foreign adversaries. It is an excellent complement to the bill that we passed just last week with regard to ByteDance, TikTok, and foreign adversary-owned social media applications.

This bill needs to pass, and it needs to pass now.

Madam Speaker, I am so proud to strongly support H.R. 7520, and I ask all of my colleagues to unanimously pass this bill today.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, at a time when the Chinese Communist Party is continuing to expand its reach, we in Congress must act quickly to protect American user data.

Preventing data brokers from selling this information to those who wish to harm Americans is a vital step toward protecting our interests and securing sensitive and vulnerable information from falling into the hands of our adversaries.

This legislation would ensure that nations like China, North Korea, Iran, and Russia would no longer be able to purchase geolocation or biomedical data on our servicemembers. Personal information of our Active-Duty military must be safeguarded.

Above all, we must ensure that all Americans have confidence that their data is being protected and that their information is secure. This legislation is a commonsense step to help keep all Americans safe.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 7520.

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

Madam Speaker, this bill, in my opinion, is an excellent example of how our committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, works together on a bipartisan basis.

We, frankly, heard from the various Federal agencies, whether it was the Justice Department, national security, or FBI, that it was necessary to address the issue of data that was being

basically passed on to our adversaries, particularly Beijing, and we crafted two bills. One has been referred to as the TikTok bill which we passed last week, and the other is the data brokers bill that will pass today.

It is no surprise that in our committee in a roll call vote we had 50 members, Democrats and Republicans, vote for this. None voted against it.

I am certainly suggesting that this is something that is very important. Both bills need to pass. One already did. I also think it is an excellent example of how this Congress, this House, and our committee, in particular, can work together on something that relates to national security and privacy.

As Ms. SCHAKOWSKY has said, and I know Chair RODGERS has said, we need a national data privacy bill. This is the beginning, I believe, of that process. It is also one of the most important aspects of it because it does affect our national security.

Madam Speaker, I am proud I can say that we worked together on this. I will certainly urge that the House do the same: vote this bill unanimously and send it over to the Senate for further action.

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on this bill that would prohibit data brokers from profiting off the sale or the transfer of sensitive data of U.S. individuals and specifically that of U.S. military servicemembers to a foreign adversary country or any entity that is controlled by such country.

The term “controlled by a foreign adversary” parallels the definition of H.R. 7521, the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, that we passed last week out of the House 352–65.

I believe that this is very important legislation also to complement that effort and our continued work to enact legislation that would bring a national privacy and data security law into place.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7520, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-96)

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

#### THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

*To the Congress of the United States:*

When I was elected President, a pandemic was raging and our economy was reeling. We were in the midst of the most devastating downturn in nearly a century. I came into office determined to fundamentally change things, by rebuilding our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down—because when the middle class does well, the poor have a ladder up and the wealthy still do well. We all do. We can give everyone a fair shot and leave no one behind.

Our work started with the American Rescue Plan, which vaccinated the Nation, delivered immediate economic relief to people who badly needed it, and sent funding to States and cities to keep key services going. It continued with the biggest investment in our Nation’s infrastructure since the 1950s. More than 46,000 new projects have been announced to date, rebuilding our roads, bridges, railroads, ports, airports, public transit, water systems, high-speed internet, and more. At the same time, we are making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in the history of the world. I have seen Americans’ courage and resilience in the wake of devastating natural disasters, and I will always have their backs as we rebuild and boost resilience to extreme weather.

We are building a cleaner, more resilient and sustainable power grid, and making America’s biggest investment in rural electricity since the New Deal. We are revitalizing fence-line communities that have shouldered the burden of harmful pollution for generations. We are lowering energy costs for hard-working families and strengthening our energy security with clean energy breakthroughs. Across the board, we are supporting advanced manufacturing, ensuring the industries of the future are made in America by American workers.

Our plan is working. Already, my Investing in America agenda has attracted \$650 billion in private investment from companies that are building factories and moving production back to America. We are making things here in America again, with American union workers. We have ignited a manufacturing boom, a semiconductor boom, an electric-vehicle boom, and more. My agenda is creating hundreds of thousands of union jobs, so folks never have

to leave their hometowns to find good-paying work they can raise a family on. Today, America once again has the strongest economy in the world. We have created a record 15 million jobs, with unemployment under four percent for the longest stretch in over 50 years. Growth is strong. Wages are rising and inflation is down by two-thirds, with costs having fallen for key household items from a gallon of gas to a gallon of milk. We have more to do, but folks are starting to feel the benefits. Consumer sentiment has surged more in recent months than any time in 30 years. Americans have filed a record 16 million new business applications since I took office; each one of them is an act of hope.

Importantly, we made these historic investments in a fiscally responsible way, while making our tax system fairer. In 2022, I signed a law that imposed a new minimum tax of 15 percent on the Nation’s largest corporations, saved \$160 billion by giving Medicare the authority to negotiate prescription drug prices and limit price increases, and boosted funding to the Internal Revenue Service to crack down on wealthy and corporate tax cheats. This is just the beginning. My Budget would do more to close loopholes. It would save another \$200 billion by enabling Medicare to negotiate prices on even more drugs and by limiting other drug price increases. It would cut wasteful subsidies to Big Oil and other special interests; and it would introduce a minimum tax on billionaires, which alone would raise \$500 billion for the American people.

So far, we have already cut the deficit by \$1 trillion since I took office, one of the biggest reductions in history, and I have signed legislation to cut it by \$1 trillion more. My Budget would reduce it by another \$3 trillion over the next 10 years as well, while continuing to pay for our investments in America.

And we are just getting started.

My Administration will keep fighting to lower costs for working families, on everything from housing to childcare to student loans. After decades of talk in Washington, we beat Big Pharma and capped the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400. Starting next year, no senior on Medicare will pay more than \$2,000 a year in total out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, even for expensive cancer medications that now cost many times more. We are cracking down on price gouging by requiring drugmakers that raise prices of certain drugs faster than inflation to pay a rebate back to Medicare. At the same time, we have protected and expanded the Affordable Care Act, with a record 21 million Americans enrolled in marketplace plans this past year, while saving millions of Americans \$800 per year on their premiums. Today, more Americans have health insurance than ever before. My Budget builds on those gains.

I also know that for too many hard-working families, it costs too much to find a good home, so we are working to lower costs and boost supply of housing nationwide. My Budget will make monthly mortgage payments more affordable for middle-class first-time home buyers by providing a \$5,000 annual mortgage relief credit for two years. My Budget will expand rental assistance to hundreds of thousands of additional families, continuing the largest expansion in 20 years. It will also help to ease America's long-standing shortage of affordable housing, including by cutting red tape, so that more builders can get Federal financing to build more affordable housing. Important progress is underway: more families own homes today than before the pandemic; rents are easing; and a record 1.7 million housing units are under construction nationwide.

My Budget also makes key investments in childcare and education, so every child in America can have the strong start they need to thrive. It restores the Child Tax Credit expansion I signed into law, which cut child poverty nearly in half in 2021; and it guarantees the vast majority of families high-quality childcare for no more than \$10 a day, while boosting pay for childcare workers. It offers universal free preschool for all four million of America's four-year-olds. Building on the American Rescue Plan's investment in public education, the biggest in history, it also helps States expand tutoring, afterschool, and summer programs; and boosts recruiting to ease teacher shortages.

At the same time, I am keeping my promise to ease the crushing burden of student debt. Despite legal challenges, we have canceled some \$138 billion in student debt for nearly four million Americans, including more than 750,000 teachers, nurses, firefighters, social workers, and other public servants. That is freeing people to finally consider buying a home, having a child, or starting that small business they always dreamed of.

We are also working to secure our border. In October, I sent an emergency request for more funding; my Budget renews that request for additional resources, including for 1,300 more Border Patrol agents, 375 immigration judges, and 1,600 asylum officers, and for cutting-edge technology to help detect fentanyl. We need to pass the Senate's bipartisan border deal as well, which would make urgent additional investments to secure the border and help to fix our broken immigration system.

Today, the world is facing an inflection point in history, at home and abroad. My Administration has restored America's leadership on the world stage, rallying more than 50 nations to support Ukraine in the face of brutal Russian aggression, strengthening and expanding NATO, revitalizing our alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific—including with Japan, South Korea, and Australia—

and strengthening democracy across the globe. But we need to do more to prove that America can once again be relied on to stand up for freedom. In October, I submitted a national security supplemental request to cover urgent needs, including support for Ukraine and Israel, and humanitarian aid and relief for Palestinians. My Budget reiterates that request and continues other critical support for NATO allies and partners around the world. It strengthens our deterrence capacity in the Indo-Pacific, expanding our capabilities in the region. It also works to keep our military the best-trained, best-equipped fighting force in the world, integrating advanced innovation technologies, and improving overall readiness. My Budget also takes important steps to honor our Nation's most sacred obligation—to protect and equip our troops when they are in harm's way, and to care for them and their families throughout and after their service. Since I took office, I have signed over 30 significant bipartisan bills to support veterans, including the PACT Act, the biggest-ever expansion of benefits for servicemembers exposed to toxic burn pits during their service; and I have issued the most comprehensive executive actions to date to boost economic security for military families. My Budget builds on that work.

The story of America is one of progress and resilience, of always moving forward and never giving up. It is a story unique among Nations. We are the only Nation that has emerged from every crisis we have entered stronger than we went in. While my Administration has seen great progress since day one, there is still work to do. My Budget will help make that promise real.

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

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

H.R. 4723; and

H. Res. 149.

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.

#### UPHOLDING THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4723) to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 30, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 87]

YEAS—365

Adams	Cherifius	Fleischmann
Aderholt	McCormick	Fletcher
Aguilar	Chu	Flood
Alford	Ciscomani	Foster
Allen	Clark (MA)	Foushee
Allred	Clarke (NY)	Foxx
Amo	Cleaver	Franklin, Scott
Amodei	Cline	Frost
Armstrong	Clyburn	Fry
Auchincloss	Cohen	Fulcher
Babin	Collins	Gallagher
Bacon	Comer	Gallego
Baird	Connolly	Garamendi
Balderson	Correa	Garcia (TX)
Balint	Courtney	Garcia, Mike
Banks	Craig	Garcia, Robert
Barr	Crawford	Gimenez
Barragán	Crenshaw	Goldman (NY)
Bean (FL)	Crockett	Gomez
Beatty	Crow	Gonzales, Tony
Bentz	Cuellar	Gonzalez,
Bera	Curtis	Vicente
Bergman	D'Esposito	Gooden (TX)
Beyer	Davids (KS)	Gottheimer
Bice	Davidson	Granger
Bilirakis	Davis (NC)	Graves (LA)
Bishop (GA)	De La Cruz	Graves (MO)
Blumenauer	Dean (PA)	Green, Al (TX)
Blunt Rochester	DeGette	Guest
Bonamici	DeLauro	Guthrie
Bowman	DelBene	Harris
Boyle (PA)	Deluzio	Hayes
Brown	DeSaulnier	Hern
Brownley	DesJarlais	Hill
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Buck	Dingell	Hinson
Bucshon	Doggett	Houchin
Budzinski	Duarte	Houlihan
Burgess	Duncan	Hoyer
Bush	Dunn (FL)	Hoyle (OR)
Calvert	Edwards	Hudson
Caraveo	Elzey	Huffman
Carbajal	Emmer	Huizenga
Cárdenas	Escobar	Hunt
Carey	Eshoo	Issa
Carl	Espaillat	Ivey
Carson	Estes	Jackson (NC)
Carter (GA)	Evans	Jackson (TX)
Carter (LA)	Ezell	Jackson Lee
Carter (TX)	Fallon	Jacobs
Cartwright	Feenstra	James
Case	Ferguson	Jayapal
Casten	Finstad	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Fischbach	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Fitzgerald	Johnson (SD)
Chavez-DeRemer	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (PA)



## NOT VOTING—32

Bishop (NC)	Harder (CA)	Salazar
Bost	Horsford	Simpson
Buck	Jackson (IL)	Spartz
Cole	Kildee	Stanton
Davis (IL)	Kim (NJ)	Titus
Frankel, Lois	Lee (CA)	Tonko
Garcia (IL)	Lee (NV)	Trahan
Golden (ME)	Mooney	Van Orden
Gosar	Neal	Williams (TX)
Green (TN)	Nehls	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Ramirez	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1901

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: “A resolution condemning the illegal abduction and forcible transfer of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 88.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 87 (H.R. 4723) and “yea” on rollcall No. 88 (H. Res. 149).

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 87 and “yea” on rollcall No. 88.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent and missed two votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 87, H.R. 4723 and “yea” on rollcall No. 88, H. Res. 149.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor today and missed the roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 87, H.R. 4723 and “yea” on rollcall No. 88, H. Res. 149.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1139

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1139.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

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

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Agriculture Day. Today is a day for Congress to come together to share their appreciation.

This day serves to highlight the vital work our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and farmworkers do in providing the safest, highest quality supply of food, fiber, and fuel in human history.

Agriculture touches our lives daily. If you have eaten today, thank a farmer. If you have clothes on your back, thank a farmer. Agriculture also provides the foundation upon which the entire American economy rests.

It is more important than ever to ensure our farmers, ranchers, and foresters have their voices heard in the Halls of Congress. That is why it is my honor to represent farm families in rural America as the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Rural America deserves policies that help, not hinder, economic vitality and global competitiveness. Consumers deserve affordable and abundant food, fiber, and fuel. Every farmer I have met across nearly 40 States says the same thing: They want a government to work for them, not against them.

Getting a farm bill across the finish line is a tall task, and each reauthorization has its own unique set of challenges. This year’s farm bill can show the best of America—farmers—that we have their backs.

QUESTIONING THE REPUBLICAN  
COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN  
FAMILIES

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to question the Republican commitment to American families.

Recently, actions in Alabama have led a nationwide discussion on the popular in vitro fertilization, or IVF, pregnancy treatments. More than 8 million American babies have been born through IVF, and it has helped create parents and families nationwide.

The Republicans want to ban IVF across the country. First, Republicans want to force women to have children. Now, they want to stop women from having them. It is very confusing and very hypocritical.

Democrats want women to choose when they have their children. We also want to protect that right with the Women’s Health Protection Act. The American people should make reproductive health choices, not politicians.

## HONORING JOE LANDSMAN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my dear friend Joe Landsman, who is retiring from his position as CEO of the University of Tennessee Medical Center in April. Joe started at the UT Medical Center in 1999 and has been the CEO since 2005. In that time, he significantly increased the hospital’s patient capacity and services. He added clinics and regional health centers across east Tennessee, renovated and added surgical units, and built parking garages to accommodate the rapidly growing number of patients who were coming to the medical center.

He has also been known to treat his employees well and drive everyone to success. During Joe’s time as CEO, the hospital’s revenue increased by 451 percent. Only the most passionate, effective leader could achieve that, Mr. Speaker.

The UT Medical Center has received many awards under Joe’s leadership. One of his favorites is when the U.S. News & World Report named the UT Medical Center as one of the best hospitals in America in 2012. The news just happened to come out on his birthday.

The UT Medical Center wouldn’t be the great hospital it is today without Joe’s leadership.

I wish my dear friend good luck in his retirement, and I wish Dr. Keith Gray the best as he takes over that position.

□ 1915

HONORING NEW MEXICO STATE  
POLICE OFFICER JUSTIN HARE

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor New Mexico State Police Officer Justin Hare, a dedicated law enforcement officer and protector of our beloved New Mexico communities.

Officer Hare was known for kindness and consideration for those who travel New Mexico's long roads. Last week, he stopped to help a driver on the side of the road with a flat tire. That driver tragically shot and killed Officer Hare.

Officer Hare dedicated his life to the people of Quay County. He coached sports teams, volunteered, and lent a helping hand to whomever needed it. He loved his partner, Daizzare Quintana; their daughters, Julianne and Caydence; and the unborn child they expected in September.

Today, we honor Officer Hare and the sacrifice he made for the community he loved so dearly.

I send my deepest condolences to his family and to his colleagues in the New Mexico State Police.

Mr. Speaker, when you next see a State Police officer on the road, send them a quiet prayer of remembrance for Officer Hare.

#### RECOGNIZING BLAIR COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES CHRISTOPHER HANNA AND BRANDON LASURE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Blair County Deputy Sheriffs Christopher Hanna and Brandon Lasure.

It is because of their quick thinking and rush to action to stop the effects of an overdose that a Blair County woman is still alive today.

Deputy Hanna and Deputy Lasure followed their training to the letter, being aware of the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose these sheriff's deputies did not hesitate to step up and helped to save a human being.

Upon recognizing that the woman had become unresponsive, the deputies immediately called for an ambulance and delivered the appropriate doses of naloxone, a lifesaving drug designed to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

On behalf of the people of Blair County and Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District, I am grateful for these sheriff's deputies and their tireless work to serve our community.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF STEPHEN MACKIN, SR. OF THORNBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Stephen Mackin, Sr., of Thornburg, Pennsylvania.

Steve was born on November 7, 1960, and was a lifelong Pittsburgher. He graduated from Bishop Canevin in 1979 where he made many lifelong friends.

A hard worker always seeking perfection, for the past 42 years Steve worked at and co-owned Liberty Fuel & Supply in Carnegie, working alongside his father, brothers, sons, nephews, and many friends.

He was a good man who knew how to have a good time when he could. He loved to get away to the beach to spend time with his family and cracking open an Iron City. He was a very proud grandfather, a loyal brother, and a devoted member of a big family.

Steve was committed to supporting the kids in our western Pennsylvania community. He was my basketball coach at St. Philip's, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, Steve was tough, but he always brought out the best in us.

Sadly, Steve passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack on March 6 of this year. He was just 63.

Steve will be missed by his loving family, including Ruth, his wife of 35 years, their three children, and his siblings, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, all of whom wish they had more time together.

To the Mackin family, whom I am proud to call my friends: Our whole community mourns Steve's passing.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). The gentleman's request is granted.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF ARTHUR M. GIGNILLIAT, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to remember the life of Arthur Gignilliat, Jr.

Art was a man of the community and served in a myriad of ways. Art retired from Savannah Electric and Power Company as president and CEO after his remarkable 40-year career.

He was also elected to serve for eight terms as chairman of the University System of Georgia Committee in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Art was appointed to serve as chairman to the Board of Regents and Georgia Ports Authority and was a member of numerous other boards, including the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority.

Local organizations that Art donated his time to include the Rotary Club of Savannah, Armstrong State College Foundation, Georgia International Maritime Trade Center Authority, and Bethesda Union Society.

A devout member of First Presbyterian of Savannah for most of his

life, Arthur also served as a deacon, elder, and Clerk of Session.

He exemplified a life well lived and was best known for unwavering devotion to wife, Molly, their two children, and six grandchildren.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSO LANDSLIDE

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Oso landslide. On that tragic day, 43 people lost their lives when an entire hillside collapsed, smothering the town and burying it in mud.

Washington State was forever changed. Among the victims were veterans, a nurse, and even elementary school students. They were parents, grandparents, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and children, all beloved members of their tight-knit community along State Route 530, and we remember them today.

As we mark 10 years since this tragedy—and it feels as if it was yesterday—I would like to extend my condolences to the friends and family members of those victims. While we can't change the past, we can honor those who passed away by working toward a safer future.

As the Representative of this community, I have worked to increase funding for emergency communications and services and supported the National Landslide Preparedness Act, all of which help ensure that we understand what conditions make such a landslide more likely and are ready if such a disaster strikes again.

People of Oso and the surrounding communities along SR 530 are in my heart today.

#### BIDEN ASSAULT ON HOUSING

(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, with Bidenomics of borrow, tax, and spend, American families have endured the highest inflation in 40 years, costing the average family \$12,000 more annually to buy basics, including housing.

Stephen Moore of the Heritage Foundation has revealed "housing affordability has hit a 40-year low under Mr. Biden after affordability surged under Mr. Trump."

The average monthly payment has risen from \$1,500 a month to \$2,600 today.

"What Mr. Biden fails to understand is that two factors drive homeownership: the interest rate and real income growth."

House Republicans will continue to fight to reduce inflation and create jobs led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON.

As a former real estate attorney myself, I especially appreciate the achievements of the real estate industry as it is the basis of good schools and safe communities.

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

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

Our prayers today are for the family of DAN KILDEE.

#### NORTHWEST OHIO HEALTHCARE ROUNDTABLE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during this Women's History Month, I rise to tell the story of a constituent struggling to deal with our challenged healthcare system.

Yesterday, I hosted a roundtable in Toledo, Ohio, with Democratic Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES and our northwest Ohio healthcare community.

During this roundtable, a constituent told us a story of her niece who was newly diagnosed with breast cancer. The niece is employed by a company based in Texas, but she works remotely from northwest Ohio, and she helps take care of her elderly grandmother.

Nonetheless, because her employer is out of State, local Ohio facilities will not accept her health insurance because she is outside the carrier network as it is called. Thus, for more than 2 weeks, she has had to delay treatment for her newly diagnosed breast cancer prognosis.

She wants to be near her family and not be alone while she receives treatment, but, unfortunately, she is being squeezed between the sides of our broken health insurance system.

If members of our medical community cannot even help their own family navigate this system, something must be done to fix it. This provider failure is simply unacceptable.

#### NATIONAL AG DAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today in the United States it is National Agriculture Day. This is a day that we recognize that the food on your table came from somewhere. Mr. Speaker, and it isn't just a supermarket, or a truck, or maybe even a taco truck like in California. No. It came from the hard work of a farmer or a rancher producing for all of us.

One of my goals here as a member of the Agriculture Committee is to make

sure they can keep producing and keep the food on the table. American grown products are of the highest quality and the highest responsibility as far as labor, environment, and the whole works.

Nonetheless, do you know what, Mr. Speaker?

They still need the tools to be able to do that into the future. We need to pass, more immediately, another 5-year farm bill like in my home State of California. We also need to have the input. We need to have a water supply that is steady and growing. As the population grows, we need to increase the State's water supply because more and more of it is going to other things than sustaining agriculture which has been so strong in the Sacramento Valley, the San Joaquin Valley, and the whole State.

As we celebrate National Ag Day, Mr. Speaker, if there is food on your plate, remember it came from a farmer.

If you are going to complain about the farmer, Mr. Speaker, just don't do it with your mouth full.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, in a time when books and libraries are under attack, I rise to celebrate National Library Week which begins April 7.

Libraries bring people together and foster growth and collaboration in our communities. From story time and summer lunches for kids to continuing education and book clubs for adults of all ages, our libraries are truly a place for all.

In Orange County alone, our library system served over 3 million people just last year, including my family. Yet, these community institutions are increasingly targets of extremist, hateful attempts. Libraries should be places where all Americans are free to read, learn, and come together without interference from politicians.

During National Library Week, I urge my colleagues to recognize the value libraries bring to all our communities and recommit to supporting these important institutions.

#### HERE THEY GO AGAIN

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students of South Glens Falls. Here they go again, as they celebrate another year of extraordinary commitment to their community.

Earlier this month, they hosted their 47th annual South High Marathon Dance, a student-led event to raise money for worthy causes, from dedicated community organizations to local families in need.

This year they raised nearly \$750,000, adding to an astonishing total of more than \$11 million raised since 1978.

I was honored to join them at this year's event where I saw firsthand the enthusiasm and compassion that keep this tradition alive.

United by music, dance, and a spirit of giving, these leaders of today and tomorrow demonstrate the power that lies in a commitment to community and a desire to do good—tremendous good.

To the students of South Glens Falls, I extend my congratulations on another incredible year of giving and my heartfelt thanks for filling me with inspiration and hope for our collective future.

Go Bulldogs. They are a loving and caring inspiration and strength for our future.

□ 1930

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise on National Agriculture Day to honor all farmers, farmworkers, ranchers, fishers, foresters, and agriculture workers, all who feed and clothe the American people and those beyond. Our Nation counts on you, and you deliver every single day.

Mr. Speaker, may I add that there is nothing more exciting than seeing the iconic blue jacket and FFA emblem and, of course, a young person wearing it who is interested in agriculture. I can attest firsthand to the talent, passion, and dedication of our young agriculture leaders, who are indeed the lifeline.

In North Carolina, agriculture is our leading industry and, in the east, a big part of our heritage and way of life. Agriculture plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our region.

There is no better time than now to recognize the significance of our agriculture community as we continue cultivating our agriculture leaders of tomorrow.

#### BORROWING PER SECOND

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, we are going to try to do three things tonight.

One, I am going to spend a few minutes sort of talking about folklore. I have tried this a couple of times. It hasn't worked, but hope springs eternal. I will sort of walk through some of the comments you get and try to explain where reality is, and maybe they are bots or maybe they are made up.

The second thing, we are going to walk through the borrowing numbers off of the Treasury's website so they are up to date on what is actually happening. I need to do it over and over because I am trying to get this place to understand how fast the numbers are moving away from us.

Number three, we are going to do some thought experiments. I am going to show some ideas in technology that actually could fairly substantially change the borrowing and debt curve.

First off, last week, I appreciate that Forbes put up on YouTube last week's floor speech. I think now 640,000 people have viewed it, which is wonderful. However, you then read some of the comments, and you accept some of the comments are from Russian troll farms, Chinese troll farms, or Iranian troll farms, or they are bots. It is just lunacy. Every once in a while, you get the person who says: Why aren't there any people in the Chamber?

They are not supposed to be here. The work of the day is done. Now, we do our floor speeches. Some evenings, they are still in committee until late at night. It is right now—what?—7:30 here in Washington.

If they are hanging out here, they should be in their offices reading, but one of the reasons I do these presentations, is that we are probably on a thousand televisions around this campus right now. Maybe there are some staffers who all of a sudden are willing to listen to math. Remember our running joke that this is a math-free zone.

Second thing, I am going to do this because I am tired of people who don't think. Stop being trite. The scale of the debt problem is real, and whether you are on the left or the right, you have to understand the solutions. We move our mouths about saying we are going to raise taxes on rich people, and you get about 1½ percent of GDP, but you are borrowing them at 9.6.

Those of us who want to cut things have to be honest. I can find you 1½, 2 percent of cuts, but if you are borrowing 9.6 percent of GDP, which we are this year, you are not really moving the needle.

One of the comments, just to understand how absurd and how stupid—excuse me. That is not fair. I take that back. I apologize.

Please take this seriously. When you have the person who says—and maybe it was a bot, and you see in the comments 20, 30 times—if you just got rid of congressional salaries. We are probably overpaid for our work product.

In an entire year, every U.S. Senator, every Member of the House, if you get rid of their salaries, it would cover 16 minutes of borrowing in an entire year. In a day, it would cover 2.6 seconds of borrowing. This is what we call fun rhetoric, and it is stupid math.

When you have someone willing to say things like that, it once again shows you are not willing to understand the scale that is moving against this country.

Remember, over and over, it is debt that has crushed republics, so let's actually go through some of the other math. Then, there are a number of things we are going to go through here, just trying to understand how absurd what is going on is.

I grabbed The Economist magazine, a wonderful magazine. It is a little liberal, a little European-centric, but you see their cover. Their cover is trying to make the point that we have actually a remarkably healthy economy, considering all the stupid that has gone on. Yet, what does it mean to you when magazines like this have covers saying: The amazing American economy is still growing.

At the same time, last week I was here and told you we were borrowing over \$95,000 a second. Now, it is no longer \$95,000. It is, I think, \$98,300 a second. If we try a little harder, maybe we will get over \$100,000 a second.

If you go over the last 365 days, as of today, we are borrowing over \$98,000 a second, and almost every dime of that growth in borrowing is interest and different types of healthcare. Yet, when you look at these, I keep trying to explain over and over every dime.

This is a more updated version. Here is what we call discretionary. You see there in the blue or purple or whatever that color is, about half of that is Defense. About half of that is everything you think of as government. It is the FBI. It is the Park Service. It is everything else other than mandatory earned benefits.

Every dime a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed. All Defense is borrowed. All discretionary is borrowed.

Also, we are heading toward a time where we may actually see—and this is off. If we actually get close to \$2.8 trillion and all discretionary is about—start thinking that. When you start having another \$800 billion of Medicare, things of that nature, borrowed, shouldn't that actually start to create a little sense of stress, of panic?

Are we going to continue to play the game around here where the left lies, saying we are going to raise taxes, and then we do stupid things like, well, if we got rid of foreign aid, yes, it would take care of a whole week or so of borrowing.

What I am asking for is to think with a calculator. We have to change policies in a big-time way to save this country, and it is going to be complex. It is going to be hard. You are going to have to read and understand, but there is hope.

I can show you over and over. I have come to this floor and said: If you do these things, you can crash the price of healthcare. If you adopt these technologies, you can crash the price of this government.

Yet, these hallways around here are full of people who are not here to help us cut spending. They are here to actually help themselves. They want money. They want it either to defend

their bureaucracies or to defend their business models, and they use Congress as a barrier to entry.

Let's walk through some more of this.

One of my other frustrations is how you plan. Last May, when we were supposed to be building the 2024 budget, a year ago May—and we are going to vote on the rest of it this week, which shows just how dysfunctional we have been, but we have been too busy trying to get rid of a Speaker.

Think of this. In that time, we were fighting over \$16 billion. We are borrowing about \$9 billion a day. We have gone how many months, and we never got around to actually working on the real problems because of the theatrics around here.

The Congressional Budget Office last year said that we may only borrow \$1.744 billion. I like to use gross numbers instead of publicly borrowed, and over here when you borrow from the trust funds, because you have to pay them back—and we do pay interest to the trust funds—when you borrow out of Social Security, borrow out of Medicare part A trust fund, when you borrow out of Transportation—and we do borrow that money right out—it goes to Treasury, goes out the door, and then we give them Treasury note IOUs with interest.

Then OMB, Office of Management and Budget, last June, said that we are only going to borrow \$1.988 trillion in the 2024 fiscal year, and that bottom number is just what we have already borrowed to date, which, if you work it out per month, you are looking at the number of \$2.8 trillion, \$2.9 trillion.

How do we keep missing the number by a trillion dollars? Is that part of the scam? Is it part of the game to say that we are going to give our number prediction—and that is what all the talking heads on television, radio, and the newspapers and the really diligent press around here fixate on because it is in their little book and they are not paying attention. That first board I showed you, you could go onto the Treasury's website and do the math yourself and see where we are actually at.

Part of one of the drivers is nothing you get to vote on here. It is the continuation of rising interest rates, so I have had to adjust this. Understand, today's 10 years, I think, was at 4.3, so this is the blend interest rate, which means—let me see if I can make this make sense.

You have a country with about \$34½ trillion of borrowing, but it is really closer to \$27 trillion, \$28 trillion is sold to the public. The rest of that is borrowed internally. What is sold to the public has a couple of factors on it. It is duration. They sold a 6-month. They sold a 1-year. They sold a 5-year. They sold a 10-year. They sold a 30-year. These are bonds. These are notes. These are paper. It is just different names for the different durations. Some were sold years ago when interest rates were basically close to zero.

This year, in the 2024 year, with the new issuances of bonds because of our current borrowing and then the refinancing of old, there is about \$10 trillion that gets subject to the new interest rates. As bonds are rolling off, and then you saw when we had that stressed bond auction—what was it?—last November where the market makers had to buy 24 percent of it, and a couple of weeks later, Treasury rolls out and says maybe we are just going to start selling shorter on the curve because at least that way we know we have the demand, but, yes, we are going to pay higher premiums on it.

Every couple of weeks, we get the calculation of what our interest load is, and it keeps ticking up on us. I am going to show a couple of boards here. If you look, interest on outstanding debt, the nonnegotiable is the debt internally. Publicly held is right now about 3.259 and may continue to tick up as they go shorter on the curve.

I know this is geeky. If you don't like math, please go watch something else. We are selling more and more of our debt short because there is demand there, but that interest, we are paying a premium. Then, you want to know why the debt and borrowing keeps going up.

It is about how we are financing. What that ends up creating is this situation here where my predictions—and I will take responsibility if I am wrong because, understand, my darkness is about \$800 billion to almost a trillion dollars over what our Congressional Budget Office says, what Office of Management and Budget said. So far, I have been right. I also look at it every single day, where they put a number and then several months go by.

□ 1945

We are right now on track for coming in over \$2.8 trillion in borrowing. Remember, I just showed you an economic magazine saying: Isn't it amazing how healthy the U.S. economy is? How do you borrow close to \$3 trillion—that is a gross number that is both publicly borrowed and internal borrowing—how do you borrow close to \$3 trillion when the economy is good?

I need you to think about this because tax collections are not that far off from the historical average. When we have had very high marginal rates, when we have had very low marginal rates, they are always there at about 17.5 percent, 18.5 percent, sometimes it is as high as 19 percent of the economy, it comes in as taxes.

Does this let you know there is something structural out there? It is the dirty little secret that we all know, but we are afraid to say because it gets us unelected. We tell the truth about where the drivers are.

Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of U.S. borrowing from today through the next 30 years will be interest, healthcare, and Social Security. In 8 or 9 years, when the Social Security trust fund is emptied out, we have to decide whether

we will let the immorality of doubling senior poverty in America with seniors taking a 25 percent cut go on, or do we backfill it with general fund revenues? If we do that, those three things will be 100 percent of the borrowing for the next 30 years. Everything else is modeled to be pretty flat. As a matter of fact, the general fund, as related to discretionary, actually is going to be slightly positive over the 30 years.

We got old. It is demographics. We are not supposed to say that around here because we might hurt someone's feelings. I brought the charts here a couple weeks ago with the update in fertility rates. In 15 years, this country has had more deaths than births.

What are we doing to plan for that? What are we doing to plan for the reality that we are heading toward a time where we are going to have 2.3, 2.4 workers for every person in retirement on Social Security?

We know it is coming. It is not a black swan. It is what they nicknamed a white swan. It means you see it and you still don't do anything about it because we are too busy knifing each other with rhetoric that doesn't make mathematical sense because it is good politics.

And now we have done the updates again and our latest update this year is no longer fitting just interest in this year. I want to say this in a way where I get it fairly accurate. Our latest model says interest in the 2024 fiscal year will be \$1.076 trillion.

When I came here a couple months ago and said: We could be heading for \$1 trillion—I got mocked, even from some of my colleagues saying: SCHWEIKERT, you have got to stop making things up.

Well, it turns out I am right.

Mr. Speaker, why don't we take it seriously? We sit here and fight and fight over—it is real money we fight over, but in the same day, we will spend all day fighting over a few million here, which is important, and I am fine. I am willing to cut these things. However, we are picking pennies up off the ground as the avalanche is crushing us. That same day we fought over those millions; we borrowed \$9 billion that day when we were fighting over millions. I understand that millions has a lot of zeroes. A trillion has 12 zeroes, so you can understand the scale.

I put up this slide just because this is our prediction slide, but also to make another point. Here is how spending will work this year, just so people understand the hierarchy.

Social Security, we expect \$1.450 trillion to go out the door. This is an earned benefit. You worked in America; you paid your FICA tax. If you worked your 40 quarters, you maxed out, but you earned this.

The next biggest spend in your government isn't coming from a running tax and trust fund; it is borrowing, in both net and gross. The difference there, once again, is net is just the interest we pay out the door to people

who bought our bonds. Gross is also because we owe interest to Social Security and Medicare and all the other trust funds. Both are coming in as the second biggest expense to the U.S. Government.

Number three, Medicare.

Number four is now defense.

If you and I walked down the street and said to someone: Hey, what is the number one spend in the U.S. Government? What is the number two? Would they say interest is the number two expense of this government? If you think interest rates are about to crash down to where they were in the last decade, remember the last decade was a fantasy.

If you take a look, if you remove sort of the previous decade with the value of money manipulation in interest rates, if we remove that and look at the 35-year average, we are not even high enough to be in the 35-year average yet. The fantasy has to come to an end here. This is reality. This is one of my continuing frustrations.

CBO, we try to work with them. They do their best. They have to operate with the GDP growth they expected, that is where Treasury tells them what receipts are coming in. We call tax revenue receipts. That is the proper term.

But over and over, we keep missing the numbers. And when you start missing your numbers by a trillion dollars, it makes the job a little trickier when the people you rely on, the data you rely on—because we missed how high interest rates—remember, last October everyone was saying that the Fed is going to start cutting, and inflation in the last 2 months really hasn't gone down.

This isn't a non sequitur. We suffer inflation because we spent too much money. Even the leftwing academic studies from last year, which wanted to blame the supply chain, had that as part of it. Some of them said as much as half was supply chain. Some said it was only about 40 percent, but supply chains are fixed.

We are a couple years later, how are we still running hot again? We are paying the price for spending money in ways that did not actually spike productivity. When you subsidize things, do you get the most efficient, the cheapest, the best way to produce them? It doesn't work that way.

You need to make it so there is a level of competition that the best, fastest product and the reinvestment in your capital—it is the difference between supply side and sort of the Keynesian investments, and now you have seen both.

You saw the productivity gains with the tax reform and now you have seen what happened with inflation reduction where you got inflation. Now, the last 2 months, it hasn't been going down the way it is supposed to. So expect these interest rates I just showed you to continue.

If you live in my neighborhood, if you live in the Scottsdale-Phoenix

area, it is a wonderful area. It is absolutely incredibly beautiful this time of year. From January 2021 until 2 months ago, if you are not making 23.6 percent more, you are poorer today than you were in January 2021. You want to know why people are cranky?

Try and understand how many of our brothers and sisters around the country, particularly in the working class, are poorer today. In my area, if you are not making 23.6 percent more than that January 2021 date, you are poorer today.

Look, if you want to go down the rabbit hole, part of the idea of stabilizing debt—when someone says: We are going to go pay it all off. Really? Let's see, the debt basically equals the entire size of this economy, just the debt. You are going to go pay it off?

From an economic standpoint, right now, be joyful if we could just stabilize it. That means the growth of the debt can only grow as fast as we are being productive as a society, as the growth of this economy.

Right now you have a problem in 2023 at that time—this is publicly-held debt; this isn't my gross debt—we borrowed \$2.6 trillion from the public and the estimate is the economy grew about \$1.5 trillion. But it is that delta that kills you. Until you squeeze those two back together, so if you only, only grow debt at the pace you grow the economy, that is stability. Then maybe you can get some more discipline, adoption of technologies, and better ways to do things, and you start to separate those so you can start to pay down that principal because the interest doesn't buy you anything.

I am not going to make you have to deal with some of these. How do I say this nicely? Here is where I hurt people's feelings.

Remember a moment ago how I was trying to explain that the primary driver is the U.S. sovereign debt? I need to update this board because the 30-year number was \$116 trillion of borrowing and that is from a year or two ago. Our best math right now is close to \$130 trillion of borrowing over the next 30 years.

If you are still a decade from retirement and you think you are going to live another 20 years, you have got to understand the dystopian level of what we are going to have to do to the U.S. dollar, to your savings, to those things. You don't think this is going to crush your retirement?

How about me? I accept I am an old dad, but I have a 20-month-old and I have an 8-year-old, do they deserve to have prosperity? Understand, my little boy, when he is 23 years old, I believe is the number, every U.S. tax has to be double what it is today just to cover projected spending, and that is baseline spending. That is no war, no recession, no pandemic, just baseline.

If any of you plan to be around here in 20-some years, are you prepared to have your taxes doubled? That is the math. I know this is a math-free zone,

but I am pitching to your self-interest. Do you care?

It doesn't have to be that way. There are solutions. The hard part of this board is trying to explain to people that 100 percent of the borrowing that is coming over the next 30 years is Medicare and Social Security—if we backfill Social Security when the trust fund is gone in 8, 9 years—and interest. The rest of the budget actually has a slightly positive balance, meaning it comes in under its growth curve, underneath the projected receipts.

Now, we are going to first talk about understanding one of the key problems in our society. Then we are going to see if we can be creative in understanding the problem and be disruptive.

What could we do to have a healthier, more prosperous society? First, you have got to understand some of the things that are wrong here. The U.S. is an outlier in disease and disability trends. For some reason, we are dramatically sicker than much of the rest of the industrialized world. It is just math. We have the data.

You are all smart; at least if you are punishing yourself enough to watch an idiot like me talk, you have got to be either interested or not have a life, but understand that there is something wrong in the U.S. We are sicker than much of the rest of the world. The fact of the matter is healthcare costs are the primary driver of U.S. debt.

So what are the good things? What can we do to disrupt that?

There are a couple of amazing articles from a couple years ago. For my Democrat colleagues, who tell me how important taking on income inequality is, they are really interesting abstract studies that sort of say: Is it education? Yeah, that is a big play.

It turns out health was actually above everything else in the disparity of creating income inequality: urban poor, Tribal poor in a place like Arizona, and rural poor.

When diabetes is 33 percent of all of our healthcare spend in America, why doesn't this place go nuts in trying to fix diabetes? Instead what we did was something that is absolutely absurd.

In the Inflation Reduction Act, they took \$16 billion and gave it to Big Pharma who they complain was gouging the price of insulin. At the same time, 75 miles from here, there is a co-op making three brands of generic insulin cheaper than the subsidized price.

□ 2000

Why wouldn't we take a fraction, a fraction, a fraction of that money and put it into saying we want competition, we want everyone battling to give us the best product and the best prices? I am going to show a weird little technology just as a part of the thought experiment.

However, instead, we subsidized. Excuse me, they subsidized the very Big Pharma that they complained about

was gouging people, and then they crushed the competition that was trying to come in cheaper because now they can't compete against the subsidized price. This is the absurdity of this place.

We need more of this. Finally, you start to see the curve because of some of the breakthroughs in synthetic biology. We are going to talk a little bit about AI. Artificial intelligence is about to have a revolution in bringing cures to market dramatically faster, dramatically faster. We have actually now had the first couple of AI drugs designed to make it through the FDA.

As you know, 6 weeks ago we had the first genetic drug cure sickle cell anemia. Excuse me. Yeah, no, sickle cell. What we learned from that technology, there is more coming. How do we make it possible that it doesn't take \$100 million or \$1 billion to bring one of these drugs to market when we now have the ability to crunch data in ways that we were never able to do before, to understand efficacy and safety and effectiveness?

We could do it by policies. Is that Republican or Democrat or is that just sort of joining into this century?

This is a wonderful chart, trying to just point out the capital markets are starting to spend money in places to cure people. I will argue, one of the most moral things we could do and one of the most powerful things we could do for U.S. sovereign debt, make Americans much less sick.

Now, this is where I will get some really nasty comments. I have brought the charts and the reports and the academic studies. If diabetes is 33 percent of all spending, half of human diseases—so there are 3,000-plus human conditions—half of them are related to obesity.

Do we think about things we could do in farm policy, in nutrition policy, in helping our brothers and sisters live better, healthier, more prosperous? An ability to join into the labor force, maybe family formation, crushing income inequality.

Is that Republican or Democrat?

Yes, it will really, really annoy a whole bunch of incumbent business models that need sick people, but even they have souls. We are on the cusp of miracles. Why aren't we doing this?

Poor health reduces labor force participation. This is an absurd chart except for the fact, this is from Goldman Sachs, and they were just doing this thought experiment.

These semaglutides, I think there is a generic one that is going to be here in May. There are a couple great articles if you want to use your favorite search engine about some small molecule versions that will cost dramatically less to make, and they are coming. There is going to be competition, the prices are coming down. These are these GLP-1s.

They were just doing the thought experiment of what would happen if all of a sudden we started to get healthier as a society.

Okay, is that Republican or Democrat?

It would be the most powerful thing we could do for U.S. sovereign debt.

Are we ready to step up and take on the armies of lobbyists here who are upset with us every time we come up with—do you remember when we were trying to do telehealth? Before the pandemic, telehealth was one of the most lobbied-against technologies in Washington, D.C. Then the pandemic hit, and it turns out people had figured out how to work their phones.

Believe in the American people. Stop treating them like children, but also stop coddling those who make money off of our illnesses.

Let's actually take a look. This was fascinating. Once again, I want to thank Joint Economic Republican staff for being willing to go down the rabbit hole, talk to the Goldman Sachs economists, and try to understand how they got these numbers.

The basic pitch here is they were trying to figure out if there was a wider use and accessibility for the semaglutides, the GLP-1s. These are the hormone molecules your gut produces to tell you that you are full. It helped reduce diabetes and helped reduce obesity in America.

It actually had a substantial effect on growing the economy. It actually increased GDP. It is at least worth thinking about. This is the thought experiment portion of this program. Think about it.

If I came to you tomorrow—actually today, let's just do it right now—and said I need something from you we could roll out, and in the next 6 months we could have a major effect on reducing U.S. spending.

Okay, I have all sorts of things I could cut. I know my brothers and sisters on the left, they would want to raise taxes on people, but I need a policy that could have a major effect.

We have multiple academic studies that make it clear that about 16 percent of U.S. healthcare spending is people actually not adhering to their drugs. Someone like me, can you believe I have high blood pressure? As long as I take my calcium inhibitor, I don't stroke out. It is a pill that costs—in many ways, it is pennies. It has been off patent for decades and decades and decades. I just have to do my drug adherence.

Sixteen percent of U.S. healthcare spending is people not adhering to their pharmaceutical policy or whatever the right way to say that.

You do realize 16 percent of U.S. healthcare spending is close to \$600 billion? What if you cut a third of that? What if I came to you and said, hey, we can get \$200 billion in savings and make our brothers and sisters healthier and maybe keep a few of them from dying?

It turns out there are crazy, simple, little things, like the pill bottle cap that just beeps at you if you don't open it in the morning. It is like 99 cents.

How many of us have a phone that the pharmacy, the doctor's office, however you want to do it, could beep at you in the morning, hey, remember, it is that time, you should really do this.

It is not the way this place thinks. This place thinks about subsidies and giveaways. Remember, ObamaCare, the ACA was a finance bill. It was who had to pay and who got subsidized, and then how much Federal money also went into subsidizing. It was a financing package. The Republican alternative was a financing package. Medicare for All is a financing bill.

How about the revolution of thought? Why don't we change what we pay by making our brothers and sisters healthier or maybe curing some things?

This is one of the simplest thought experiments I can give you. If U.S. healthcare, 16 percent of it is people not engaging in adherence, why not take that on?

Is that Republican or Democrat or is that just the adoption of technology? Is it just trying to be creative?

Look, there are other quirky things. This is more my personal fascination. I actually am blessed to have a couple staffers who are doing experiments with some of the different wearables that actually can use the data to help them stay healthier, to find out about their bodies. The beauty of this is, you get data off you for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and it starts to tell you things. Oh, when I ate that, my body didn't like it. When I slept this way, my body did like it.

These have crashed in price. There are even some health insurance companies now that are working with you, asking if you will do a wearable.

Look, a couple years ago, I came here, I had met a material science professor who had come up with this thing. We always joked; we called it the flu kazoo. It was something you blew into. It was a breath biopsy. It could almost tell you within a couple moments if you had a certain type, category of virus. It could bang off your health records, and then it could order you antivirals.

Would that help us? Would that make us healthier? Would that cut down the cycle time so you don't wait in the waiting room?

Yes. Except the problem is, in most places that technology would be illegal because it would be the algorithm writing a prescription. Every time I say this, I will get someone who says: David, we are going to try to run ads against you because we make money writing prescriptions.

I am just trying to make America healthier, and I am trying to find a way to take down the debt so we don't crush ourselves.

The adoption of technology, if it is as accurate—and, statistically, a model like that is more accurate than you and I can be as humans—why don't we promote it? Why don't we allow people the freedom to take care of themselves by using technology?

All right, now here is a crazy one. I am going to do this one just because it amused me. Remember how a couple minutes ago I was complaining about Democrats and the way they approached insulin because it was a great campaign issue, but it was technologically vacuous?

Here is one: How about if you had taken a couple dollars or just actually helped this? It turns out, they have succeeded at doing a DNA tweak to some cattle, and the cattle will produce insulin at a fraction, fraction, fraction of the price, and you could actually do different tweaks for different types of insulin.

I am just starting to read the academic article, but it exists. These are quirky solutions.

When you have debates around here, it becomes a debate of give away money or give away more money. It is not embrace something that disrupts and makes people healthier and actually at the same time doesn't blow up the U.S. debt and deficit. You can be moral and also have a fiscal brain around here. It just requires some literacy.

Maybe along with being a math-free zone, we don't read things. I subscribe to a lot of crazy journals, so I come up with this stuff.

I guess my reason for the thought experiment, Mr. Speaker, we are in real trouble. There is hope, but the hope only works if this body finds some way to think differently. I yield back the balance of my time.

#### HONORING FLORIDA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWEIKERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### REMEMBERING ALPHONSO LEE GORDON, SR.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a beloved and invaluable neighbor who will be remembered by our community for years to come. His name was Alphonso Lee Gordon, Sr., affectionately known as Mr. Al.

Mr. Al passed away unexpectedly last year. He was an institution at the Marion County Board of County Commissioners and a proud Army veteran. He loved hosting annual banquets, bringing in cupcakes for coworkers and providing radio correspondence for emergency telecommunicators and public safety agencies during emergencies, including hurricanes and severe storms, of which Florida is no stranger.

He was a friend to all who knew him, as he gave so much of himself every single day. He was a true public servant, and his loss came as a shock to everyone who treasured his friendship.

Several members of our team worked closely with him in Marion County and remember him fondly for his smile and his helping hand.

Thank you, Mr. Al, for having served our community. The lives you touched won't forget and can never repay your hand of friendship.

□ 2015

#### HONORING DR. JUAN GILBERT

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Gator Nation's very own Dr. Juan Gilbert. A professor from the University of Florida, Dr. Gilbert has his Ph.D. in and teaches computer science.

On campus, he leads the Computing for Social Good Lab, dedicates time to the National Society of Black Engineers, and mentors students. Additionally, he has 17 publications and 40 awards and distinctions. It is impressive.

His entire career is decorated with outstanding and admirable works, but today, there is one milestone in particular that I would like to recognize. Dr. Gilbert was awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honor given only to trailblazers who have made technological advancements for the betterment of our Nation and fellow Americans.

Applauded for his expertise in human-centered computing, he is the inventor of a universal voting system that revolutionized the accessibility and reliability of elections around the world.

This honor is a tremendous one, not just for Mr. Gilbert but for the entire University of Florida community. Go Gators.

I have never been shy about the accomplishments of our beloved university and the incredible talent that it brings to Gainesville and certainly the world. This is no exception.

Thank you, Dr. Gilbert, for your commitment to serving our country. Go Gators.

#### HONORING OLAJUWON WHITE

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Olajuwon White, Florida's Third Congressional District Veteran of the Year for 2023.

Mr. White currently serves as the director of veteran services for Levy County, Florida. In this role, he works to help veterans with casework related to compensation, pension, burial benefits, educational assistance, and so much more.

His career began as a hospital corpsman in the United States Navy. He certified as an independent duty corpsman and surgical technician.

Following his military service, Ollie, as we like to call him, worked with Alachua County as a senior veterans claims counselor, working with hundreds of veterans to file claims and

leading educational sessions for our local veterans and their dependents. He also has experience working with the VA as a field examiner in Tampa.

Outside of his professional capacity, Mr. White works hard to engage veterans in Levy County and the surrounding area, turning what was once a quiet area for our heroes into a vibrant community where veterans know that they will receive the attention and support that they need at the Federal and local levels.

It was an honor to recognize Ollie in our Gainesville district office in January for all of his hard work leading to this honor. He is a treasured member of our district veteran community and an irreplaceable leader in Levy County.

Congratulations, Ollie.

#### RECOGNIZING RODNEY AND LORETTA TYRE

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two constituents of mine, Rodney and Loretta Tyre, the owners of T&T BBQ and Southern Home Cooking in Jasper, Florida.

As Hurricane Idalia made its way across north-central Florida, thousands of Floridians were left without power for days. The small community of Jasper, located just a few miles south of the Georgia border, is a tight-knit community, and, quite frankly, when disaster struck, they sprang into action.

The owners of T&T BBQ worked to serve the community using a standby generator, providing fresh meals to all those whose homes and businesses had been damaged or lost in the storm.

They worked out of the kindness of their hearts during a time of need for many. It is folks like the Tyree family who make north-central Florida the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Thank you, Rodney and Loretta, for everything that you do for our community.

#### HONORING FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR CALEB APPERSON

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an extraordinary student and scholar with ties to Florida's Third Congressional District, the Gator Nation, Mr. Caleb Apperson.

Caleb is a recent graduate from the University of Illinois and a current Fulbright Scholar at the National Chengchi University, also known as NCCU.

For his undergraduate degree, he majored in East Asian languages and culture, minored in political science, and earned a critical language scholarship through the Department of State.

Studying in Mandarin, he is earning his graduate degree in international law and business to deepen his understanding of the cultural, religious, political, and historical identity of Taiwan.

He dreams of becoming a language analyst with our national security agencies to facilitate productive conversations between the United States and Taiwan on the global stage.

Caleb is using his skills and education to become a diplomatic prob-

lem-solver in our ever-modernizing and complicated world.

We are especially proud of his work to continue the great relationship between the United States and Taiwan, one of our strongest allies in Asia.

We will need skilled young men like him to serve as leaders, and I am proud to have someone with his intellectual curiosity and caliber willing to take on the challenge.

Congratulations on your scholarship, Caleb, and we look forward to seeing all that is ahead in your career of public service.

#### REMEMBERING CHARLES CHESTNUT III

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a beloved and invaluable neighbor who will always be remembered in our community for his servant leadership, selflessness, and good will to all.

Charles Chestnut III was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Army and attended Bethune-Cookman University and the Eckels School of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia.

After returning home to Gainesville, he was elected to the Alachua County school board and worked for 16 years to represent all students and families.

He was the first Black Alachua County school board member and went on to become a commissioner for the Board of Alachua County Commissioners. He was also recognized as a talented businessman, operating Chestnut Funeral Home for over six decades.

In addition to his impressive career, he led the Alachua County NAACP Youth Council and was an active member in the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church of Gainesville.

He was a staunch advocate of civil rights, a believer in education, and a friend to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Chestnut was married to Gainesville City Commissioner Cynthia Moore Chestnut for more than 45 years and was the father to six children: Alachua County Commissioner Charles "Chuck" Chestnut IV, local businessman and attorney Christopher Chestnut, and daughters Pamela, Janice, Tia, and Candace.

I thank him for his service to our country and our community. I am so grateful for the example that he set for generations to come. He will be missed.

#### CONGRATULATING SUSAN CROWLEY

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate my friend Susan Crowley on her retirement from the University of Florida.

Ms. Crowley retired in January from her role as assistant vice president for community relations after an impressive 17 years serving the Gator Nation.

Her efforts to connect Alachua County and the university were felt across the last two decades and will undoubtedly impact future Gators.

She has fostered a community of service and connection through her two signature programs, "Discovery Breakfasts," of which I have attended many,

and “Gators Volunteer,” also a program I have been a part of. These programs have educated, connected, and served our neighbors in the greater Gainesville area, connecting UF students with surrounding communities.

Susan also served as a point of contact and liaison between the University of Florida, local chambers of commerce, and local governments, and has spearheaded fundraisers for keystone organizations.

She has helped raise millions of dollars for organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida, Florida Wildlife Care, and the Lupus Foundation of America. She has also spearheaded the UF Campaign for Charities, an annual \$1 million giving effort.

Susan, your impact has been monumental in bettering the lives of our neighbors in north-central Florida. Thank you for everything that you have done, and we hope that you enjoy your well-earned retirement. Of course, Go Gators.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH FRICKS

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Joseph Eugene Fricks of Ocala, Florida, who passed away in December 2023.

Joe was a gifted aviator and a treasured family man. During his life, Joe had the honor of serving on the flight deck and transporting the Presidential press corps during the Presidencies of Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton.

Later in life, Joe proudly flew countless American troops home from the Middle East while transporting critical equipment and supplies.

Whether it was fundraising by piloting airplanes at local air shows, transporting the Presidential press corps, or volunteering to clean the bathrooms every Sunday after Mass at Ocala’s Blessed Trinity Church, he continued giving until the very end.

He was considered an expert and an authority among his peers, a smiling face to his neighbors, a daddy to his children, and a loving pa to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His family, friends, and community miss him dearly.

Joe, you will be sincerely missed. Thank you for your service.

#### RECOGNIZING UF PROVOST SCOTT ANGLE

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Scott Angle, the University of Florida’s newest provost, appointed by President Ben Sasse.

An author of over 300 scientific publications and holder of seven patents, Dr. Angle’s knowledge is unparalleled.

During his time as a professor with UF/IFAS, Dr. Angle’s areas of expertise included management of natural resources, food sciences, soil sciences, and more.

He most recently served as the senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources before transitioning to his role as current provost.

As vice president of IFAS, he undoubtedly made the University of Flor-

ida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences a center of excellence and actively strived to improve the education of each and every student.

In this role, he promised an immersive education, and he certainly delivered. His mentorship and example encouraged students to immerse themselves in internships, study abroad experiences, professional internships, competitive teams, leadership development, the ambassador’s program, and the Leadership Institute.

Of course, a first-rate university like UF would only have a first-rate leader such as Dr. Scott Angle in the position of leadership to guide the next few years of this top five public university.

Congratulations on your new and exciting role at the University of Florida, Dr. Angle. It is such an honor to know you and to have worked with you over the years. I have no doubt that you will continue to do amazing things. As always, it is great to be a Florida Gator.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF WARD SCOTT

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a titan in conservative politics and thought in north-central Florida, Mr. Ward Scott.

Ward graduated with a bachelor’s of arts in English in 1966 and a master’s of education in 1969 from the University of Florida.

After his studies, he became a long-time Santa Fe College English instructor, from 1969 until 2007. He served as president of the college senate for multiple years in the early 2000s.

He returned to Santa Fe as a professor emeritus in 2008 and received the Santa Fe Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

Ward served the public in a variety of ways over the years, including on the city of Alachua’s Affordable Housing Committee, the Economic Advisory Committee, and the Weed and Seed Grant Committee.

He also served on the Alachua County Rural Concerns Advisory Committee and, in 2009, as the city of Archer’s interim city manager.

He was an avid tennis player, skier, and supporter of the arts. Most recently, in his retirement, Ward hosted the “Ward Scott Files,” a podcast/live show that he broadcast on Facebook to discuss local, State, and national issues.

I was honored to join his show on a number of occasions after my election to Congress, and it was always wonderful to talk with him and hear his passion for our country and the issues that mattered the most to him.

His loss is one that we will feel for a long time in our Gainesville community, and we send our condolences to Ward’s wife, Barbara, and his family. His legacy will surely live on with those who had the honor of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Ward. We will miss you.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ROGER WEST

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and memory of Mr. Roger West, who passed away peacefully at home last month. He fought against a recent reoccurrence of lung cancer with great courage.

Roger would say that he was a cattle rancher his entire life, learning about raising cattle from his grandfather in Polk County, Florida. He was the first in his family to attend college at the University of Florida, where he focused his studies on the cattle industry and agri-science research.

While at UF, he met fellow Gator Ellen from Miami, who would later become his wife.

Roger earned a bachelor’s and master of science in animal science and later moved his young family to College Station, Texas, to attend Texas A&M University for his PhD in meat science and muscle biology.

The West family then returned to Gainesville and UF shortly thereafter where Roger taught and did research before becoming a professor in 1983.

After 20 years on the UF faculty, Roger retired as a professor emeritus in 2003 and spent his retirement doing what he loved most: spending time with his family and developing his cattle ranch.

Roger served the ag community in Florida with gusto, serving with the American Meat Association, the USDA, NCBA, the Florida Cattlemen’s Association, and the Florida Farm Bureau. He proudly supported FFA and young students interested in ranching and agriculture in the Sunshine State.

Dr. West was an amazing husband, father, and friend to so many. I certainly considered him a friend of mine. His legacy will certainly live on in those who had the honor of knowing and working alongside him. He will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 11 minutes remaining.

#### RECOGNIZING BLACKWATER RESTAURANT

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris and Ania Wakeman, the owners of Blackwater Restaurant in Yankeetown, Florida.

Now, for those unfamiliar, Yankeetown is a very small town on the banks of the Withlacoochee River in north Florida. It is pretty rural. While it is just a small town to some, the Yankeetown community has always rallied in ways that many cannot imagine during times of need.

Hurricane Idalia was no different.

Last August, when power was still not yet restored and residents were working to pick up the pieces and survey the damage to their homes and businesses—heck, while many of their homes and businesses were still underwater—Chris and Ania opened their restaurant to anyone who needed a

meal or a place to spend time over the next couple days.

While they were in no way obligated to serve their community, they stepped up to support their neighbors out of the kindness of their hearts, expecting nothing in return. They demonstrate the best of Florida's Third Congressional District and remind me why I am so terribly proud of our region and our district, especially our resiliency in the face of a natural disaster of this magnitude.

On behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I thank the Wakemans for embodying the spirit of service that we all strive to represent. We are grateful for everything that you do and the example that you set for others in the Sunshine State.

#### HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hawthorne Hornets on their State championship title in the 2023 Class 1R. With a 22-13 defeat of Madison County, the Hornets took home the top spot in the class.

The Hornets' varsity football team won 13 games in their season before going on to the State tournament where they won for a second year in a row.

Their coach, Cornelius Ingram, a previous football player for the University of Florida and the NFL, turned the program around for the past few years and has led his student athletes to a series of impressive wins. In the wise words of Vince Lombardi: "The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have."

These young men gave it their absolute best and have made their high school, their community, and our Congressional District so incredibly proud over these past 2 years.

Congratulations to the Hawthorne Hornets and to Coach Ingram for taking home the football State championship. Go Hornets.

#### BRADFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bradford Tornadoes on their State qualifying football team.

This varsity football team coached by Jamie Rogers won 14 games before going on to the State tournament where they played their absolute best and showed their school spirit.

Bradford High School and the surrounding community is so proud of this football team and their hard work. I know I am.

Congratulations again to this amazing team of talented young men on an outstanding season. Go Tornadoes.

#### K9 LEO

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery and heroism of downed K9 deputy K9 Leo, a beloved member of the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

K9 Leo was shot on Saturday, February 17, and died from his injuries on Tuesday, February 20. K9 Leo and his handler were responding to a battery

and strangulation call when the suspect at the scene fired shots at K9 Leo and other law enforcement officers.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office transported Leo to the University of Florida's emergency veterinary clinic where he was treated, but he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Paying the ultimate price, K9 Leo did exactly what he was trained to do: serve and protect.

My thoughts and prayers are with his handler, Corporal Justin Tortora, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, and the Ocala and Marion County communities.

K9 Leo won't soon be forgotten, and we know that his legacy and superior training will be passed on to the next generation of law enforcement K9s in Marion County and in the Sunshine State.

Rest in peace, K9 Leo. We have got the watch.

#### THE VILLAGES WOOD SHOP

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank The Villages' Woodworkers Club.

For over a decade, these carpenters have been working to provide their community with handcrafted toys and other wooden products, including urns for our veterans.

What began as a small group of people making Christmas toys for children in Florida's Third Congressional District grew into what is now an organization of more than 1,400 people making more than 6,000 toys a year.

While these woodworkers deliver Christmas joy throughout the holiday season, they also play an important role during other times of the year out of respect for our veterans in need of a dignified burial.

All too often our veterans are forgotten when they return home, and this, sadly, is no different when they pass away. Inspired to provide beautifully made urns for veterans who do not have family or the financial means to afford funeral costs, our Village carpenters give veterans a beautiful—and a final—resting place.

The Villages' Woodworkers Club works closely with six cemeteries in north central Florida to ensure that each cemetery always has 10 urns on hand. They have also donated 50 urns to the Missing in America Project.

These patriots have selflessly given their time, expertise, and craftsmanship to ensure that our veterans are remembered and respected.

I thank them for taking care of our own. We certainly are grateful for their service.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Mrs. CAMMACK.** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow,

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

**EC-3471.** A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indexing Methodology for Title I Manufactured Home Loan Limits [Docket No.: FR-6207-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AJ52) received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3472.** A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2022 report titled "Preservation and Promotion of Minority Depository Institutions", pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1463 note; Public Law 101-73, Sec. 308(c) (as amended by Public Law 111-203, Sec. 367(4)(B)); (124 Stat. 1556); to the Committee on Financial Services.

**EC-3473.** A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2020 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities — Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

**EC-3474.** A letter from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Regulations and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Frozen Cherry Pie; Revocation of a Standard of Identity and a Standard of Quality [Docket No.: FDA-2020-N-1690] (RIN: 0910-AI17) received March 12, 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-3475.** A letter from the Policy Analyst, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee; Digital Health Advisory Committee; Addition to List of Standing Committees [Docket No.: FDA-2024-N-0017] received March 12, 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-3476.** A letter from the Director, Rule-making Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, Consumer Information; Standard Reference Test Tire [Docket No.: NHTSA-2020-0067] (RIN: 2127-AL92) received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**EC-3477.** A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) FM Broadcast Stations (Lihue and Princeville, Hawaii) [MB Docket No.: 23-209; RM-11951; RM-11971] received March 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

**EC-3478.** A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(j)

Television Broadcast Stations (Greenville, South Carolina) [MB Docket No.: 23-406; RM-11969] received March 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3479. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) FM Broadcast Stations [MB Docket No.: 23-197; RM-11949; RM-11973] received March 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3480. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3481. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTG 23-050 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3482. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Global Magnitsky Sanctions Regulations received March 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3483. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a notification of a designation of acting officer and action on 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-3484. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, and action on 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-3485. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two (2) notifications of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, 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-3486. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2023 Federal Information Security Modernization Action Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3487. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Surveys [Docket ID: OPM-2023-0028] (RIN: 3206-AO64) received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3488. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal

Wage System Wage Area [Docket ID: OPM-2023-0017] (RIN: 3206-AO60) received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3489. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — General Schedule Locality Pay Areas [Docket ID: OPM-2023-0009] (RIN: 3206-AO58) received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3490. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Advancing Pay Equity in Governmentwide Pay Systems [RIN: 3206-AO39] received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3491. A letter from the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2023 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3492. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries-SER, 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 51 [Docket No.: 231127-0277] (RIN: 0648-BM03) received March 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3493. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone, Illinois River MM 165-166, Peoria, IL [USCG-2023-0935] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 12, 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-3494. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary interim rule — Safety Zone; Laguna de Lobina, Culebra, Puerto Rico [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0965] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 12, 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-3495. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, San Pedro Bay, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2023-0987] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 12, 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-3496. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River Mile Markers 2.5-3, Brunot Island, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2024-0010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 12, 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-3497. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Little Potato Slough, Stockton, CA [Docket Num-

ber: USCG-2024-0070] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 12, 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-3498. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Jupiter, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0652] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 12, 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-3499. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saugatuck River, Westport, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2022-0518] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 12, 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-3500. A letter from the Legal yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Housatonic River, Stratford, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2022-0519] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 12, 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-3501. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mianus River, Greenwich, CT [Docket No.: USCG-2022-0520] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 12, 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-3502. A letter from the Director, Rulemaking Operations, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Procedures for State Highway Safety Grant Programs [Docket No.: NHTSA-2022-0036] (RIN: 2127-AM45) received February 28, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3503. A letter from the Legal Tech, CGLRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Savannah, GA [Docket No.: USCG-2023-0814] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3504. A letter from the Staff Attorney, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures and Rules for Article 10.12 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement [Docket No.: 231127-0278] (RIN: 0625-AB20) received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 6185. A bill to require coordination among Federal agencies on regulatory actions that affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system (Rept. 118-427). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1085. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1023) to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1121) to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6009) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7023) to amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes. (Rept. 118-428). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 7710. A bill to authorize and encourage the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expand engagement with local partners and increase its local partner base; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 7711. 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 Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. GOOD of Virginia):

H.R. 7712. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution of higher education that employs unauthorized aliens from receiving funds from Federal student assistance or Federal institutional aid and to require institutions of higher education to participate in the E-Verify Program in order to be eligible to participate in any program authorized under title IV of such Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 7713. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress the annual performance plans for Department of

Veterans Affairs political appointees; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. STEVENS, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 7714. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to make grants to States to increase awareness and education for colorectal cancer and improve early detection of colorectal cancer in young individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 7715. A bill to authorize additional funding for Food and Drug Administration monitoring and prevention of illicit nicotine products at ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 7716. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for enforcement of standards for reasonable and relevant contract terms and conditions and essential retail pharmacy protections 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 Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 7717. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to enhance pharmacy benefit manager transparency requirements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 7718. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure pharmacy access and choice for medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 7719. A bill to provide for the removal of abandoned vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 7720. A bill to permit the Byrne JAG grant to be used for the purchase of fentanyl testing kits and opioid reversal agents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. BOWMAN, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 7721. A bill to direct the heads of certain Federal agencies to develop and support worker-owned cooperative businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 7722. A bill to establish the Integrated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies

Program, and a Blue Economy Center of Excellence, to support research and development of blue energy technologies; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 7723. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit the solicitation and acceptance of a recurring contribution or donation in a campaign for election for Federal office by any method which does not require the contributor or donor to give affirmative consent to making the contribution or donation on a recurring basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 7724. A bill to establish, under article I of the Constitution of the United States, a court of record to be known as the United States Immigration Courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. SELF, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. HERN, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 7725. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit graduate medical schools from receiving Federal financial assistance if such schools adopt certain policies and requirements relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 7726. A bill to amend chapter 77 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify certain due process rights of Federal employees serving in sensitive positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 7727. A bill to establish an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 7728. A bill to repeal section 115 of the Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 7729. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for headstones, markers, and burial receptacles under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Mr. HUNT, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 7730. A bill to require a GAO study on the sale of illicit drugs online, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. ALFORD, and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 7731. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for new agricultural education programs in secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 7732. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make improvements to certain programs for a member nearing separation, or for a veteran who recently separated, from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota):

H.R. 7733. A bill to amend section 236A of the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirement to cross reference the terrorist screening database; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MANN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LUETKEMBYER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BALDERSO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. BACON, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BOST, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. STEIL, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H. Res. 1086. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 19, 2024, as "National Agriculture Day" and celebrating the importance of agriculture as one of the most impactful industries in the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 1087. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any attempt by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to remain in office beyond May 7, 2024, shall warrant non-

recognition on the part of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CORREA:

H. Res. 1088. A resolution designating "National Zoroastrian Day" on the day of the vernal equinox of each year; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. WILD, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H. Res. 1089. A resolution recognizing the seriousness of widespread health care worker burnout in the United States and the need to strengthen health workforce well-being, and expressing support for the designation of March 18, 2024, as the inaugural "Health Workforce Well-Being Day of Awareness"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H. Res. 1090. A resolution supporting the designation of the first week of April as "Adolescent Immunization Action Week" and recognizing the importance of encouraging vaccination for adolescents and young adults to protect against serious illness; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GRANGER (for herself, Ms. DELLAURO, and Ms. BALINT):

H. Res. 1091. A resolution recognizing and thanking the Nation's women's colleges and universities and recognizing March 5 as "National Women's Colleges and Universities Day"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H. Res. 1092. A resolution recognizing the importance of the economic relationship between the United States and Israel and affirming that trade facilitated by the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement is a tool to support the economy of Israel during the conflict with Hamas; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H. Res. 1093. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H. Res. 1094. A resolution recognizing the significance of Sjögren's as a serious and systemic autoimmune disease and designating April as "Sjögren's Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H. Res. 1095. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 2024 as Music in Our Schools Month; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-95. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Nevada, rel-

ative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, urging the expansion of comprehensive cardiovascular screening programs and directing the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human services to conduct a study concerning such programs and certain other matters relating to cardiovascular disease; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 7710.

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:

To encourage and enable the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expand engagement and partners with local entities.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 7711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make permanent Medicare telehealth flexibilities

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 7712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is: illegal immigration

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 7713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Secretary of VA to submit to Congress the annual performance plans for VA political appointees no more than 30 days after completion.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 7714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to make grants to States to increase awareness and education for colorectal cancer and improve early detection of colorectal cancer in young individuals, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GALLEGTO:

H.R. 7715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tobacco Control

By Mr. GALLEGTO:

H.R. 7716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. GALLEGTO:

H.R. 7717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. GALLEGTO:

H.R. 7718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Healthcare

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 7719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 and Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for the removal of abandoned vessels, and for other purposes.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 7720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To permit the Byrne JAG grant to be used for the purchase of fentanyl testing kits and opioid reversal agents.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 7721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

to promote the development and growth of worker-owned cooperative businesses in the United States through coordinated federal support, including improved access to capital, technical assistance, education, and related regulatory reform.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 7722.

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:

energy policy.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 7723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Campaign finance reform

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 7724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish under article I of the Constitution of the United States, a court of record to be known as the United States Immigration Courts.

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 7725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit graduate medical schools from receiving Federal financial assistance if such schools adopt certain policies and requirements relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 7727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to establish an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 7728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Repeals section 115 of the Clean Air Act.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 7729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for headstones, markers, and burial receptacles under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 7730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Target and address the sale of illicit drugs online, including fentanyl.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 7731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S.

Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants for new agricultural education programs in secondary schools.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN:

H.R. 7732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

Article I, Section 8, clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make improvements to certain programs for a member nearing separation, or for a veteran who recently separated, from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 7733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires Customs and Border Patrol agents to screen all migrants entering the United States against the Federal Terrorist Screening Database. CBP must detain migrants until the results are returned which determine the individual is not on the terrorism watch list.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. EVANS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. BERA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 40: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 130: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 191: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 234: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 314: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 396: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 435: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 549: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California and Mr. McCORMICK.

H.R. 802: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 807: Mr. STEEL and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 830: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 833: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 856: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 889: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 953: Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 977: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 982: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 997: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1015: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 1025: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1045: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 1065: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1088: Mr. AMO and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1092: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 1102: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 1139: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 1167: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1184: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1235: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1255: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1263: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1273: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1279: Mrs. HOUGHIN.

H.R. 1293: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 1385: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1403: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1407: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1440: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 1477: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1513: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1572: Mr. FLOOD, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DREMER.

H.R. 1631: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BENTZ, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 1767: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1770: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1774: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1784: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 1826: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 1831: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 2403: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 2439: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
 H.R. 2630: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
 H.R. 2677: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 2693: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 2742: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
 H.R. 2803: Mr. AMO.  
 H.R. 2827: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.R. 2828: Mr. TRONE and Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
 H.R. 2845: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. BAIRD.  
 H.R. 2864: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.  
 H.R. 2880: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 2889: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
 H.R. 2891: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BOWMAN, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
 H.R. 2892: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.  
 H.R. 2897: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 2906: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 2923: Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
 H.R. 2955: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
 H.R. 2966: Mr. MULLIN.  
 H.R. 2987: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 3005: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
 H.R. 3012: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 3039: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 3046: Ms. SEWELL.  
 H.R. 3086: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
 H.R. 3106: Mr. SWALWELL and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 3113: Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 3170: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. BROWN.  
 H.R. 3183: Mr. BERA, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. MEEKS.  
 H.R. 3239: Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 3240: Mr. BERGMAN.  
 H.R. 3265: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 3333: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 3334: Mrs. BICE, Mr. EZELL, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 3350: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. ROSS.  
 H.R. 3381: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 3382: Ms. WILD.  
 H.R. 3387: Mr. COHEN, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 3404: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
 H.R. 3413: Mr. SARBANES.  
 H.R. 3416: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 3433: Mrs. LUNA.  
 H.R. 3470: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 3478: Ms. PORTER.  
 H.R. 3481: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 3497: Mr. BENTZ.  
 H.R. 3519: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 3537: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 3542: Mr. KILMER and Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 3548: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 3576: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. CASAR.  
 H.R. 3601: Ms. LEE of California.  
 H.R. 3605: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 3606: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 3607: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 3662: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 3713: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 3776: Mr. GOMEZ.  
 H.R. 3869: Ms. SCHOLTER.  
 H.R. 3910: Mr. GALLAGHER.  
 H.R. 3933: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
 H.R. 3940: Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.  
 H.R. 3949: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.R. 3951: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 3970: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 4035: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 4050: Mrs. TORRES of California.  
 H.R. 4052: Mr. KILDEE.  
 H.R. 4070: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 4115: Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 4148: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. MC HENRY.  
 H.R. 4157: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. YAKYM.  
 H.R. 4189: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. YAKYM, and Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 4202: Mrs. FLETCHER.  
 H.R. 4217: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 4249: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 4303: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. CASAR.  
 H.R. 4334: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 4335: Mr. BERA, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. MENG, and Mr. TONKO.  
 H.R. 4340: Ms. WILD and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 4352: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 4363: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 4392: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H.R. 4348: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
 H.R. 4456: Mrs. PELTOLA.  
 H.R. 4519: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 4588: Mr. PANETTA.  
 H.R. 4713: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 4752: Ms. WILD.  
 H.R. 4769: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 4794: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
 H.R. 4817: Ms. CROCKETT.  
 H.R. 4840: Mr. RASKIN.  
 H.R. 4858: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 4878: Ms. WILD.  
 H.R. 4896: Mr. LATURNER.  
 H.R. 4907: Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 4966: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 4978: Mr. SCHIFF and Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 4979: Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 5012: Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H.R. 5077: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 5084: Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H.R. 5138: Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 5141: Mr. LEVIN.  
 H.R. 5163: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
 H.R. 5182: Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 5245: Ms. TITUS and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 5294: Mr. CASTEN.  
 H.R. 5403: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 5419: Mr. ALFORD and Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 5443: Mr. CISCOMANI.  
 H.R. 5507: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 5547: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. MOORE of Utah.  
 H.R. 5569: Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H.R. 5572: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
 H.R. 5577: Mr. CRANE and Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 5604: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 5611: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
 H.R. 5658: Mr. NADLER and Mr. LATURNER.  
 H.R. 5683: Mr. AMO and Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 5707: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. CAREY.  
 H.R. 5761: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. MOORE of Utah.  
 H.R. 5800: Ms. CROCKETT.  
 H.R. 5813: Mr. CASTEN.  
 H.R. 5827: Mr. LYNCH.  
 H.R. 5854: Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 5855: Mr. ALLRED.  
 H.R. 5934: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H.R. 5979: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 5985: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California and Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 5995: Ms. STRICKLAND.  
 H.R. 6003: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. ADAMS.  
 H.R. 6013: Mr. SARBANES.  
 H.R. 6031: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 6049: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.  
 H.R. 6090: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
 H.R. 6094: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 6097: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER.  
 H.R. 6201: Mr. SOTO, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. WILD, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. HUNT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. LATURNER.  
 H.R. 6203: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Ms. STRICKLAND.  
 H.R. 6221: Mr. MULLIN and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 6284: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 6288: Ms. WILD.  
 H.R. 6306: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.  
 H.R. 6311: Mrs. MCBATH and Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 6318: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 6342: Ms. LEE of Florida.  
 H.R. 6377: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. JACOBS.  
 H.R. 6414: Mr. CRENshaw.  
 H.R. 6438: Mr. SUOZZI.  
 H.R. 6490: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 6492: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 6551: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
 H.R. 6555: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
 H.R. 6600: Mr. TONKO.  
 H.R. 6610: Ms. NORTON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. LALOTA.  
 H.R. 6618: Ms. WILD, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FROST, Ms. PORTER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. STANTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 6652: Mr. TRONE and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
 H.R. 6696: Mr. GOMEZ.  
 H.R. 6698: Ms. SCHRIER.  
 H.R. 6720: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H.R. 6727: Mr. WALTZ and Mr. BAIRD.  
 H.R. 6756: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 6814: Mr. DONALDS.  
 H.R. 6830: Mr. TORRES of New York.  
 H.R. 6831: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 6929: Mr. BERA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 6951: Mr. TIMMONS.  
 H.R. 7007: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
 H.R. 7046: Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 7055: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. LATURNER.  
 H.R. 7073: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.  
 H.R. 7082: Mr. CLEAVER.  
 H.R. 7085: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 7101: Mr. CLINE.  
 H.R. 7108: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. CASE.  
 H.R. 7119: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Ms. LEE of California.  
 H.R. 7130: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 7131: Mr. BAIRD and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.R. 7137: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H.R. 7138: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 7142: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 7145: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. CASTEN.  
 H.R. 7149: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 7152: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 7165: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 7170: Mr. BENTZ.  
 H.R. 7187: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.  
 H.R. 7198: Ms. HAGEMAN.  
 H.R. 7202: Mr. BAIRD.  
 H.R. 7203: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. CASE.  
 H.R. 7218: Mr. TORRES of New York.  
 H.R. 7227: Mr. NADLER and Mr. TONKO.  
 H.R. 7248: Ms. PETTERSEN.  
 H.R. 7251: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 7257: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. TLAIB.  
 H.R. 7288: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 7297: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MANN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 7333: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 7342: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 7346: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 7365: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 7366: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 7373: Mr. GALLAGHER and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 7374: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 7384: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 7397: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 7455: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 7457: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 7468: Mr. ALFORD and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 7469: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 7470: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 7513: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 7516: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 7525: Mr. KILMER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 7543: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 7546: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 7559: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 7565: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 7580: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 7581: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 7597: Ms. ROSS, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 7600: Mr. AMO, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 7625: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 7627: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 7629: Mr. RYAN, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 7631: Mr. BURLISON.

H.R. 7633: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 7634: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 7660: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 7661: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 7663: Mr. ELLZEY and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 7667: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 7676: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 7677: Mr. JAMES.

H.R. 7683: Mr. OWENS and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 7698: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 7700: Mr. LATTA and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 7701: Mr. KEATING and Mr. LAWLER.

H.J. Res. 18: Mr. GHMENEZ.

H.J. Res. 37: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.

H.J. Res. 116: Mr. JAMES and Mr. BIGGS.

H.J. Res. 117: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. SELF.

H. Con. Res. 31: Ms. NORTON.

H. Con. Res. 42: Ms. NORTON.

H. Con. Res. 86: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. DONALDS, and Mrs. HOUGHIN.

H. Con. Res. 95: Ms. BUSH and Ms. MANNING.

H. Res. 149: Mr. COSTA and Mr. LALOTA.

H. Res. 237: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 389: Ms. CROCKETT.

H. Res. 434: Ms. CROCKETT.

H. Res. 481: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 561: Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 643: Mr. CASE.

H. Res. 735: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. AMO, Ms. CROCKETT, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 738: Ms. PLASKETT.

H. Res. 861: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. AMO, and Mr. LAWLER.

H. Res. 901: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 904: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. THANEDAR.

H. Res. 990: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H. Res. 1037: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H. Res. 1050: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H. Res. 1063: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H. Res. 1072: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. SWALWELL.

H. Res. 1080: Mr. LAWLER.

H. Res. 1084: Mr. LIEU, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mr. KEATING.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1139: Ms. MACE.

H. Res. 1068: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILD, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. LEVIN.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024

No. 48

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the Heavens proclaim Your glory, and the skies display Your craftsmanship. Shine Your light on our path as we work today.

Lord, You have led America through troubled times in the past. Be now for us a source of life, light, and liberty.

Give wisdom to our Senators. May they follow Your light, trust in Your might, and find strength for life's fights. Teach them what they should think, say, and do, so they will not stumble along the way. Replace doubt with faith, fear with courage, and despair with hope.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 19, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to begin today by addressing the reprehensible and dangerous comments made yesterday by former President Trump. The former President's comments were utterly disgusting and a textbook example of the kind of anti-Semitism facing Jews, pushing the dangerous anti-Semitism trope of dual loyalty. To say you hate Israel or your religion because you have one political view over the other

is sick. It is hateful. It is unadulterated anti-Semitism, and it serves to use Israel as a political wedge, further damaging the bonds between the United States and Israel.

We have always tried—I have always tried through the years—to keep everything we do on Israel bipartisan. And to use it for partisan purposes hurts Israel, hurts America, and displays how low Donald Trump would go.

And nobody who breaks bread with anti-Semites like Nick Fuentes and who called White supremacists in Charlottesville "very good people" or who, as was recently reported, said, disgustingly, that Hitler did some good things has any right—any right—to lecture Jewish Americans about their personal political beliefs.

I condemn the former President's irresponsible comments and urge others from both sides—both sides—to do the same.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on approps, Congress has less than a week to finish the job of fully funding the government for the remainder of the fiscal year. We all know it has been a difficult, drawn-out appropriations process for everyone in Congress. Appropriators in both Chambers, their staff, my staff, and I have kept at this for months.

But today we have good news. Earlier this morning, I announced that negotiators from both parties reached an agreement last night on the final six appropriations bills. We now have a bipartisan agreement for Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, the legislative branch, and State and Foreign Operations.

The Senate and House appropriators are now working swiftly to turn this agreement into legislative text as soon as possible so Members can review, finalize, and ultimately take a vote in the coming days. Once the House sends us a funding package, I will put it on the floor of the Senate without delay.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Now, it is a very good sign that we begin the week by announcing this agreement, but I want to be clear, there is a lot of work to do in the coming days. If both parties proceed in the same manner we did 2 weeks ago—quickly, constructively, and without unnecessary partisan dithering—then I am hopeful we can finish the appropriations process without causing a lapse in government services.

We haven't had a government shutdown since 2019. There is no good reason for us to have one this week now that we are getting very close to finishing the job.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. President, on Ukraine, it is not an exaggeration to say that right now—right now—the survival of the Ukrainian people, the fate of American leadership in the world, and the odds of victory for Vladimir Putin depend a lot on what Speaker MIKE JOHNSON does in the near future. Any moment he wants, Speaker JOHNSON has the power to put on the floor of the House a bipartisan national security package that passed the Senate over a month ago with 70 votes.

This supplemental package will provide Ukraine precisely with what they are sorely lacking: military equipment, ammunitions, intelligence support, advanced weaponry, and more. Every day that the supplemental sits idly in the House is another day more Ukrainian troops are killed on the battlefield because they lack the basic tools to defend their country. And sadly, because the House has not acted, the situation is now very dire in Ukraine.

Speaking in Germany earlier today, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin warned that Ukraine's survival is now in grave danger. Russia is now making three times as much artillery and munitions as the United States and Europe. Making matters worse, Ukraine is now also beginning to run out of soldiers. Without more U.S. support, one European official predicted last week that "this is not a question of years, this is a question of weeks and months."

Leader McCONNELL and I—in broad, bipartisan support—got the supplemental passed here. Leader JOHNSON should do the same. The clock is ticking for Congress to act. The eyes of the whole world are on the House. Our allies and adversaries alike are waiting to see what Speaker JOHNSON is going to do about the supplemental. And the answer is very simple: Speaker JOHNSON, put the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote. I guarantee that if Members have a chance to vote on this bill, it will pass with the same kind of bipartisan support we saw in the Senate.

I have urged the Speaker repeatedly that he must do the right thing and stand up to Putin. This is a legacy-defining choice for the Speaker and potentially a history-altering decision. The Speaker can either stand up to defend democracy or he can cast his lot

with Donald Trump and MAGA extremism who are practically rooting for Putin to win.

#### JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. President, on forum shopping, last year I came to the floor a number of times to speak about a grave problem in our Federal judiciary known as judge shopping, where hard-right litigants bring cases before sympathetic judges in order to push their radical agenda.

Last summer, I led a number of my Senate colleagues in writing to the Judicial Conference, asking that they recommend policy reforms to better ensure impartiality and basic fairness. I am very pleased that last week, the Judicial Conference responded to our concerns by announcing a new policy to assign civil cases that have statewide or national implications to judges at random across a district instead of going to a predictable single judge in a single division.

These reforms would prevent absurd situations like the one we saw last year in the Northern District of Texas, where one extremist judge was handpicked by the hard right to revoke FDA approval of mifepristone nationwide.

If you care at all about impartial courts, last week's announcement was good news and probably came across as just common sense. So it was quite striking and, frankly, deeply troubling to see the Republican leader come down to the floor last week and excoriate the Judicial Conference's announcement. The Republican leader accused the Conference of "taking the bait" of partisan Democrats, as if randomly assigning judges to cases is inherently partisan. The Republican leader seems to want to see judges be handpicked, when we know their views already, to make decisions. That flies in the face of justice.

He claimed that it is not the place of Senators to weigh in on how the courts administer themselves. Well, Congress created the Judicial Conference a century ago precisely to recommend policy updates like this.

We all know, of course, what the deal is here: The Republican leader is fuming because these recommendations would make it harder for hard-right partisans to hijack our courts for their purposes. Leader McCONNELL is not even pretending to hide his partisan motivations in this case, and that is deeply damaging to the trust of our courts. I would encourage the Republican leader to focus more on finding ways to restore trust in the judiciary than defending an obviously abusive practice that most Americans would oppose.

I believe that Congress—Congress—has a duty to conduct oversight of the Federal judiciary. We will keep investigating abuses within our court system going forward.

#### NOMINATION OF NICOLE G. BERNER

Mr. President, on nominations, finally, today, the Senate will confirm

another exceptional judge to the Federal bench—Nicole Berner to serve as a circuit court judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Ms. Berner is an accomplished labor lawyer with over 17 years of experience fighting for working people as general counsel at the SEIU—one of the largest unions in the country. Once confirmed, Ms. Berner will also make history as the first openly LGBTQ person to serve on the Fourth Circuit. Ms. Berner will bring much needed professional diversity to the courts and personal diversity to assure every American that they have representation in our judiciary.

After Ms. Berner's confirmation, the Senate Democratic majority will have confirmed over 180—over 180—highly qualified, diverse judges to the Federal bench. These are judges outside the status quo—people of color, women, judges with diverse professional backgrounds who are making the courts better reflect the people they serve. In fact, last week, I am proud that the Senate confirmed the 100th Black woman to serve a lifetime Federal judgeship in the history of the United States.

Senate Democrats will continue working with President Biden to confirm more judges and bring more balance to the courts in the weeks and months ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, the Senate faces one more test to complete its annual appropriations process, and the stakes really couldn't be higher for Americans' security at home and abroad.

The work we have outstanding amounts to nearly 70 percent—70 percent—of the discretionary budget. Once again, I am grateful to our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their commitment to regular order. I am especially grateful to Senator COLLINS for fighting to advance Republican priorities throughout the process, particularly in the Defense appropriations bill.

Predictable annual allocations are essential to meeting national defense responsibilities. They allow for effective investments in modernizing our forces, developing new, cutting-edge capabilities, and expanding the industrial capacity that will drive long-term strategic competition. Needless to say, investments like these are especially critical right now as the gulf between

the threats we face and the Biden administration's willingness to address them seems to be growing wider. President Biden has just turned in his fourth straight budget request that would cut defense funding after inflation. So the work before us is gravely necessary, and I am encouraged that we are beginning this week with an agreement in hand to actually complete the process.

Congress has secured a path forward to fund the Department of Homeland Security, which will allow us to complete the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process in the coming days. As always, making headway depends on serious cooperation, and I am grateful to our appropriators and negotiators for their commitment to working in good faith. Providing for the common defense is among our most basic constitutional responsibilities, and we need to be honest with ourselves: Growing threats and increasing military requirements make fulfilling this responsibility even more critical.

The legislation in front of us will not be Congress's last word, but it represents an important down payment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to complete the annual appropriations process very, very soon.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, over the weekend, Putin claimed electoral victory in a display of his regime's disdain for the Russian people. With a fresh 6-year term in office, he is on track to pass Joseph Stalin as the longest ruling despot in modern Russian history.

For the past 2 years, Putin has sacrificed tens of thousands of its countrymen on the altar of an obscene neo-Soviet fantasy of Stalinist empire building. The human cost of Russia's war of aggression—to Russians and Ukrainians alike—is truly tragic, but this weekend's sham election came at a particularly critical moment in this conflict, and the Kremlin is showing its cards.

Former Russian President Medvedev laid out exactly how Putin intends for his lawless conquest to end. Here is what he said:

[The] entire territory [of Ukraine] is the territory of the Russian Federation.

As he sees it, Ukraine's "complete and unconditional surrender," full "de-militarization," and reparations to Russia would help forge a "benevolent consensus" on peace.

This is from a close ally of Vladimir Putin—the autocrat who said that "negotiating with Ukraine just because it's running out of ammunition" was "ridiculous."

Russia has been showing us its intentions for over 2 years now, but for anyone who still struggles to see what is going on here, the words of Russia's leaders leave no room for doubt.

As I said before, Putin and his allies are emboldened precisely because the West is hesitating—because America is hesitating. They are spelling out their true intentions because they sense that

we might not have the resolve to actually resist them.

Here is the truth: Russia is playing for keeps. It is set on subjugating a sovereign democracy—whole hog.

There is every reason to believe this war ends with a negotiated outcome—most wars do—but it is absurd and self-defeating to insist on negotiations without preparing Ukraine to operate from a position of strength. Whether or when Putin ever decides to turn from his bid for total conquest to the negotiating table, it will be lethal Western assistance that determines what comes next.

That is why what Congress does next will influence the eventual outcome of this conflict. What we do will determine whether an administration that wants to facilitate negotiations has the leverage to produce terms favorable to America and our allies. Our next move will either reaffirm America's global influence or kneecap—kneecap—both Washington and Kyiv.

Anyone who thinks starving partners of support is good diplomacy or politics needs only to look at the Biden administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan. If Congress does its job, it will be American weapons in Ukrainian hands—and stronger forces and defense industrial capacity here at home—that determine what conclusions the world draws from the first major land war in Europe since 1945—whether or not authoritarians conclude they can continue to redraw maps by force; whether or not America's top strategic competitor concludes that we are not prepared to defend our interests or equip our friends to defend ourselves; and whether or not the next Commander in Chief inherits an unfixable quagmire.

Every day that the national security supplemental spends as a Senate-passed bill and not a law is a day that America's adversaries smile. The decisions before Congress, both in annual appropriations as well as in the supplemental, are about more than Ukraine or Israel; they are about whether America has the will to defend our interests and uphold our influence.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip.

#### DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise again today to discuss an issue that I have been working on for more than 20 years: the ongoing uncertainty and plight facing America's Dreamers.

It was a little over 20 years ago when my office in Chicago got a telephone call. There was a girl graduating from high school in Chicago, and she had a problem. The good news was she was a musical prodigy; she played the piano, and she was extraordinary. The bad news was she was undocumented.

She had been brought to the United States at the age of 2. Her parents had brought her originally from Korea through Brazil to Chicago. Her father's goal in life was to become a minister of a church and preach the gospel, and she used to travel with him to these

churches and pound away at the piano while he was practicing his sermons. Over the years, she enlisted in a program called the Merit music program and developed her piano skills to an extraordinary level.

All of her teachers said to her—Tereza Lee was her name—you have got to go to music school. Juilliard, Manhattan Conservatory—you qualify for all of them.

So she sat down to fill out the application and came to the space that said her nationality and citizenship. She didn't know what to put there, so one of her friends called our office, figuring Senator DURBIN would know the answer. Well, we found the answer, and it was terrible. Because she was an undocumented person in the United States and had been here since the age of 2, her recourse under the law was and still is to leave the United States for 10 years and petition to come back in. She was 18 years old. Her prospect was ridiculous.

As a result of that casework, I decided to introduce a bill called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act basically said, if you came to the United States under the age of 18, grew up in this country, and had no problems with the law, you should have a path to citizenship. It was that basic. Well, as one can guess, we tried to pass that bill many times. It has passed on the floor of the Senate a couple of times, but never have we been able to get both the Senate and the House together on this issue.

I continue to come to the floor to talk about it because there is a new wrinkle. It seems that one of my former Senate colleagues became President of the United States, Barack Obama. He had cosponsored the DREAM Act, and I appealed to him, along with Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican of Indiana, to create by Executive order some program that could protect these young people. He created DACA. DACA, at one point, had almost 800,000 young people in America protected from deportation as they renewed every 2 years their status with DACA so they could go to school; they could have a life; and maybe, someday, at some future time, actually become citizens of the United States.

I thought the best way to describe this issue to people—because it is still in controversy and still tied up in the courts as to whether DACA will have a future—was to share stories of the DACA recipients and who they are. I do that again today. This is the 141st DACA recipient Dreamer about whom I have told the story here on the floor of the Senate.

This young man's name is Edon Molla. He came to the United States with his family when he was 2 years old, fleeing the war in Kosovo. He excelled in the United States. He was the salutatorian of his high school class; and he helped to lead his high school basketball team to three undefeated seasons, three State titles, and two national championships.

His story goes on from there. He was selected for the all-State team and played Division I basketball at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to his basketball career, Edon excelled in the classroom and graduated from college with honors.

After college, multiple teams approached him about playing professional basketball in Europe. Unfortunately, he was forced to decline all of these offers because of his immigration status, but he didn't let it discourage him. He switched paths and started to pursue a new career in the music industry. With DACA, Edon has become a renowned professional musician. He has worked with successful artists like Roberta Flack, released an album, and performed at a music festival headlined by major international stars.

In addition to his successful music and basketball careers, Edon has made time to give back to his community. He has led a basketball clinic for children with cancer, taught music lessons to kids with special needs, and performed at multiple charity concerts. Edon is now starting a master's in business administration at Cornell University. He plans to pursue his master's degree as he continues his musical career.

DACA has allowed Edon to pursue his dreams for the time being, but DACA was also intended to be a temporary solution. Since President Obama established the program, Republicans have waged a relentless campaign—many of them—to overturn DACA and deport these Dreamers back to the countries they may not even remember. Now this program is hanging by a thread in the courts, and DACA recipients like Edon are being forced to live in fear and uncertainty every single day.

Last September, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal. Though the decision left in place protections for current DACA recipients—and there are almost 600,000 of them—while an appeal is pending, they live in constant fear that the next court decision will upend their lives.

Court decisions have also prevented any new Dreamers from registering for the program. This means that, without congressional action—if we do nothing, if we continue to do nothing—hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who are ready to serve in their communities across the country may never have that opportunity.

Studies have estimated that, if DACA were to end, we would lose 1,000 U.S. jobs every day for the next 2 years. Business owners in my State often tell me that they need more workers. So the question I ask my colleagues today and ask America: Can we afford to lose 1,000 jobs a day from young people who grow up here, went to school here, stood up in the classroom every morning and pledged allegiance to that flag, believing it was their flag and their future? I think not.

When he was President, Donald Trump tried to end the DACA Pro-

gram. The first time I ever met Donald Trump was the day he was inaugurated as President. There was a luncheon, and I was invited to it. I went up to him, face-to-face in conversation personally, and I said: I want to tell you something. My priority is to cover these Dreamers, these DACA recipients, and give them a chance in America.

He leaned over and said: Don't worry. We are going to take care of those kids.

Well, he took care of them for sure. He tried to end the program altogether, with no protection for these young people. And, as a candidate, he has threatened to round up and deport undocumented immigrants, like this young man whom I just described.

We can no longer stand idly by while extremist judges and politicians toy with the future of these young people who have never known life in this country formally as legal citizens. We in Congress should protect Dreamers like Edon right now. I urge my colleagues to reach out to Dreamers in their States to learn more about these talented young people.

I have given these speeches on the floor. As I said, this is the 141st young person I have described. I have yet to have a disappointment where they came back and said: Oh, Senator, that young man, that young woman you just described got on the other side of the law and did something terrible.

It has never happened. These young people are good people. They deserve as much chance as our children to become part of this Nation's future.

They are business owners, teachers, parents, athletes, scientists, nurses, healthcare workers, musicians, and so much more. Would America be better if they were gone? I think not. It is clear that they are an important part of our future and an important part of our American life.

It is time to get to work and pass the Dream Act once and for all. It is the right thing to do, and it is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, Congress is failing disaster survivors across the country right now. Whether in Lahaina or in Burlington, survivors are not getting the full support of the Federal Government because Congress has yet to provide funding for long-term disaster recovery needs. That is in spite of the fact that, every passing month, more and more communities are being struck by extreme weather and need help in the rebuilding process.

It was more than 4 months ago that President Biden requested \$2.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, or CDBG-DR.

CDBG-DR funding is a lifeline for families and businesses that are trying to recover from disasters, helping them

to get back on their feet faster and more fully. Yet the spending package that Congress passed 2 weeks ago did not include a dime in new funding for CDBG-DR, despite the efforts of myself and my colleagues—including the Presiding Officer—on both sides of the aisle from disaster-affected States.

Supporting disaster survivors has never been and should never be a partisan issue, nor can it be buried at the bottom of a long list of Federal priorities. It is one of our most core responsibilities, as the Federal Government, to show up for Americans in their hour of need, when the State and local governments are overwhelmed. We have a chance to do that by including CDBG-DR funding in the appropriations package that we will be voting on later this week.

People on Maui and in every other disaster-struck community are counting on us for support, and it can't be that the Federal Government leaves them high and dry, midway through the process of putting their lives back together, because we couldn't get some numbers to add up. That is unacceptable, and we need to pass this funding now.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, in a place where bipartisanship is harder to find than it is to talk about, there is a glimmer of hope this week. In the appropriations package that passed 2 weeks ago, there was a rare product of quiet, good-faith, bipartisan efforts: a record amount of funding for housing for Native communities across the country.

Working together, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and the House included \$1.3 billion for Native housing as part of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill. That is an increase of a little more than \$300 million.

Tribal communities, as a direct consequence of perennial underfunding and neglect by the Federal Government, experience some of the highest poverty rates and worst living conditions in the Nation. They are 5 times as likely to live in homes without plumbing, 4 times more likely to not have basic appliances, such as sink or stove or a refrigerator, and 1,200 times likelier to experience issues with heating—1,200 times likelier to experience issues with heating.

So for them, the historic funding is a very, very big deal. It means that they can build more affordable housing, provide rental assistance, and get electricity and plumbing into their homes.

The bill also includes a significant increase for funding for Tribal transportation, which will help to repair roads on Tribal lands that are in dire shape and improve transit across reservation land for people trying to get to work or to school or to the grocery store. This funding builds on the historic investments we have made in Tribal transportation infrastructure

over the past few years with the infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act. It is about 175 million new dollars for Tribal transportations.

All of this funding came to be because colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in both Chambers, said: Whatever other differences we may have, we agree that this is important and urgent and worth fighting for.

We got to work, and we actually did it.

Bipartisan victories do not grab the headlines in this town. They don't lead cable news or get tons of engagement on Twitter because there isn't a villain to ridicule or a controversy to editorialize about.

But the Federal Government has a trust responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, which we have long fallen short of. For generations, Native communities were considered an afterthought, especially in the spending process.

Today, through steps like these, bit by bit, we are saying: No more.

So I want to thank everyone who worked for months quietly behind the scenes to get this done. That includes Members and staff of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Housing, as well as the Committee on Indian Affairs, both of which I chair.

I especially want to thank my ranking member, CINDY HYDE-SMITH, and my vice chair, LISA MURKOWSKI, for their continued partnership on this and other Native issues. I want to thank the many committee members who advocated for this funding on behalf of Native communities in their home States.

I am also grateful to our counterparts in the House: Representative COLE, the chairman of the Rules Committee and the chairman of the T-HUD Subcommittee; and Representative QUIGLEY, who fought to include this funding, despite difficult fiscal constraints.

As always, none of that is ever possible without the incredible staff on these committees who patiently and painstakingly turned commitments and deals made at the member level into real dollars and cents enshrined in Federal law.

Over the past few years, as a nation, we have begun to reckon with and address historic injustices against marginalized communities. It is important, it is necessary, and it is long overdue. But, somehow, a lot of that work has glossed over America's first injustice—the injustice toward Native people.

It is a brutal history spanning centuries and generations—forcibly removing Native people from their homelands, pushing children into boarding schools, robbing ancestral remains and cultural items. The impacts of the colonization and forced assimilation are being felt to this day.

We are not going to reverse hundreds of years of injustice in one legislative session, but it can't be that remedying

these injuries and those injustices—and finally doing right by Native people—takes another few centuries. It needs to start happening now. That requires all of us learning and really understanding the long and painful history. It means addressing the many ways that Native culture has been repeatedly robbed and harmed, which is something that the Committee on Indian Affairs, Federal Agencies, and others are working on with things like the repatriation of cultural remains and language revitalization.

Above all, it means supporting the everyday material needs of Native people. They need electricity. They need running water. They need reliable heating in their homes. They need safe roads and accessible transit. All of this work has to happen together.

The good news is this: Here in Congress, people in both parties recognize the urgency of issues affecting Native communities and are committed to prioritizing them. Even if that doesn't make for a splashy headline, it is no small thing for the millions of Native people across the country who are depending on us.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Biden administration's Environmental Protection Agency will release new tailpipe emission standards formulated to push electric vehicles on the American people. The administration says that because of EVs "the future of American transportation is on track to be cleaner, safer, more affordable, and more reliable than ever before." And Vice President HARRIS has said that our Nation's embrace of electric vehicles will determine "the health of our communities, the strength of our economy, and the sustainability of our planet."

The way the administration and their activist friends paint EVs, you would think these cars are a time-tested environmental blessing with transportation, economic, and community benefits to boot. But behind the curtain of this climate crusade there is little supportive evidence and plenty of problems—problems the administration has tried to hide.

So what is the truth of the matter? The truth is that electric vehicles are not a magic bullet for the environment. They are underdeveloped and they pose safety risks and they create more problems than they solve, both at home and abroad.

So let's talk science. Climate activists say electric vehicles are bringing on a Green Revolution, but the facts—the facts—do not support that claim. The President said in a recent speech that "when I got elected President . . . we vowed to enact the most ambitious climate and environmental justice campaign in American history."

That campaign, according to President Biden, includes "moving to all-

electric vehicles in the future." And Vice President HARRIS has styled the push for electric vehicles as "an approach that is about clean energy and being smart around a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions."

When the administration makes these inflated claims about electric vehicles, they are only looking at what comes out of the exhaust pipe, but there is much more to the life of an electric vehicle. We will start at the beginning. The production of electric vehicle batteries requires a massive amount of electricity, usually produced by generators that burn fossil fuels. The manufacturing of EVs produces at least 60 percent more carbon emissions than that of gas-powered cars.

EVs, they start their lives with carbon debt. But even after they are on the road, EVs have their problems. They weigh significantly more than gas-powered cars because of those heavy batteries. This extra weight, it wears down an EV's tires as it drives. One study compared an electric car to a hybrid car and found that the electric one emitted about a quarter more particulate matter because of tire wear. Driving the electric car heightened overall emissions compared to a hybrid.

The climate activists pushing EVs aren't just ignoring this science; they are actually trying to hide it. When the California Air Resources Board analyzed the facts of the State's proposed ban on gas-powered cars over the next decade, it assumed both EVs and gas-powered cars have the same tire wear. The agency said it would be "speculative" to assume that electric cars will continue being heavier than gas cars. If that sentence was confusing, well, it is because it doesn't make sense.

Public policy should reflect reality, not the baseless future dream of featherweight electric cars. What is speculative, obviously, is assuming that the weight of EVs will change over the next decade, but there is no evidence to support that claim.

Here is another instance of sham science: Under an Energy Department rule, automakers were encouraged to greatly overestimate the fuel efficiency of electric vehicles. By fudging the numbers, carmakers claimed that EVs had absurdly high fuel efficiencies, up to 430 miles per gallon. Well, then—the government granted subsidies to those automakers for supposedly meeting those high efficiency standards. It was a fake science racket designed to juice the EV industry.

Well, how did they fudge the numbers? The Energy Department included what they called a fuel content factor in their fuel efficiency equations, which multiplied the efficiency rates for EVs by 6.67. According to the rule, they chose that specific multiplier, "for simplicity and ease of use." In part, the rule reads that "it is included to reward electric vehicles' benefits to the Nation relative to petroleum-fueled vehicles."

Well, people found out about that multiplier and how arbitrary that it was, and they pushed back. So now, in response, the Energy Department itself admitted that this multiplier “lacks legal support” and has “no basis”—“no basis.” They finally buckled, and they eliminated that step.

So why did it take so long? Activism is getting in the way of truth when it comes to electric vehicles. Suppressing the facts won’t help us make the most environmentally sensible choices. Administration activists aren’t just wrong about the environmental benefits of electric vehicles; they are also wrong about their performance. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg claimed that “we see the superiority of [EVs] in terms of performance, not just in terms of climate.”

And the Department of Transportation says “EVs provide lower operating costs, reduced maintenance needs, and improved performance.” But the truth is that electric vehicles are often undeveloped, inefficient, and they are unsafe.

We all heard about EVs malfunctioning this winter. Freezing temperatures and hot temperatures drain batteries and reduce driving range, and they leave stranded drivers helpless. Even in normal weather, EVs have been plagued with glitches. Ford recalled some F-150 Lightning trucks with defects. General Motors told dealers to stop selling the Blazer SUV because of design flaws. A Consumer Reports survey found that new EVs have 79 percent more problems than internal combustion cars.

Why is this administration trying to speed up EV production when they are clearly not ready for prime time?

Electric vehicle charging stations malfunction just as badly as the vehicles. Last year, researchers visited every public fast charger in the San Francisco Bay area—every single one. They found that almost 23 percent of them had “unresponsive or unavailable screens, payment system failures, charge initiation failures, network failures, or broken connectors.”

Auto analytics company J.D. Power found that one in five charging sessions at public stations failed to deliver any charge at all. This problem is more serious than just a glitch. Performance issues create safety issues.

As I mentioned before, EV batteries can weigh thousands of pounds. They make electric vehicles 30 percent heavier, on average, than gas-powered cars. That extra weight makes a lot of difference when one crashes into you going 60 miles per hour.

The University of Nebraska actually tested how EVs performed in a crash against safety guardrails and roadside barriers earlier this year. And what they found was disturbing. Because they are so heavy, electric vehicles crash with up to 50 percent more impact, smashing through and destroying roadside barriers. Our current safety infrastructure can’t stop an EV, and

that is a major problem—especially for other drivers.

The Center for Auto Safety Executive Director Michael Brooks says that “we are likely to see many additional deaths and injuries attributable solely to the added weight of EV batteries.”

These deaths and these injuries also disproportionately affect women and children. A report released last month by the Government Accountability Office found that crash tests across the country—well, they don’t use the accurate female crash test dummies. Some only use male dummies. They don’t even attempt to test car safety on the female body.

This is part of why crashes injure and kill women at higher rates than men. Women are 80 percent more likely to sustain lower leg injuries. And these current crash test dummies don’t even provide data on that type of injury.

Before mandating a rush of electric vehicles on the roads, the Biden administration needs to find a solution to the risks that these cars can pose, especially the risks that they pose to women.

So what happens if you are driving your new EV, crash, and it catches on fire? Would you call the fire department or the highway patrol? Well, if so, you may be out of luck. EVs pose special risks to first responders as well.

Their batteries contain so much energy that any contact with fire can cause them to explode. High-voltage lithium-ion batteries also pose a risk of electric shock to first responders. Firefighters have been caught off guard by electric vehicles that erupt in fire. If cells in an EV battery are damaged, they can experience an uncontrolled increase in temperature and pressure. That volatility can reignite a fire in a battery even after it has been put out.

One fire chief described an EV fire as a “trick candle.” You never know when it will reflare.

We have debunked the claim that EVs are better for our environment. We have debunked the claim that they are technologically superior. But what about the claim that electrifying our vehicle fleet will boost America’s energy independence?

President Biden said this year that “investing aggressively in electric vehicles and battery production now . . . is . . . important for strengthening our long-term economic security.”

The reason he gave is that 75 percent of EV battery manufacturing is done in China. In his words, “For some battery components, critical materials, China controls nearly half the global production.”

President Biden’s logic is severely flawed. If we invest aggressively in electric vehicles now—like he wants to—we will just boost China’s dominance in sourcing and in manufacturing.

China is the world’s largest manufacturer of electric vehicles. A senior research scientist at MIT admitted that when it comes to EVs, “we still are

going to be dependent on China for many, many years.”

The EV industry is effectively run by the Chinese Communist Party. The Biden administration is not only encouraging Americans to support an industry monopolized by the CCP, they are supporting it themselves through Federal rulings.

In December, the Treasury Department released guidance to make it easier for Foreign Entities of Concern to use the clean vehicle tax credit when they route our EV supply chains through China.

One Washington Post article released last year tracked China’s EV operations to another interesting location: Afghanistan. Shortly after his inauguration, President Biden ordered our troops out of Afghanistan, paving the way for a Taliban takeover of the nation’s government.

Well, that got China’s attention. Afghanistan is home to large lithium reserves, one of the minerals essential for EV batteries. With the United States out of the picture, Chinese mining companies have flooded Afghanistan. These companies have developed a symbiotic relationship with the anti-American Taliban leadership, and that relationship continues to grow.

The electric vehicle supply chain fuels our adversaries. At the same time, it fuels human rights violations across the world. These so-called “clean” cars use dirty manufacturing methods.

The Biden administration is sending millions of dollars to the Congo to support cobalt mining for electric vehicle batteries. A few years ago, human rights groups investigated Congo’s mining sector, and they found it full of young children working in hand-dug tunnels that often collapse, burying these kids alive. The massive demand for cobalt only encourages that industry to keep using inhumane and environmentally irresponsible mining methods.

One Congolese mining expert said it best. He asked:

How can you base a green revolution on trashing Congolese environment and exploiting Congolese workers?

This phenomenon stretches across Africa into Asia. In Indonesia, miners use an intense acid-leaching process that sickens the local environment.

One man told reporters that the rivers he used to drink from have turned dark red since the nickel mine added its acid-leaching refinery. Pollution in those rivers has killed rows of coconut trees and schools of fish. Not only are locals deprived of clean water, but many local fishermen have to travel farther to support their livelihoods.

The Biden administration does not acknowledge or address the dark side of their self-proclaimed Green Revolution. They keep it tucked away in Congo and Indonesia, hidden away from their climate soapbox. But it is time for the administration to stop hiding this truth. They have spearheaded a

reckless push toward a future run by electric vehicles.

If they have integrity, they will stop burying evidence and come clean about the electric vehicle record on environment, on safety, and on human rights. And if they have good judgment—well, they will tap the brakes on this climate charade.

Electric vehicles are ridden with problems, as any developing technology is. The problem is not so much electric vehicles as it is this administration's blind insistence on electric vehicle mandates that harm Americans and that harm the environment.

The White House is forcing electric vehicles on our country in a hasty, overzealous political play. And they are spurning the science, the facts, and the reality: Americans don't want the electric vehicle revolution and for good reason.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### ISRAEL

MR. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the situation in the Middle East and the war between Israel and Hamas.

Five months ago, Hamas brutally attacked Israel, killing more than 1,200 people and taking 240 hostages. Hamas militants terrorized the Israeli people, committed unspeakable acts of torture and mutilation against innocent men, women, and children. This tragedy was the single deadliest day in Israel's 75-year history and the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

In the wake of these horrific attacks, the United States has stood by its democratic friend and ally Israel, as it has since the very beginning when Harry Truman stood up as the first world leader to recognize the State of Israel.

I personally traveled with a bipartisan group of my colleagues 2 weeks after the attacks to mourn with the people of Israel and support the defense of Israel, to ensure that they knew the United States was with them.

In my meetings in Israel and with Jewish leaders from Rhode Island, it is clear to me that this attack has had a profound impact on Israelis and Jewish people everywhere. This attack has touched the deepest nerve, reopened the wounds of the past, and left many wondering not how but if Jews will ever be safe from persecution because of who they are.

As I have continued to make clear, Israel can and must defend itself against the military threat from Hamas. Any nation that is attacked in this manner has the inherent right to self-defense.

The United States will continue to support Israel as it works to degrade and defeat Hamas, but I must also say I have deep reservations about how this war is being conducted. I believe good allies, good friends stand together; and we stand with Israel. But great allies, great friends are willing to speak hard

truths and hold each other to the highest standards, especially around the conduct of war and issues of national security.

I want to echo the majority leader, the senior Senator from New York—a truly devoted pro-Israel champion who is spiritually and emotionally connected to Israel unlike very few of us, if any, in this Chamber, who has been a friend to Israeli leaders across the political spectrum, and who is unafraid to speak truth to power.

It is clear to me, now 5 months into this war, that Israel's strategy to defeat Hamas is in peril. While the IDF has made important progress in rooting out Hamas in Gaza, I do not see a clear endgame or metrics for success coming from this Israeli Government. There is no plan for the day after the fighting stops.

We know that more than 30,000 Gazans are dead. The millions of Gazans who have survived have largely been forced to flee south toward Rafah and the crossing there with Egypt. They have little access to food, water, shelter, or medical care. Those remaining in the north are facing dire humanitarian conditions. More than 2 million Gazans are at risk of starvation or famine. Enormous portions of the Gaza Strip have been completely destroyed and left uninhabitable, and the West Bank is teetering on the brink of chaos.

There are regular exchanges of fire in the north with Hezbollah, who are ensconced in Lebanon. This has forced nearly 100,000 Israelis to move from their homes to escape these attacks emanating from Lebanon. Lebanese noncombatants are caught in the cross-fire between IDF forces and Hezbollah. The region stands at the precipice of being engulfed in an all-out war.

Today, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. Senate, as a friend and longtime supporter of the Israeli people, it is my duty to say clearly that this war has veered off course. There must be a fundamental course correction for the national security interests of Israel, America, and our allies and partners throughout the world.

I do not come to this conclusion lightly. There are two factors that we must understand and come to terms with. First, Israel should learn from the United States' hard-earned strategic and tactical lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan. And, second, as Leader SCHUMER courageously argued here on the Senate floor last week, Israel and its allies must acknowledge that Prime Minister Netanyahu's failed policies and desperate pursuit of power created much of the tragic situation we are witnessing today.

There are actual steps Israel can take to address these issues. We should start by recognizing lessons from America's war in Iraq. We, too, suffered a national tragedy on September 11, 2001, and immediately sought to defend ourselves. We launched our campaign

to degrade and defeat al-Qaeda and Afghanistan, and the result of that war showed early military success. But the anguish of 9/11 affected our ability to make clear strategic decisions; and we, despite my opposition, mistakenly invaded another country, Iraq, which had no role in the attacks on that horrific day of September 11. National grief and political fury can cloud the thinking of even the shrewdest military tacticians.

I worry that the mistakes of America's war in Iraq are being made again by Israel in Gaza.

Similar to the power vacuum that the United States created when it dismantled Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq, Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 contributed to the extremist violence we see today. The rise of Hamas, a terrorist group whose stated goal is the destruction of Israel and the Israeli people, assumed control of the Gaza Strip. But instead of using that opportunity to build lifelines for the people of Gaza, Hamas built a 500-mile tunnel network to terrorize Israel. Instead of providing education, healthcare, and basic services for Palestinians, Hamas stockpiled and unleashed thousands of rockets against Israel through the course of the years.

Now, in the wake of October 7, Israel's stated goal is to destroy a terror group capable of guerrilla-style warfare in a large urban territory with the aid of a massive underground tunnel system. This mission would be daunting for even the most highly trained and advanced militaries.

As it pursues this goal, Israel should consider lessons from the United States' tactical experiences in Iraq. In particular, the battle of Fallujah in 2004 provides a painful case study in counterinsurgency warfare in an urban environment. After a violent, grinding fight through that city, the United States significantly failed to achieve the objectives of clearing the territory from insurgents. As the Modern War Institute at West Point assessed:

Senior political leaders should not react emotionally in war and direct immediate action against a densely populated urban area when conditions for success are not present.

In contrast, operations in Gaza may be more successful by following the model of the battle of Mosul in 2016 and 2017, where the United States worked with coalition forces in Iraq to wrest Iraq's third largest city back from ISIS militants. And I had the opportunity to visit, on the ground, our forces leading a coalition of Iraq forces against ISIS.

The operation was conducted with patience and precision, and ISIS was successfully eliminated in Mosul. Even then, success was arduous and costly. As the Financial Times characterized it:

The mission to clear the city of jihadi militants was ultimately successful. But the fighting was intense, took three times longer than planned, left 10,000 civilians dead, and killed more coalition soldiers than expected.

In prosecuting its current war, Israel must do a better job of following the

lessons of successful counterterrorism campaigns. At times, Israeli forces have conducted heavy bombing campaigns using weapons with large payloads, rather than more targeted operations that yield more successful, albeit slower, results.

The IDF's willingness to bomb heavily populated areas to pursue Hamas leaders has changed both the perceptions and realities of this war. Protecting the civilian population is a strategic imperative in counterterrorism operations and the law of war. You want to separate the insurgents from the population and gain the trust of the population to continue to successfully conduct your operation against an increasingly isolated terrorist group. But, simply put, Israel's current strategy risks creating more terrorists than it is eliminating. Can you think of a 15-year-old who has lost his youngest sibling, his mother, his father, his grandparents? Where will his rage and fury and profound sadness be directed? That is a question I think we should all contemplate.

The second issue we have to understand is the broken, polarized political environment that badly weakened Israel's national security before October 7. Prime Minister Netanyahu returned to power in 2022, facing charges of corruption and a criminal trial. His narrow political coalition is the most far right, conservative government in Israeli history. He has continued to make clear that he will never support a two-state solution.

In a desperate attempt to stay in power, Netanyahu has emboldened the most far right members of his coalition. He has not only allowed extreme positions to be the stated goal of his administration, he has provided far right members of his coalition with ministries by which they can enact their agendas. His Minister of Finance, Smotrich, has fought his entire career to expand settler control in the West Bank and now has control over restarting payments to the Palestinian Authority. His Minister of National Security, Ben-Gvir, has been convicted on at least eight charges, including supporting a terrorist organization and incitement to racism.

In facing his own criminal charges, Netanyahu worked to significantly weaken the Israeli judicial system for his own benefit. He did this despite hundreds of thousands of Israelis protesting in the streets. And we were there when those protests were going on last February. And he did this over the objection of his Israeli military reservists, who, at that point, said they would refuse to report to duty in protest. And he did this despite warnings from Defense Minister Gallant that the IDF would be weakened as a result.

Adding to this toxic and destabilizing mix was Netanyahu's strategy for dealing with Hamas. For years, he purposely propped up Hamas as a means to ensure that his two-state solution would never come to fruition. As far

back as 2012, Netanyahu told Israeli press that "it was important to keep Hamas strong, as a counterweight to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank." It was not just a counterweight. He knew that having Hamas in power in Gaza meant that a two-state solution would never be possible. This strategy to prop up Hamas also included allowing Hamas to receive suitcases full of cash coming from Qatar and other places. A former Defense Minister for Netanyahu, Avigdor Lieberman, blamed this tactic as one that directly paved the way for the October 7 attacks.

Netanyahu's long, relentless pursuit of political survival and power are now fueling his strategy for war in Gaza—and it strikes me that it is his strategy, not Israel's direction; his future, not Israel's future that is the foremost factor at play.

These factors add up to several hard truths that must be spoken from one ally to another, just as Leader SCHUMER did last week, with courage and principle.

Most importantly, Israel can't use military force alone to reclaim peace and security for its people. Military force is used as a means to a political end. Military force itself will never provide the final answer.

A political solution will take hard bargaining and diplomatic negotiations. Working with the United States, Qatar, Egypt, and other allies and partners, the Israelis must reach a temporary cease-fire that allows for the safe return of hostages, expansion of humanitarian assistance, and capacity to safely deliver assistance to the people of Gaza. The ongoing airdrop campaign and seaport efforts are a step in the right direction, but Israel must do more to ensure that the increase supply of food and other desperately needed supplies can reach the people of Gaza.

There must be a realistic plan for day-after operations in Gaza. There needs to be a return to a framework for a two-state solution, where the State of Israel and a demilitarized Palestinian State exists side by side in peace and security. This plan will require buy-in from all—Israel, the Palestinian people, the world community, Arab neighbors. Israel should not and will not find the long-term security and peace it wants by indefinitely reoccupying the Gaza Strip.

Finally, while it is a decision that will ultimately be made by the Israeli and Palestinian people, like Leader SCHUMER, I believe it is time for new leadership for both the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Palestinian President Abbas is almost 20 years into what was supposed to be a 4-year Presidential term, and finding a successor for the Palestinian Authority is long overdue. A new Palestinian leader must recognize that the only path to peace, security, and prosperity is to renounce terror, to work with Israel, to work with regional part-

ners for a path to statehood which is stable and peaceful.

New leadership, as I indicated, also includes Prime Minister Netanyahu. Polling indicates that more than 75 percent of Israelis believe he should step down, and I agree with Leader SCHUMER that Netanyahu represents an obstacle to long-term peace in Israel.

I have long been a friend and supporter of Israel's. I traveled there in the early nineties and have traveled there periodically since. More importantly, the United States has been Israel's closest ally for 75 years.

In 1948, when the Israelis declared their independence, the world was not particularly accepting except here in the United States, where, to his immense credit, President Harry Truman stood up and said that we will recognize and support the State of Israel. That profound bond exists today and, in my view and in my hope, will always exist. We can't have anyone break that bond.

Great allies must hold each other to high standards, share hard truths when needed, and the U.S.-Israeli alliance is no different. So I urge Israel to change course in Gaza immediately, to work with all of us to establish ultimately and enduringly, we hope, a secure and peaceful Israel and the protection of its people, as well as a just, secure, and safe place where all people of that region can live safely.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Kansas.

#### FARM BILL

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, first day of spring, National Ag Day, a perfect time—a fitting time—to address the Senate on something that I think is really important and something that is frustrating to me and to the people I represent. American agriculture is at a crossroads, a pressure point. Things are really challenging for those who provide our food, fuel, and fiber. There is record-level volatility in the farm economy, and farm income is falling by the most significant amount of all time.

We ought to be providing certainty to those who provide our food. I was troubled to read a report that the Senate Committee on Agriculture—its chair—indicated that there is a level of comfort with scrapping negotiations for a new farm bill and continuing with the outdated, now at least 5-years-old, policies from the past. In that same article, surprisingly, disappointingly, Secretary Vilsack expressed his support for that decision.

Our farmers deserve and, even more importantly, they need better. Agriculture is an incredibly difficult industry, as farmers and ranchers face challenges from weather events, economic shocks, and supply chain shortages. Added to these challenges are the inflationary policies that have raised the prices on farmland and, ultimately, at the grocery store. This includes soaring input costs, which are up nearly

\$100 billion since the last farm bill, which covers interest on loans, live-stock feed, fertilizer, labor, fuel—to name just a few of the things that farmers need to produce that food.

Looking back at 2023, USDA, or the Department of Agriculture, forecasted that America's farmers and ranchers would see farm profitability fall by \$42 billion nationwide, nearly a 25-percent drop compared to 2022.

So during the life of the farm bill, USDA is estimating that profitability will decline by \$42 billion. This is just unsustainable. Farmers can't manage these circumstances. These challenges don't just impact farmers, but, ultimately, they impact American consumers trying to feed their families.

For Kansas, agriculture is our State's largest economic driver, with a total output contribution of \$81 billion into the State's economy and supporting more than 250,000 jobs, which is about 13 percent of our entire State's workforce.

Beyond crops and animal husbandry, Kansas agriculture is at the forefront—forefront—of producing renewable energy, critical research and education, and furthering sustainability and conservation practices throughout Kansas and worldwide.

Kansas is also a leader in animal health science. As part of the animal health corridor, Kansas has the largest concentration of animal health interests in the world. Last year, Manhattan, KS, welcomed the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, or NBAF. This is a state-of-the-art facility that protects and will defend our Nation's farmers and citizens from potentially severe zoonotic and biological diseases.

In addition, Kansas and many places of the country continue to experience weather challenges. In Kansas, there is a wide array of those challenges, but most oppressing is the drought. We need to address drought through mitigation and resiliency.

On Monday of this week, yesterday, I was in Liberal, KS, for the 2024 Ogallala Summit. Ogallala is an aquifer that, in about the western third or western fourth of our State—along with five other States, six other States—is a huge component of the agricultural economy. This event, this conference I attended in Kansas, brought stakeholders from across the High Plains region and beyond to discuss and learn about water management practices. How do we do better in preserving our assets? And how do we conserve and utilize more efficiently that great asset?

Key conservation research and education programs are authorized in the farm bill, including USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, which provides technical assistance and conservation programs, like the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

In previous farm bill years, I have led the effort to maximize that program, called CREP, on the Upper Arkansas River Basin to reduce the amount of

groundwater used for irrigation, improve groundwater levels, increase stream flows in the Arkansas River, and protect water quality in our region. The program is working, but we need additional tweaks, changes in the law, which is why I introduced the CREP Improvement Act, which would provide additional flexibility for family farms to better utilize the program.

In Kansas, landowners view access to the Ogallala as their lifeblood and the core of their rural communities and are committed to conserving and replenishing the Ogallala.

These are just a few sections. In fact, throughout the last year or more, we have been working with both Republican and Democrat Members of the Senate, particularly Senator BENNET of Colorado, to figure out what more we do. And we have introduced several pieces of legislation, all with the anticipation that that legislation would be considered at the same time the farm bill was considered and potentially be included in the farm bill.

But the recent announcement by the chair of the committee indicates that we are going to abide by the status quo—no conversations, no additional efforts.

I have been an aggie since I came to Congress, including my days in the House, where I chaired the subcommittee on farm commodity programs, and I have been through numerous farm bills. And they are always hard, and they are always late, and we never get them done easily. But this seems different to me, for the first time saying: What we have is what we get.

There are many provisions that affect agriculture that need to be addressed in a new farm bill, and it is important. I underscore how valuable, how important it is to pass a farm bill in the House and Senate and send it to the President.

We must deliver a farm bill that provides certainty of risk management programs to help farmers and ranchers weather the storm, and we must rework revenue protection programs to provide a critical safety net that works with market challenges and allows farmers, particularly young farmers, to borrow the money to stay in business.

If we fail to pass a farm bill, we are passing up opportunities to grow alternative fuel production through policies that encourage investments in biofuels for aviation, for example. Our global competitors are outspending the United States year after year by billions in agriculture research.

The Senator from Illinois and I have legislation designed to increase the support for agricultural research, which we hope—at least I hoped—would be a part of the farm bill. And we will be left behind in your investments for research if we don't meet the needs of the day.

A farm bill would include investments in education for our land grants and our Agricultural Research Service,

which provides cutting-edge science and tools to allow farmers and ranchers to do more with less and contribute to our national and food security.

A good point, the farm bill is a component of our national security. The farm bill maintains critical authorizations, as well, for reauthorization of global food aid programs. Through these programs, America's farmers and ranchers proudly provide U.S. grown commodities throughout the world as a lifeline to many who are in war-torn regions or recovering from economic or natural disasters. Global hunger, unfortunately, is real and threatens the future of millions of people every day.

I join three others of my Senate colleagues, another Republican and two Democrats, in cochairing the Senate Hunger Caucus. And you just look around the world at Russia's invasion of Ukraine, around the Middle East, Africa, and Haiti, and we see starving people. From a young age, most of us—each of us—were taught that it is our duty to help those in need. So many in Kansas have answered that call time and time again.

A Kansan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, created Food for Peace. Senator Bob Dole worked to expand our Nation's efforts to provide food for the most vulnerable populations through the Dole-McGovern—or McGovern-Dole—Food for Education Program, and Senator Pat Roberts prioritized these programs in previous farm bills.

Kansans have taken this moral responsibility to heart, and we must do our part by reauthorizing these programs in a farm bill considered this year. The time is now to show leadership—to show leadership for America's farmers and ranchers. Tough decisions are ahead of us. The farm bill is always difficult, but we have always been able to come together and accomplish our goals. We should not walk away from the process. It is a dereliction of duty to the farmers and ranchers of America. I hope that we, as leaders, can get back to the table and produce a farm bill that provides meaningful and real relief for Kansas producers and protects our country from the challenges that we face around the globe.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF NICOLE G. BERNER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Nicole Berner to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

After receiving her B.A., M.P.P., and J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, Ms. Berner clerked for the Hon. Betty Binns Fletcher on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Hon. Thelton E. Henderson on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

After several years in private practice, Ms. Berner served as a staff attorney at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, litigating cases to protect and expand access to reproductive healthcare.

Since 2006, she has worked at the Service Employees International

Union—SEIU—currently serving as general counsel. At the SEIU, she has worked on a range of matters, including cases arising under labor and employment laws and regulations, as well as advising on legal claims involving criminal law, voting rights, Federal preemption, antitrust, bankruptcy, immigration, and the list goes on.

Ms. Berner has the strong support from her home State Senators, Mr. CARDIN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN. In addition, she received a “well qualified” rating from the American Bar Association.

Ms. Berner will be the first openly LGBTQ+ person to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and will bring professional diversity as a lawyer with expertise in representing employees and labor organizations. Ms. Berner’s breadth and depth of experience demonstrates that she is eminently qualified to serve on the bench.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Berner’s nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, following my remarks, Senator CARDIN be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express my strong support for the confirmation of Nicole Berner of Maryland to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

She is an outstanding nominee to represent Maryland on that court. That is why Senator CARDIN and I were proud to recommend her nomination to the Senate Judiciary Committee. We are pleased the Senate Judiciary Committee advanced her nomination to the floor of the Senate, and today we are proud to recommend her nomination to the full U.S. Senate.

Ms. Berner’s impressive legal career is a testament to her exceptional skill and unwavering dedication to justice, to fairness, and to service.

Ms. Berner is a highly experienced litigator. She knows the courtroom. She is currently a partner at the law firm of James & Hoffman, where she is on full-time retainer as the general counsel of the Service Employees International Union, or SEIU. In over 15 years as the general counsel to SEIU, she has represented the union’s 2 million members in a diverse range of professional sectors, making her deeply knowledgeable about the challenges facing working people throughout the United States of America.

There are few judges on the Federal bench—and none on the Fourth Circuit—who have this practice background.

As part of her substantial litigation responsibilities, Ms. Berner has worked on a range of matters, including cases arising under labor and employment laws and regulations, as well as advis-

ing on legal claims involving criminal law, voting rights, Federal preemption, antitrust, bankruptcy, immigration, and the list goes on.

She has served as counsel in more than three dozen cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and dozens more in Federal courts of appeals.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Berner was a staff attorney with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, litigating cases to protect and expand access to reproductive care and healthcare. She also spent several years in private practice. She has also worked to train future lawyers as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt Law School.

She earned her J.D. from the University of California Berkeley Law School and went on to clerk for two Federal judges—one in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and one in the District Court for the Northern District of Columbia.

Based on all her legal experience, the American Bar Association gave Ms. Berner its highest rating of “well qualified” for the position she has been nominated for.

Her confirmation would mark a significant milestone for the Fourth Circuit. If confirmed, she would be the first openly gay, LGBTQ judge to serve on that court.

Ms. Berner’s qualifications, her values, and her life experience, coupled with her notably steady, thoughtful, and calm demeanor, which was exhibited during the hearing and questioning on the Senate Judiciary Committee, will make her an exceptional addition to the Fourth Circuit.

Her nomination has inspired letters and statements of support from a host of organizations, including 27 interfaith organizations, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights under Law, the National Women’s Law Center, a number of union presidents—23 of them—the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, among many others.

I know that Ms. Berner would say and she has told us that she has traveled this important journey of her life alongside other members of her family: her wife Debra and their sons Mattan, Naveh, Segev, and Ari.

I join my good friend and colleague, the senior Senator from the State of Maryland, BEN CARDIN, in strongly recommending that the U.S. Senate confirm Nicole Berner to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator VAN HOLLEN for his friendship and the way that we have been recommending potential members to the bench, working together, in regards to the Maryland judiciary.

Nicole Berner is an outstanding candidate for the Fourth Circuit, to fill

the position vacated by Diana Gribbon Motz.

I just really want to underscore some of the points that Senator VAN HOLLEN said.

Nicole Berner is an extraordinarily qualified candidate to serve on the Fourth Circuit—her experience, which Senator VAN HOLLEN went over in great detail, her understanding of the importance of the independent judicial branch of government and protecting our rights, and her commitment to the values which are the strength of our Nation. Senator VAN HOLLEN went over her qualifications. I am just going to underscore a few of those points.

Ms. Berner serves as general counsel to the Service Employees International Union, SEIU, and she has been in-house counsel since 2006. She served as staff attorney for Planned Parenthood and worked as a litigation associate at a private law firm. She served as a law clerk for a district court judge in California and an appellate court judge in the Ninth Circuit.

She has a record of fighting for working families. She has filed numerous—numerous—amicus briefs before the Supreme Court of the United States as well as circuit and district courts that she has been involved with. She has been a lawyer in hundreds of cases in Federal and State courts, protecting the rights of working families.

So let me just share with you a couple things that really, I think, are outstanding in her background.

First, she is motivated by a desire to ensure full and fair access to the courts for all Americans, regardless of their social status or financial resources. She has consistently advocated for the interests of historically underrepresented communities.

Second, as a skilled appellate lawyer, she has organized legal strategies to bring her clients’ voices to the court and tell their story. She seeks to show how their lives will be affected by the outcome of a case.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she represented frontline workers who literally put their lives and health at risk to do their jobs and keep our economy running when many Americans were told to stay home until the vaccine was developed. Her SEIU clients included workers in the fast-growing occupations of public services, healthcare, home care, childcare, janitorial, and building security. She represented them at that time.

We talk a lot about our frontline workers as being our heroes. Nicole Berner is one of those heroes.

Third, she would bring a unique and diverse perspective to the appellate court. We know that the Fourth Circuit is a particularly diverse circuit and includes the States of Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. A more diverse bench will better reflect the population that the judges serve as well as better inform judicial decision making.

Fourth, Ms. Berner brings to the bench both her vast experience as an

appellate lawyer and her own personal advocacy as a Jewish woman on so many civil rights issues. Ms. Berner successfully won a long-running case involving her own family at the Israeli Supreme Court—a landmark ruling that required the government to recognize two mothers as the parents of one child.

Fifth, she has received strong endorsements, and Senator VAN HOLLEN pointed out the list of endorsements from very diverse groups, from civil rights to law enforcement.

Let me highlight one of those letters—we received numerous letters—one of those letters that came from former assistants to the Solicitors General of two different administrations—the Reagan administration and the Clinton administration. The letter is authored by David Frederick and Andrew Pincus.

We have worked with, litigated against, and collaborated on cases with Ms. Berner in the Supreme Court of the United States and federal courts of appeal over more than a decade. Based on that professional experience, we are united in the firm conviction that Ms. Berner is highly qualified to serve on the Fourth Circuit and will be an excellent appellate judge.

Ms. Berner has demonstrated superb skills as a writer, legal analyst, and advocate in the appellate cases in which we have seen her work up close. . . . Her legal training is extensive, including as a law clerk to a distinguished court of appeals judge, an associate in a well-respected law firm, a lawyer in a public interest organization, and general counsel of one of the largest labor unions in the country. Ms. Berner's experience with a wide range of the legal issues that arise in the federal courts, her diverse roles as a lawyer, and her professional expertise, which we have observed firsthand, demonstrate that she will be a first-rate appellate judge.

Just as impressive as Ms. Berner's legal skills are her personal qualities. She is unfailingly polite and measured in her interactions with others, even on highly contentious issues. She listens carefully and thoughtfully with an open mind to new ideas—even those that may not comport with her personal experience—so that she can offer the soundest position in a case. These qualities make us certain that she will transition seamlessly from the role of advocate to the work of a circuit judge. She will understand that serving as a judge requires her to act as a neutral arbiter based on faithful application of the relevant constitutional or statutory text, precedent, and record facts.

I would note that Ms. Berner is a longtime resident of Montgomery County, MD. She has been an active member of her synagogue and community and lives with her wife in Takoma Park, MD. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Ms. Berner and talk to her about her priorities and her commitment to fully integrate into the vibrant Maryland legal community, including Baltimore.

I also want to join Senator VAN HOLLEN in thanking her family because this truly is a joint sacrifice in public service.

I urge my colleagues to ratify her nomination and vote in favor of her nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BERNER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Berner nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—3

Graham	Mullin	Risch
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-26, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$219.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-26

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$181.3 million.  
Other \$37.8 million.  
Total \$219.1 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing and National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:  
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred thirty-two (232) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles.

Sixteen (16) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missile Guidance Units.

Non-MDE: Also included are missile containers; training aids; active optical target detectors; spares; support equipment; missile support; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (PL-P-ABH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-P-AAV.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 12, 2024.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Missiles

The Government of Poland has requested to buy two hundred thirty-two (232) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles and sixteen (16) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missile Guidance Units. Also included are missile containers; training aids; active optical target detectors; spares; support equipment; missile support; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$219.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future operational needs. The additional missiles will allow Poland to bolster its defenses while increasing NATO interoperability. Poland already has these missiles in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing the additional weapons into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Poland. However, periodic travel on a temporary basis will be required in conjunction with program, technical, and management oversight and support requirements.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-26

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder Missile represents a substantial increase in performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag and high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II Operational Flight Software developed for all International Partner countries, which is authorized by U.S. Government export policy, provides fifth-generation infrared missile capabilities such as Lock-On-After-Launch, Weapons Data Link, Surface Attack, and Surface Launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same de-

gree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Poland.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range-Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of Poland has requested to buy up to seven hundred forty-five (745) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), up to sixteen (16) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections, and fifty (50) LAU-129 Guided Missile Launchers. Also included are AIM-120 Captive Air Training Missiles, missile containers, and control section spares; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment; ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; contract logistics support; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training support; transportation support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.69 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring it has modern, capable air-to-air munitions. This sale will further advance the already high level of Polish Air Force interoperability with U.S. Joint Forces and other regional and NATO forces. The Government of Poland already has AMRAAMs in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Government of Poland.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-29

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature, solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down and shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include Captive Air Training Missiles, AMRAAM guidance section spares and control section spares, and LAU-129 guided missile launchers.

2. The Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results and to upload and download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform preflight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of Operational Flight Program data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of Global Positioning System (GPS) cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

3. The ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Set provides the physical and electrical interface between the CMBRE and the missile.

4. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

5. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

7. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Poland.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-29, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.69 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-29

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$1.52 billion.

Other \$17 billion.

Total \$1.69 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to seven hundred forty-five (745) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Up to sixteen (16) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Fifty (50) LAU-129 Guided Missile Launchers.

Non-MDE: Also included are AIM-120 Capitive Air Training Missiles, missile containers, and control section spares; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment; ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; contract logistics support; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training support; transportation support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PL-D-YAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-D-YAE, PL-D-QAV.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 12, 2024.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-33, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.77 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-33

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$1.67 billion.

Other \$10 billion.

Total \$1.77 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to eight hundred twenty-one (821) AGM-158B-2 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles with Extended Range (JASSM-ER) All-Up-Rounds.

Non-MDE: Also included are AGM-158 JASSM classified test equipment; weapon system support; integration and test support and equipment; classified software delivery and support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PL-D-YAG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-D-YAB, PL-D-YAD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 12, 2024.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—AGM-158B-2 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile with Extended Range All-Up-Rounds

The Government of Poland has requested to buy up to eight hundred twenty-one (821) AGM-158B-2 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles with Extended Range (JASSM-ER) All-Up-Rounds. Also included are AGM-158 JASSM classified test equipment; weapon system support; integration and test support and equipment; classified software delivery and support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.77 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the secu-

rity of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by providing advanced, long-range strike systems for employment from Polish Air Force air platforms. This sale will further advance the already high level of Polish Air Force interoperability with U.S. joint forces and other regional and NATO forces. Poland already has JASSM-ERs in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Government of Poland.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-33

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AGM-158B-2 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile with Extended Range (JASSM-ER) All-Up-Rounds is a low-observable, highly-survivable, subsonic cruise missile designed to penetrate next-generation air defense systems enroute to target. The JASSM-ER is designed to kill hard, medium-hardened, soft, and area-type targets. The extended range was obtained by going from a turbo jet to a turbo-fan engine and by reconfiguring the fuel tanks for added capacity. This potential sale will include inert missiles with test instrumentation kits.

2. The AGM-158B-2 system capabilities include all the capabilities of the AGM-158B. The AGM-158B-2 configuration will have different internal components to address multiple obsolescence issues as well as sub-component updates to position for M-Code and other potential upgrades.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Poland.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0B. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-40 of October 19, 2018.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0B

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (SEC. 36(b)(5)(c), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of the United Kingdom  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-40

Date: October 19, 2018

Implementing Agency: Army

(iii) Description: On October 19, 2018, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 18-40 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of sixteen (16) H-47 Chinook (Extended Range) helicopters; thirty-six (36) T-55-GA-714A engines (32 installed, 4 spares); forty-eight (48) embedded GPS inertial navigation units (32 installed, 16 spares); twenty (20) common missile warning systems (16 installed, 4 spares); twenty-two (22) radio-frequency countermeasures (16 installed, 6 spares); nineteen (19) multi-mode radars (16 installed, 3 spares); nineteen (19) electrooptical sensor systems (16 installed, 3 spares); forty (40) M-134D-T miniguns, plus mounts and tools (32 installed, 8 spares); and forty (40) M240H machine guns, plus mounts and tools (32 installed, 8 spares). Also included was communications equipment; navigation equipment; aircraft survivability equipment; initial training equipment and services; synthetic training equipment; support package including spares and repair parts; special tools and test equipment; aviation ground support equipment; safety and air worthiness certification; technical support; maintenance support; technical and aircrew publications; mission planning system equipment and support; project management and governance; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$3.5 billion. Major

Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.655 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following MDE items:

—Seventeen (17) Common Infrared Countermeasure (CIRCM) Systems.

—Seventeen (17) Limited Missile Warning Receiver Systems (LIMWS).

—Seventeen (17) Degraded Visual Environment Pilotage Systems (DVEPS).

Also included are Man-Portable Night Vision Devices. The estimated total value of these new items is \$162 million, but their addition will not cause an increase in the total case value. The estimated total case value will remain at \$3.5 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) will remain at \$1.655 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will enhance the United Kingdom's capabilities to provide national defense and contribute to NATO and coalition operations.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: CIRCM is the next-generation lightweight, laser-based, infrared countermeasure system for rotary-wing, tiltrotor, and small fixed-wing aircraft across the Department of Defense (DoD). CIRCM provides near-spherical coverage of the host platform to defeat infrared (IR)-seeking threat missiles. CIRCM receives an angular bearing hand-off from the Missile Warning System (Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) or LIMWS) and employs a pointing and tracking system that acquires and tracks the incoming missile. CIRCM jams the missile by using modulated laser energy, thus degrading the tracking capability of the missile and causing it to miss the aircraft.

LIMWS will protect aircraft from missiles by deploying flares and by cueing laser-based countermeasure systems such as the CIRCM. The LIMWS A-kit is backwards compatible with CMWS. LIMWS maintains overmatch of quickly emerging threat technology and tactics by providing increased detection range, improved detection in clutter, and more agile algorithms to rapidly respond to emerging Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) threats. LIMWS utilizes IR-based sensors to detect incoming missiles and unguided hostile fire, fiber optic cables for high-speed data transmission from the sensors to the system processor and implements machine learning algorithms.

DVEPS provides overmatch by providing increased situational awareness to the aircrew in Degraded Visual Environment (DVE) conditions such as brownout, allowing Special Operations Aviation assets to execute missions in almost any environmental condition. DVEPS utilizes using three-dimensional (3D) imaging technology. DVEPS produces imagery, 3D conformal symbology, and system alerts to aid pilots in maintaining spatial awareness during and after transition from visual meteorological conditions (VMC) to DVE conditions. DVEPS includes a synthetic vision avionics backbone (SVAB), light detection and ranging (LiDAR), removable storage device, infrared camera, power distribution unit, and inertial measurement unit.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 12, 2024.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Connecticut Humanities, CTH. CTH is a trusted leader and public/private partner with the State of Connecticut, having supported vital, widely accessible humanities programming throughout its 50-year history.

Founded in 1974 as the Connecticut Humanities Council at the request of the National Endowment for the Humanities, CTH has dedicated itself to connecting residents of Connecticut to the humanities through grants, partnerships, and collaborative programs. Over the past 50 years, CTH has inspired storytelling, lifelong learning, informed public dialogue, and civic engagement throughout the State of Connecticut and, in doing so, has strengthened communities and enhanced the quality of life for all residents.

Connecticut Humanities has created and promoted a number of incredibly worthwhile projects in Connecticut. CTH created the Connecticut Center for the Book, a State affiliate of the Library of Congress that promotes the written and spoken word. Along with its partners, CTH created Why It Matters: Connecticut's Civic Reconstruction, a program that provides frameworks for meaningful discussion regarding often difficult and divisive topics, instruction on civic processes and participation, and avenues that safeguard participation in our democracy for all citizens. CTH has also participated in the Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative, supporting connections between the humanities and journalism and fostering an informed citizenry and a democratic society.

Connecticut Humanities has long been a champion of the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. By implementing and supporting strong, viable, and sustainable cultural organizations that play a pivotal role in promoting the educational, cultural, and economic vitality of Connecticut, and ensuring that their programming is widely accessible to diverse and new audiences across the State, CTH continues to play a central role in the preservation of the humanities and the promotion of civic engagement.

It is my hope that Connecticut Humanities will continue to grow and expand their vital work in the years to come. I applaud Connecticut Humanities for their exemplary work and hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our gratitude and admiration. •

#### RECOGNIZING LEADAR

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary

of LeadAR, a hands-on program that brings together dedicated individuals from across Arkansas to empower their communities and initiate positive change.

LeadAR has helped educate and build a network of Natural State leaders who share the common goal of bettering their communities.

As a champion of leadership development in the Natural State, the program gives participants an opportunity to connect with peers from different backgrounds who call a variety of rural, agriculture, and larger communities home in order to facilitate an understanding of the unique needs across our State.

Participants take part in a number of seminars and team-building exercises throughout the year in multiple settings. I have had the opportunity to visit with LeadAR classes during the trip each takes to Washington, DC, and share how we work together with local communities and the State to support the needs of citizens, including encouraging economic growth and development.

Alumni of this organization include individuals from all walks of life. Professionals including educators, farmers, to local elected leaders and more have benefited from the excellent leadership principles LeadAR teaches. Over the course of 18 months, these Arkansans acquire even more tools and skills to enrich their own careers and enhance the civic contributions their families, friends, and neighbors value.

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize the impact it has made in the lives of participants and the progress it has helped inspire in communities across the State.

I appreciate the guidance of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for successfully coordinating this program so it continues to be a distinguished activity citizens strive to be part of. I look forward to supporting LeadAR for many years to come and celebrating the next generation of participants who are developing their vision for a stronger Arkansas.●

#### RECOGNIZING BROWNS CENTURY THEATER

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Browns Century Theater of Le Mars, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2000, siblings Adam, Michaela, and Andrew partnered with their mother Shelly to start a music group called The Browns. The Brown family is originally from Le Mars but took their music talents around the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2015, after touring for 15 years, the Browns returned home to Iowa and purchased

the historic German-American Savings Bank building in downtown Le Mars. The theater seats 150 people and now includes the Central Event Center for dining, the Inn on Central for visiting guests, and the Gift Shoppe. The Browns Century Theater seasonally employs between 9 to 12 employees and has hosted 100 shows every year since its opening, featuring the family's music and other artists from across the country.

In addition to owning a small business, The Browns host a reality TV show called "Hometown with The Browns" on their YouTube channel. The first episode of their show details the renovations they did to the German-American Savings Bank to convert it into the Browns Century Theater. Their daughter Michaela creates cooking videos for the family channel and is also the author of three cookbooks. The Browns have recorded 2 dozen albums and often perform special shows in addition to their hits, including songs like "Oh, My Iowa!"

The Brown family has deep roots in Le Mars and proudly owns a more than a century-old farm. Michaela Brown served as the Le Mars Chamber of Commerce president in 2022, and Adam Brown served on the Plymouth County Fair board in 2023. The Browns have performed at the Christmas in Hometown event since its inception in 2020, the Plymouth County Fair, and Ice Cream Days. In addition to performing for and supporting their community, Adam Brown played as a linebacker and defensive end for the Sioux Empire Crusaders of the Southern Plains Football League.

The Browns are well recognized for their hard work. Shelly Brown was awarded the Le Mars Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019. The Browns Century Theater was awarded the Community Impact Award in 2023 and the Business of the Year Award in 2017 by the Le Mars Chamber of Commerce. Their music has earned them Dove Award nominations and a place in the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. Due to their incredible efforts, The Browns celebrated their 24th anniversary of performing together and their ninth anniversary of owning the Browns Century Theater in 2024.

The Brown family's commitment to Le Mars, the gospel music industry, and their family business is clear. I want to congratulate the Brown family and the entire team at Browns Century Theater for their continued dedication to the Le Mars community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

When I was elected President, a pandemic was raging and our economy was reeling. We were in the midst of the most devastating downturn in nearly a century. I came into office determined to fundamentally change things, by rebuilding our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down—because when the middle class does well, the poor have a ladder up and the wealthy still do well. We all do. We can give everyone a fair shot and leave no one behind.

Our work started with the American Rescue Plan, which vaccinated the Nation, delivered immediate economic relief to people who badly needed it, and sent funding to States and cities to keep key services going. It continued with the biggest investment in our Nation's infrastructure since the 1950s. More than 46,000 new projects have been announced to date, rebuilding our roads, bridges, railroads, ports, airports, public transit, water systems, high-speed internet, and more. At the same time, we are making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in the history of the world. I have seen Americans' courage and resilience in the wake of devastating natural disasters, and I will always have their backs as we rebuild and boost resilience to extreme weather. We are building a cleaner, more resilient and sustainable power grid, and making America's biggest investment in rural electricity since the New Deal. We are revitalizing fence-line communities that have shouldered the burden of harmful pollution for generations. We are lowering energy costs for hard-working families and strengthening our energy security with clean energy breakthroughs. Across the board, we are supporting advanced manufacturing, ensuring the industries of the future are made in America by American workers.

Our plan is working. Already, my Investing in America agenda has attracted \$650 billion in private investment from companies that are building factories and moving production back to America. We are making things here in America again, with American union workers. We have ignited a manufacturing boom, a semiconductor boom, an electric-vehicle boom, and more. My agenda is creating hundreds of thousands of union jobs, so folks never have to leave their hometowns to find good-paying work they can raise a family on. Today, America once again has the strongest economy in the world. We have created a record 15 million jobs, with unemployment under four percent for the longest stretch in over 50 years. Growth is strong. Wages are rising and inflation is down by two-thirds, with costs having fallen for key household items from a gallon of gas to a gallon of milk. We have more to do, but folks are starting to feel the benefits. Consumer sentiment has surged more in recent months than any time in 30 years. Americans have filed a record 16 million new business applications since I took office; each one of them is an act of hope.

Importantly, we made these historic investments in a fiscally responsible way, while making our tax system fairer. In 2022, I signed a law that imposed a new minimum tax of 15 percent on the Nation's largest corporations, saved \$160 billion by giving Medicare the authority to negotiate prescription drug prices and limit price increases, and boosted funding to the Internal Revenue Service to crack down on wealthy and corporate tax cheats. This is just the beginning. My Budget would do more to close loopholes. It would save another \$200 billion by enabling Medicare to negotiate prices on even more drugs and by limiting other drug price increases. It would cut wasteful subsidies to Big Oil and other special interests; and it would introduce a minimum tax on billionaires, which alone would raise \$500 billion for the American people.

So far, we have already cut the deficit by \$1 trillion since I took office, one of the biggest reductions in history, and I have signed legislation to cut it by \$1 trillion more. My Budget would reduce it by another \$3 trillion over the next 10 years as well, while continuing to pay for our investments in America.

And we are just getting started.

My Administration will keep fighting to lower costs for working families, on everything from housing to childcare to student loans. After decades of talk in Washington, we beat Big Pharma and capped the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400. Starting next year, no senior on Medicare will pay more than \$2,000 a year in total out-of-pocket prescription drug costs, even for expensive cancer medications that now cost many times more. We are cracking down on price gouging by requiring drugmakers that

raise prices of certain drugs faster than inflation to pay a rebate back to Medicare. At the same time, we have protected and expanded the Affordable Care Act, with a record 21 million Americans enrolled in marketplace plans this past year, while saving millions of Americans \$800 per year on their premiums. Today, more Americans have health insurance than ever before. My Budget builds on those gains.

I also know that for too many hard-working families, it costs too much to find a good home, so we are working to lower costs and boost supply of housing nationwide. My Budget will make monthly mortgage payments more affordable for middle-class first-time homebuyers by providing a \$5,000 annual mortgage relief credit for two years. My Budget will expand rental assistance to hundreds of thousands of additional families, continuing the largest expansion in 20 years. It will also help to ease America's long-standing shortage of affordable housing, including by cutting red tape, so that more builders can get Federal financing to build more affordable housing. Important progress is underway: more families own homes today than before the pandemic; rents are easing; and a record 1.7 million housing units are under construction nationwide.

My Budget also makes key investments in childcare and education, so every child in America can have the strong start they need to thrive. It restores the Child Tax Credit expansion I signed into law, which cut child poverty nearly in half in 2021; and it guarantees the vast majority of families high-quality childcare for no more than \$10 a day, while boosting pay for childcare workers. It offers universal free preschool for all four million of America's four-year-olds. Building on the American Rescue Plan's investment in public education, the biggest in history, it also helps States expand tutoring, afterschool, and summer programs; and boosts recruiting to ease teacher shortages.

At the same time, I am keeping my promise to ease the crushing burden of student debt. Despite legal challenges, we have canceled some \$138 billion in student debt for nearly four million Americans, including more than 750,000 teachers, nurses, firefighters, social workers, and other public servants. That is freeing people to finally consider buying a home, having a child, or starting that small business they always dreamed of.

We are also working to secure our border. In October, I sent an emergency request for more funding; my Budget renews that request for additional resources, including for 1,300 more Border Patrol agents, 375 immigration judges, and 1,600 asylum officers, and for cutting-edge technology to help detect fentanyl. We need to pass the Senate bipartisan border deal as well, which would make urgent additional investments to secure the border and help to fix our broken immigration system.

Today, the world is facing an inflection point in history, at home and abroad. My Administration has restored America's leadership on the world stage, rallying more than 50 nations to support Ukraine in the face of brutal Russian aggression, strengthening and expanding NATO, revitalizing our alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific—including with Japan, South Korea, and Australia—and strengthening democracy across the globe. But we need to do more to prove that America can once again be relied on to stand up for freedom. In October, I submitted a national security supplemental request to cover urgent needs, including support for Ukraine and Israel, and humanitarian aid and relief for Palestinians. My Budget reiterates that request and continues other critical support for NATO allies and partners around the world. It strengthens our deterrence capacity in the Indo-Pacific, expanding our capabilities in the region. It also works to keep our military the best-trained, best-equipped fighting force in the world, integrating advanced innovation technologies, and improving overall readiness. My Budget also takes important steps to honor our Nation's most sacred obligation—to protect and equip our troops when they are in harm's way, and to care for them and their families throughout and after their service. Since I took office, I have signed over 30 significant bipartisan bills to support veterans, including the PACT Act, the biggest-ever expansion of benefits for servicemembers exposed to toxic burn pits during their service; and I have issued the most comprehensive executive actions to date to boost economic security for military families. My Budget builds on that work.

The story of America is one of progress and resilience, of always moving forward and never giving up. It is a story unique among nations. We are the only nation that has emerged from every crisis we have entered stronger than we went in. While my Administration has seen great progress since day one, there is still work to do. My Budget will help make that promise real.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3966. A bill to streamline the application of regulations relating to commercial space launch and reentry requirements and licensing of private remote sensing space systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. KING):

S. 3967. 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 Finance.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3968. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide community-based training opportunities for medical students in rural areas and medically under-served communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3969. A bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to expand the definition of aiding the enemy to include the provision of military education, military training, and tactical advice; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HAS-SAN, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3970. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3971. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3972. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide to Congress information on payments from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3973. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons that knowingly engage in political warfare on behalf of a foreign government or political party and to require a determination regarding the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3974. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to use the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers for purposes of determining cost-of-living adjustments under titles II, VIII, and XVI of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3975. A bill to require companies to receive consent from consumers to having their data used to train an artificial intelligence system; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3976. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the deduction for personal casualty losses as in effect prior to the enactment of Public Law 115-97 (commonly referred to as the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act"); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3977. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care; to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VANCE (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3978. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution of higher education that employs unauthorized aliens from receiving funds from Federal student assistance or Federal institutional aid and to require institutions of higher education to participate in the E-Verify Program in order to be eligible to participate in any program authorized under title IV of such Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 3979. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent and codify the pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3980. A bill to award grants to local educational agencies to operate after school programs in certain areas with a high rate of juvenile crime; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3981. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a program of research, training, and investigation related to Down syndrome, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. Res. 591. A resolution reaffirming the deep and steadfast partnership between, and the ties that bind, the United States and Canada in support of economic and national security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. Res. 592. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 593. A resolution expressing support for the continued value of arms control agreements and condemning the Russian Federation's purported suspension of its participation in the New START Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 594. A resolution designating April 17, 2024, as "National Assistive Technology Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CAS- SIDY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 595. 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; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 596. 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; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 597. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 160

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 160, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to

provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct civilization and identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1442

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1442, a bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to adjust for inflation the maximum amount of assistance provided by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1601

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1601, a bill to protect moms and babies against climate change, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes.

S. 1845

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide

for the testing of a community-based palliative care model.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S. 2048

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2048, a bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, and provide for the discoverability and admissibility of gun trace information in civil proceedings.

S. 2415

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2415, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 2626

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

S. 2662

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSBOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2662, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out certain activities relating to research for wood products, and for other purposes.

S. 2665

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2665, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide to firefighters of the Department of Defense medical testing and related services to detect and prevent certain cancers.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other in-

dividuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2963

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2963, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for investment in Community Development Financial Institutions.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3125

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3125, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3197

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3197, a bill to establish and authorize funding for an Iranian Sanctions Enforcement Fund to enforce United States sanctions with respect to Iran and its proxies and pay off the United States public debt and to codify the Export Enforcement Coordination Center.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 3444

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr.

KING) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3444, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9-8-8, and for other purposes.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3502, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prevent consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 3556

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3556, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue reports after activation of the Disaster Information Reporting System and to make improvements to network outage reporting, to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification system, and for other purposes.

S. 3627

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3627, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require a certain efficiency level for certain distribution transformers, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3629, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise recidivist penalty provisions for child sexual exploitation offenses to uniformly account for prior military convictions, thereby ensuring parity among Federal, State, and military convictions, and for other purposes.

S. 3697

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3697, a bill to establish the Space National Guard.

S. 3757

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3757, a bill to reauthorize the congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 3801

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3801, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal Reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3916

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3916, a bill protecting the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 3929

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3929, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from taking certain proposed actions relating to a land management plan direction for old-growth forest conditions across the National Forest System.

S. 3930

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3930, a bill to provide downpayment assistance to first-generation homebuyers to address multigenerational inequities in access to homeownership and to narrow and ultimately close the racial homeownership gap in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3933

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3933, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

S. 3940

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3940, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a first-time homebuyer credit, and for other purposes.

S. 3956

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3956, a bill to include phosphate and potash on the final list of critical minerals of the Department of the Interior.

S.J. RES. 64

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 64, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination”.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—RE-AFFIRMING THE DEEP AND STEADFAST PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN, AND THE TIES THAT BIND, THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 591

Whereas Members of the Senate understand the critical importance of further strengthening and deepening the alliances of the United States, and are called upon not only to protect, but to advance the partnerships of the United States;

Whereas the United States enjoys the great fortune of sharing a border with Canada, the closest ally of the United States, while countries around the world are facing existential threats from their neighbors;

Whereas, in June 2023, the bipartisan and bicameral American Canadian Economy and Security Caucus was established in the Senate and the House of Representatives, presenting an opportunity to fortify and advance the indispensable economic and security partnership between the United States and Canada;

Whereas the governments of the United States and Canada can reinforce shared interests in the 4 critical areas of economic security, sustainability, energy, and critical mineral security, national security, and global security;

Whereas the prosperity of citizens of the United States and Canada depends on the mutually beneficial economic relationship and resilient and integrated supply chains of the United States and Canada;

Whereas the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada, done at Buenos Aires November 30, 2018 (commonly known as the “United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement”), forms the foundation of the economic competitiveness of the United States and Canada;

Whereas the governments of the United States and Canada—

(1) share one of the largest trading relationships in the world, with approximately \$1,300,000,000,000 in bilateral trade in goods and services in 2022, supporting more than 7,500,000 jobs in the United States; and

(2) understand the importance of secure and resilient supply chains, and have established formal mechanisms to further strengthen the economic integration between the United States and Canada so that the United States and Canada can withstand major crises;

Whereas Canada is the largest single export market for the United States and was the primary customer for 33 of 50 States in 2022;

Whereas, in 2022, more than 300 congressional districts in the United States each exported more than \$250,000,000 in goods to Canada, and more than 100 districts each exported more than \$1,000,000,000 in goods to Canada;

Whereas trade between the United States and Canada is built on long-standing binational supply chains, whereby roughly 80 percent of Canadian goods exports to the United States are incorporated into United States

supply chains and Canadian goods sold to the United States contain on average 25 percent content produced in the United States;

Whereas Canada buys more than \$22,000,000,000 worth of automotive parts from the United States each year, and each assembled vehicle exported to the United States from Canada contains approximately 50 percent of content originating from the United States;

Whereas the United States and Canada—

(1) are global leaders in science, technology, and innovation, and can secure the future of North America as the most competitive region in the world;

(2) are working together to deepen cooperation in developing and protecting emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum science; and

(3) are founding members of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, with Canada hosting the inaugural plenary in December 2020;

Whereas Canada—

(1) is the fourth largest petroleum producer in the world and is the largest foreign supplier of energy to the United States, including oil, uranium, natural gas, and electricity; and

(2) is a reliable source of energy and resources for the United States, producing more than 60 minerals and metals, and is a leading global producer of 19 critical minerals on the List of Critical Minerals published by the United States Geological Survey;

Whereas the United States and Canada—

(1) have a deeply interconnected electricity sector, with more than 35 active electricity transmission connections between the two countries, many of which enable bidirectional flows of electricity, helping to ensure the security and reliability of the North American grid;

(2) are committed to closely collaborating to achieve shared sustainability objectives, including advancements in energy efficiency and the reduction of emissions to support a sustainable future;

(3) have committed to work together to protect biodiverse areas that span the shared border between the United States and Canada, including in collaboration with Indigenous and Tribal partners, benefitting shared species like migratory birds;

(4) have an appreciation for environmental stewardship and abide by some of the highest production standards in the world, reducing global emissions through the production of goods in the United States and Canada; and

(5) have jointly collaborated for more than 100 years under the Treaty Relating to the Boundary Waters and Questions Arising Along the Boundary Between the United States and Canada, done at Washington January 11, 1909 (36 Stat. 2448; TS 548) (commonly known as the 'Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909') to manage and conserve shared waters for the benefit of both countries, including more than 50 years under the Agreement between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality, done at Ottawa November 22, 1978;

Whereas the United States and Canada—

(1) share 3 oceans and the longest border in the world;

(2) are committed to jointly protecting the security of the citizens of the United States and Canada, because the governments of the United States and Canada understand that a threat to the security of one country is a threat to the security of both countries;

(3) recognize that collective security is a shared responsibility, and are committed to expanding cooperation on continental defense and in the Arctic, including by increasing investments in continental defense and modernizing the North American Aerospace

Defense Command, the only binational military command in the world;

(4) share the desire for a peaceful, stable, and predictable Arctic region, including for the benefit of Arctic and Northern peoples and communities;

(5) cooperate to keep the border open to legitimate trade and travel but closed to terrorists, criminals, and threats to the health and safety of citizens;

(6) work together to secure the border shared by the United States and Canada through the Cross-Border Crime Forum, Integrated Border Enforcement Teams, the Beyond the Border Initiative, NEXUS, the Border Enforcement Security Task Force, shiprider agreements, the Integrated Cross Border Maritime Law Enforcement Operations, and United States preclearance operations conducted at Canadian airports, all of which enhance joint security efforts;

(7) have an Integrated Border Enforcement Charter that allows the border enforcement agencies of the United States and Canada to jointly identify national security threats, disrupt organized criminal activities, seize drugs and weapons, and intercept criminal networks trying to smuggle people across the border; and

(8) safely oversee the movement of more than 400,000 people every day and more than \$2,600,000,000 worth of goods and services crossed the border each day;

Whereas the United States and Canada—

(1) are the only 2 countries in the world that have borders along the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic oceans;

(2) are unequivocally committed to playing a leadership role in protecting global security and promoting democracy around the world;

(3) work together to advance democratic principles, human rights, and free trade policies through the G7, the G20, the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, and the Organization of American States;

(4) cooperate extensively through a "Tri-Command Framework" comprised of the United States Northern Command, the Canadian Joint Operations Command, and the North American Aerospace Defense Command;

(5) work together as the only North American members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to ensure peace and security in the transatlantic region;

(6) support deterrence and defense efforts by NATO and other European Allies through roles as the Framework Nations for the NATO brigades in Latvia and Poland; and

(7) remain steadfast in support for Ukraine, working together to provide critical military assistance and training to strengthen the capacity of Ukraine to withstand aggression by the Russian Federation;

Whereas Canada has been a committed ally in upholding the rules-based international order by promoting peace, resilience, and security in the Indo-Pacific region through an augmented and diversified military presence;

Whereas Canada has been a reliable and engaged partner of the United States in the Indo-Pacific by collaborating extensively with United States Indo-Pacific Command, including through bilateral and multilateral exercises, regional security cooperation and defense engagements, involvement in regional defense forums, and ultimately, through unwavering support of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region; and

Whereas history, geography, commerce, security, and shared democratic values underpin a close relationship between the United States and Canada: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the relationship between the United States and Canada is an essential strategic asset to the United States and United States citizens, and is critical to promoting peace, expanding global economic opportunity, and being prepared to respond to unforeseen events;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to maintain and grow the critical partnership between the United States and Canada;

(3) recognizes that the security of one country is dependent on the security of the other, and welcomes greater collaboration in the areas of defense, cyber and technology security, and Arctic security;

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the bilateral and international alliance between the United States and Canada, which allows the United States and Canada to face common threats together and uphold common values, including democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

(5) recognizes the strategic importance of one of the most secure borders in the world, the comanagement of which facilitates trade and serves as a trusted corridor for the supply chains of the United States and Canada;

(6) recognizes that bolstering the supply chains of the United States and Canada will make each such country more competitive and more resilient in the face of economic aggression from hostile countries;

(7) supports an increased focus on energy security through greater cross-border energy infrastructure, including infrastructure for oil, natural gas, nuclear and renewable energy, and resilient electricity transmission, and through diversifying critical minerals supply chains;

(8) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to strengthen cooperation on shared climate and environmental and sustainability priorities; and

(9) is fully committed to the creation of more well-paying jobs in the United States through continued and increased trade and investment with Canada.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 592—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY ON MARCH 19, 2024

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

##### S. RES. 592

Whereas the 700,000 social workers of the United States are an essential workforce that promotes the health and well-being of the people of the United States in communities across the country every day;

Whereas social workers are leaders in addressing the influence of social determinants of health, such as housing, employment, education, and transportation, on individual and communal health and well-being;

Whereas social workers—

(1) pursue social justice as part of their code of ethics and have been a leading voice in social change movements for over a century;

(2) combat racism and discrimination in all its forms, including xenophobia, homophobia, transphobia, gender discrimination, religious intolerance, and discrimination against individuals with mental illness; and

(3) promote voting rights, a livable wage, workplace safety, social safety net programs that help alleviate poverty, hunger, and

homelessness, and the rights of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas social workers support individuals and communities in a wide range of settings, including hospitals, health and behavioral health care facilities, nursing homes, community centers, Veterans Affairs clinics, schools, child welfare agencies, law enforcement agencies, disaster relief agencies, correctional institutions, and private practice settings;

Whereas social workers work in all levels of government to advance the promise of the United States and the health and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas social workers are one of the largest providers of mental health, behavioral health, and social care services in the United States, working daily to help thousands of people in the United States overcome mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, and meet basic needs;

Whereas social workers are on the frontlines of the addiction crisis in the United States, helping individuals get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders;

Whereas social workers play a vital role in helping United States veterans and their families access benefits, secure housing, and cope with stress and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas social workers play a vital role in promoting the health, well-being, and dignity of older adults and their ability to live safely and securely in their own homes and communities;

Whereas social workers play a vital role in supporting the millions of family caregivers across the country who are caring for loved ones in need of assistance;

Whereas social workers are a vital source of assistance, comfort, and support for individuals and families coping with illness, death, and grief;

Whereas social workers play a vital role in helping individuals, families, and communities rebuild their lives and neighborhoods after climate-related natural disasters such as fires, floods, and hurricanes;

Whereas social workers play a vital role in promoting infant and maternal health and keeping children and families safe from interpersonal violence;

Whereas social workers support students and collaborate with parents, teachers, school boards, and community agencies to promote student success in schools across the country;

Whereas social workers are a critical source of information, services, and support in the rural communities of the United States;

Whereas social workers served on the frontlines of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, delivering behavioral health services and helping individuals, families, and communities cope with the devastating loss of life, jobs, and safety during the pandemic;

Whereas the 2024 Social Work Month theme, “Empowering Social Workers: Inspiring Action, Leading Change” embodies how social workers are invaluable to the ever-changing dynamics of our country;

Whereas social workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities, and the United States to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential;

Whereas social workers are essential to community well-being, and, as practitioners, social workers are trained to help individuals address personal and systemic barriers to optimal living;

Whereas social workers are employed to effect positive change in individuals, families, groups, and entire communities;

Whereas social workers advocate for equal rights for all;

Whereas the social work profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, but the profession is still not large enough to meet the demand in the face of the mental health crisis;

Whereas there is a need to make a meaningful investment in recruitment and retention of the social work profession; and

Whereas social workers are ethically bound to work throughout our society to meet individuals where they are and help empower individuals and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 19, 2024;

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of social workers who have, since the dawning of the social work profession, advanced the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and the United States;

(3) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and observe Social Work Month and World Social Work Day; and

(4) encourages individuals to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote further awareness of the integral role that social workers play in making a more perfect Union.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 593—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED VALUE OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION’S PURPORTED SUSPENSION OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW START TREATY**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 593

Whereas the United States maintains bipartisan support to ensure national security and the defense of United States allies and partners;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan stated “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought” in his 1984 State of the Union address, and affirmed the conviction with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985;

Whereas, in January 2022, President Joseph R. Biden joined the leaders of the People’s Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to reaffirm that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought”;

Whereas the United States, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, committing “to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine” and “to refrain from the threat or use of force” against the country;

Whereas the United States has a history of leadership in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, including its work with Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation to ensure Ukraine did not retain any nuclear weapons left on its territory when it became independent;

Whereas the Russian Federation further illegally invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and has used veiled and blatant nuclear saber-rattling in service of its war of aggression against a sovereign state;

Whereas the war has led to thousands of casualties, including over 10,000 civilians and more than 560 children killed, along with the displacement of over 6,400,000 Ukrainians and an enduring global food crisis;

Whereas the Russian Federation’s illegal war against Ukraine represents the greatest threat to European security and freedom in a generation;

Whereas, on February 27, 2022, President of Russia Vladimir Putin ordered his military to put Russia’s nuclear forces on “special combat readiness” in an escalatory response to the United States’ and its Western allies’ unequivocal condemnation of the Russian Federation’s illegal invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on September 21, 2022, President Putin warned he was “not bluffing” when he said Russia has “various weapons of mass destruction” and “will use all the means available to us” to defend its territory shortly before annexing additional Ukrainian lands through “referendums”;

Whereas, in February 2021, the United States and Russian Federation extended the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on April 8, 2010, and entered into force on February 5, 2011 (commonly referred to as the “New START Treaty”), for 5 years until February 5, 2026;

Whereas, on February 21, 2023, President Putin announced the Russian Federation’s purported suspension of the New START Treaty, the last major remaining bilateral nuclear arms control agreement, in a move deemed legally invalid by the United States;

Whereas New START has had bipartisan support and limits the Russian nuclear arsenal to 1,550 warheads on no more than 700 deployed delivery vehicles, and to 800 deployed and non-deployed strategic launchers;

Whereas New START has permitted robust and strict transparency and verification measures and on-site inspections, which have provided valuable insight into Russia’s nuclear arsenal;

Whereas the United States has decades of bipartisan leadership in nuclear arms control, including cooperation with the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation even when relations were strained;

Whereas, in June 2023, the United States Government announced it is now ready to engage in a dialogue with the Russian Federation on a post-2026 nuclear arms control framework and is “prepared to stick to the central limits as long as Russia does” while also stating a “willingness to engage in bilateral arms control discussions” with the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China “without preconditions”;

Whereas the nuclear weapon states recognized by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968 (commonly referred to as the “Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty” or “NPT”), including the Russian Federation, the United States, and the People’s Republic of China, have an obligation to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”;

Whereas, in November 2023, senior United States and Chinese officials held “a candid and in-depth discussion on issues related to arms control and nonproliferation as part of ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage the U.S.-PRC relationship”; and

Whereas the absence of a new framework for nuclear arms control after the expiration of New START would affect strategic stability and increase the risk of an unrestrained nuclear arms race with the Russian Federation; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's nuclear escalatory rhetoric and veiled threats on the potential use of nuclear weapons to further its invasion and aggression against a free and independent Ukraine;

(2) condemns the Russian Federation's purported suspension of its participation in the New START Treaty;

(3) calls for immediate cessation of nuclear saber-rattling and nuclear escalatory rhetoric from the Russian Federation;

(4) emphasizes the continued value of arms control agreements between the United States and the Russian Federation;

(5) calls for the Russian Federation to promptly return to full implementation of the New START Treaty, including on-site inspections, provision of treaty-mandated notifications and data, and resumption of Bilateral Consultative Commission meetings;

(6) calls on the President to continue to engage the People's Republic of China in further bilateral talks on nuclear risk reduction and arms control, and to pursue new multilateral arms control efforts involving the 5 permanent members of the United Nations Security Council; and

(7) calls on the President to continue to pursue nuclear arms control and risk reduction dialogue with the Russian Federation to maintain strategic stability, ensure the conflict in Ukraine does not escalate to nuclear use, and avoid an unrestrained nuclear arms race.

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 594—DESIGNATING APRIL 17, 2024, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY”**

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 594

Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability or an older adult;

Whereas an assistive technology service is any service that directly assists a person with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device;

Whereas, in 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 people in the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, has a disability;

Whereas, during the 2021–2022 school year, the Department of Education reported that there were more than 7,300,000 children with disabilities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

Whereas assistive technology enables people with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

Whereas assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions of people with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in their communities, access education, or obtain, retain, and advance gain-

ful, competitive, and integrated employment;

Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of people with disabilities and older adults; and

Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

(1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive technology devices;

(2) device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

(3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

(4) State financing to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives that give individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or obtain assistive technology. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 17, 2024, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”; and

(2) commends—

(A) assistive technology specialists and program coordinators for their hard work and dedication in serving people with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and

(B) professional organizations and researchers dedicated to facilitating the access and acquisition of assistive technology for people with disabilities and older adults in need of assistive technology devices.

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 595—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS AND ALUMNI AND AMERICORPS SENIORS VOLUNTEERS IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 595

Whereas 30 years ago Congress established the Corporation for National and Community Service—now known as AmeriCorps—to unite national service programs under 1 agency, to create service opportunities that strengthen communities, and to expand pathways to education, careers, and civic participation for those who serve;

Whereas, since their inceptions, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors national and community service programs have proven to be highly effective ways to—

(1) unite and engage the people of the United States in meeting a wide range of local and national needs;

(2) promote greater civic engagement; and

(3) provide pathways to education and careers;

Whereas each year 200,000 individuals serve in AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors at nearly 40,000 locations across the United States to give back in an intensive way to communities, States, territories, Tribal nations, and the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors funds have been invested in nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based organizations, as well as local governments and Tribal nations, and those funds have—

(1) leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars in outside funding and in-kind donations each year; and

(2) expanded the capacity of local and national programs to deliver on missions that strengthen the communities of the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers have provided millions of hours of service across the United States, helping to—

(1) improve the lives of the most vulnerable people of the United States;

(2) protect the environment;

(3) contribute to public safety;

(4) respond to disasters and public health emergencies;

(5) strengthen the educational system of the United States; and

(6) expand economic opportunity for all;

Whereas service in AmeriCorps promotes bridge-building, collaboration, and leadership skills, and AmeriCorps programs bring the people of the United States together from different backgrounds, generations, and geographic locations;

Whereas AmeriCorps funds, conducts, and disseminates research on the civic health of the United States and the return on taxpayer investment in national service programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers recruit and supervise millions of community volunteers, demonstrating the value of AmeriCorps as a powerful force for encouraging people to become involved in community service;

Whereas, for more than 5 decades, millions of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion programs have played an important role in strengthening communities by sharing their experience, knowledge, and accomplishments with the individuals they serve;

Whereas, over the past 30 years, nearly 1,300,000 individuals have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to “get things done for America” by becoming AmeriCorps members through the AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps members throughout the United States, in return for completing their service terms, have earned more than \$4,500,000,000 to use to further their own educational advancement and career readiness at colleges and universities across the United States;

Whereas AmeriCorps is a proven pathway to employment, providing members with valuable career skills, experience, and contacts to prepare them for the 21st century workforce;

Whereas leaders across political parties and ideologies recognize the value that national service provides to their communities and country, leveraging the power of AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to meet the most urgent and pressing needs;

Whereas national service programs have engaged millions of people in the United States in results-driven service in the most vulnerable communities of the United States including in rural, urban, and suburban communities, providing hope and help to individuals with economic and social needs; and

Whereas AmeriCorps Week, observed in 2024 from March 10 through March 16, is an appropriate time for the people of the United States to—

(1) salute current and former AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers for their positive impact on the lives of people in the United States;

(2) thank the community partners of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors for making the programs possible;

(3) encourage more people in the United States to become involved in service and volunteering; and

(4) celebrate the lasting impact of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs over the last 30 years; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the people of the United States to join in a national effort—

(A) to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers; and

(B) to raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments across a 30-year history of the volunteers, members, alumni, and community partners of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors;

(3) recognizes the important contributions made by AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to the lives of the people of the United States; and

(4) encourages individuals of all ages to consider opportunities to serve in AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 596—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**

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 596

Whereas March 12, 2024, marks the 112th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (referred to in this preamble as “Girl Scouts”), the largest and most impactful leadership program for girls in the world;

Whereas the Girl Scout movement began on March 12, 1912, when Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low, a native of Savannah, Georgia, organized a group of 18 girls and provided them with the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually;

Whereas, for over a century, Girl Scouts has advanced its mission to “build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place”;

Whereas today more than 50,000,000 women—trailblazers, visionaries, and leaders—are Girl Scouts alumnae who have made the world a better place;

Whereas, since its beginnings, Girl Scouts has emphasized public service and civic engagement and has fostered a sense of community in girls;

Whereas girls say that Girl Scouts supports their mental health and is an accepting, secure space where they feel free to be themselves and where leaders and other girls are sources of support during difficult times;

Whereas Girl Scouts is a powerful force for social connection and creates a positive and uplifting national and global network among girls;

Whereas Girl Scouts plays an indispensable role in engaging girls in afterschool and out-of-school programming and experiences that expand their world and allow them to tap into their inner community builder, innovator, change maker, and leader;

Whereas, at a time when civics education is missing from many schools, Girl Scouts engages girls of all grade levels in civics programming that deepens their understanding of democracy and government, prepares them for a lifetime of civic engagement, and motivates them to take action on issues that are important to them;

Whereas Girl Scouts offers girls 21st century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills;

Whereas, to earn the Gold Award, individual Girl Scouts take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

Whereas, as a member organization of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts is part of an international sisterhood of 10,000,000 girls and young women in 152 countries and is committed to offering girls more opportunities to engage with communities worldwide, make meaningful global connections, and explore global citizenship; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 112 years of providing girls with a safe and inclusive space where they can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities;

(2) congratulates all Girl Scouts who earned the Gold Award in 2023; and

(3) encourages Girl Scouts of the United States of America to continue to champion the ambitions, nurture the creativity, and support the talents of future women leaders.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 597—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 597

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women’s History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas an estimated 4,718,255 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women live in the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women—

(1) have helped shape the history of their communities, Tribes, and the United States;

(2) have fought to defend and protect the sovereign rights of Native Nations; and

(3) have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through military service, public service, and work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, and fine arts, including Pablita “Tse Tsan” Velarde, a Santa Clara Pueblo artist and painter whose art work depicted traditional Pueblo life and preserved Pueblo stories and knowledge, and whose paintings were commissioned for display at Bandelier National Monument;

Whereas, as of 2023, more than 4,400 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women were bravely serving as members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, as of 2023, more than 20,800 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women were veterans who made lasting contributions to the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down historical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

(1) Laura Beltz Wright, an Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II;

(2) Minnie Spotted Wolf of the Blackfeet Tribe, the first Native American woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1943; and

(3) Marcella LeBeau of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, a decorated veteran who served as an Army combat nurse during World War II and received the French Legion of Honour for her bravery and service;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe who was the first Native American woman to be killed in action while serving on foreign soil and the first woman serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to be killed in the Iraq War in 2003;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Tribe, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, who—

(1) served as the treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe;

(2) founded the first Tribal-owned national bank; and

(3) led the fight against Federal mismanagement of funds held in trust for more than 500,000 Native Americans;

Whereas, as of 2020, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women owned an estimated 161,500 businesses;

Whereas, as of 2020, Native women-owned businesses employed more than 61,000 workers and generated more than \$11,000,000,000 in revenue;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have opened an average of more than 17 new businesses each day since 2007;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions to the fields of medicine and health, including—

(1) Susan La Flesche Picotte of the Omaha Tribe, who is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree; and

(2) Annie Dodge Wauneka of the Navajo Nation, who—

(A) advocated for better public health, education, and living conditions on the Navajo Nation leading to her becoming 1 of

the first female council members for the Navajo Nation in 1951; and

(B) was the first Native American to receive a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific advancements, including—

(1) Floy Agnes Lee of the Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

(A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

(B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

(2) Native Hawaiian Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, who—

(A) was the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University; and

(B) in 1997, was awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences; and

(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—

(A) is considered the first Native American engineer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(B) helped develop spacecrafts for the Gemini and Apollo space programs; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2019 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have achieved distinctive honors in the art of dance, including Maria Tallchief or Wa-Xthe-Thon-ba of the Osage Nation, who—

(1) was the first major prima ballerina of the United States and was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center; and

(2) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 1 dollar coin with her sister Marjorie Tallchief of the Osage Nation, Yvonne Chouteau of the Shawnee Tribe, Rosella Hightower of the Choctaw Nation, and Moscelyne Larkin of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, collectively known as the “Five Moons”, for the legacy they left on ballet;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have accomplished notable literary achievements, including Northern Paiute author Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, who wrote and published 1 of the first Native American autobiographies in United States history in 1883;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to protect their traditional ways of life and to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

(1) Esther Martinez, a Tewa linguist and teacher who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language;

(2) Mary Kawena Pukui, a Native Hawaiian scholar who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century;

(3) Katie John, an Ahtna Athabascan of Mentasta Lake, who was the lead plaintiff in lawsuits that strengthened Native subsistence fishing rights in Alaska and who helped create the alphabet for the Ahtna language;

(4) Edith Kenao Kanaka'ole, a Native Hawaiian language and cultural practitioner who—

(A) founded her own hula school, Hālau o Kekuhi;

(B) helped develop some of the first courses in Hawaiian language and culture for public schools and colleges; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 quarter honoring her

significant contributions and accomplishments perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture and arts; and

(5) Dr. Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon, a Mohegan medicine woman and anthropologist, who worked for 50 years at the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Connecticut, the oldest Native American owned and operated museum in the United States, which she founded with her father and brother to preserve the culture and history of their Tribe, and which contributed to the Tribe's Federal recognition in 1994;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have excelled in athletic competition and created opportunities for other female athletes within their sport, including Reil Kapoliokaehukai Sunn, who—

(1) was ranked as longboard surfing champion of the world; and

(2) co-founded the Women's Professional Surfing Association in 1975, the first professional surfing tour for women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, advocating for land rights, and safeguarding the environment, including—

(1) Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratovich, Tlingit, a member of the Lukaax.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of Kaaxgal.aat, who—

(A) helped secure the passage of House Bill 14, commonly known as the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 (H.B. 14, Laws of Alaska. 17th Regular Session, Territorial Legislature. Feb. 16, 1945), in the Alaska Territorial Legislature, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

(B) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

(2) Zitkala-Sa, a Yankton Dakota writer and advocate, whose work during the early 20th century helped advance the citizenship, voting, and land rights of Native Americans; and

(3) Mary Jane Fate, of the Koyukon Athabascan village of Rampart, who—

(A) was the first woman to chair the Alaska Federation of Natives;

(B) was a founding member of the North American Indian Women's Association; and

(C) was an advocate for settlement of Indigenous land claims in Alaska;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have succeeded as judges, attorneys, and legal advocates, including—

(1) Eliza “Lyda” Conley, a Wyandot-American lawyer and the first Native woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1909; and

(2) Emma Kailikapiolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, a Native Hawaiian who served as the first female judge in Hawaii;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are dedicated public servants, holding important positions in the Federal judicial branch, the Federal executive branch, State governments, and local governments;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have served as remarkable Tribal councilwomen, Tribal court judges, and Tribal leaders, including Wilma Mankiller, who—

(1) was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation;

(2) fought for Tribal self-determination and the improvement of the community infrastructure of her Tribe; and

(3) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2022 quarter honoring her legacy of leadership for Native people and women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have also led

Native peoples through notable acts of public service, including—

(1) Kaahumanu, who was the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as regent of the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

(2) Polly Cooper, of the Oneida Indian Nation, who—

(A) walked from central New York to Valley Forge as part of a relief mission to provide food for the Army led by General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War; and

(B) was recognized for her courage and generosity by Martha Washington;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women to address the barriers those women face, including—

(1) access to justice;

(2) access to health care; and

(3) opportunities for educational and economic advancement; and

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made precious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions those women have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the importance of providing for the safety and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women.

## RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 595, S. Res. 596, and S. Res. 597.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolutions en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the preambles be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

## ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning

business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kiel nomination; further, that the cloture motions with respect to the Kiel and Lee nominations ripen at 12 noon and that following the cloture vote on the Kiel nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Kiel nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the Lee nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:15; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m.

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NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. BRIAN T. CASHMAN

BRIG. GEN. SUSIE S. KUILAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be brigadier general*

COL. DAVID M. CHURCH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

TUCKER R. HAMILTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

JASON D. WALKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

ANDREW H. BLACK

RYAN M. KEHOE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JEFFREY A. BANKS

*To be major*

JONATHAN D. HEAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

VANESSA A. GASSWINT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be colonel*

BRETT J. COOPER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JACOB J. DALRYMPLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS SENIOR MILITARY ACQUISITION ADVISOR IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1725(A):

*To be colonel*

MARK E. DELORY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

REYMOND J. RAMOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

*To be major*

REZA H. HESHMATI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED WARRANT OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

*To be major*

WILLIAM C. PERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

TODD P. BALOG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

*To be colonel*

EDGAR A. GONZALEZ

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

BREYER M. HOUSTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

HAROLD J. SAINTCLOUD

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CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 19, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

NICOLE G. BERNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE POLICE OFFICERS MICHAEL COLLAZO AND REX ENGLEBERT, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY AND VALOR IN CONFRONTING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER AT THE COVENANT SCHOOL IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

**HON. ANDREW OGLES**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the outstanding bravery and valor of Metropolitan Nashville Police Officers Michael Collazo and Rex Englebert. Nearly one year ago today, two men answered the call to serve the most vulnerable members of our Nashville community, and without regard to their own physical well-being, they confronted a murderer and saved countless lives.

At 10:13 am, on March 27, 2023, Metropolitan Nashville Police confirmed an active shooter situation was taking place at The Covenant School, a private Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee. After the first 911 call, officers rushed to the campus, entered the building, and reported shots coming from the second level of the school. On the second floor, in a common area, a team of officers encountered the shooter who had been firing through a window at arriving police cars. Two members of an officer team, the men we are honoring today—Michael Collazo and Rex Englebert—fired on the shooter and fatally wounded her.

The Covenant School shooting remains etched in the minds of the Nashville community as an evil, brutish, and senseless assault against the most innocent members of our society. Six lives—three children and three adults—were needlessly taken from their families and those who loved them. In the face of such depravity, we are fortunate and grateful that two men acted in such a manner that they were willing to give their own lives to preserve the lives of strangers. The heroism of Michael Collazo and Rex Englebert serves as a poignant reminder to each of us that evil will never triumph over good.

On behalf of Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District, I express our profound gratitude to Officers Collazo and Englebert for their devoted service to their community. May we learn from these two men the virtues of self-sacrifice and fidelity to our beloved Nation.

**HONORING THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALISTOGA**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of

Calistoga, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Since its chartering on March 10, 1924, the Rotary Club of Calistoga has worked tirelessly to give back to our Calistoga community. As the second-oldest Rotary Club in Napa County, the club has worked to embody Rotary International's 5 areas of service—Club, Vocational, Community, International and Youth Services for 100 years.

The members of The Rotary Club of Calistoga are people of action that have joined a global network of millions of neighbors, friends, and leaders volunteering their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs. They aim to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill. They also generously serve our community with the time and the money they raise.

Over the course of its history, the Calistoga Rotary has repeatedly endeavored to serve its community. For example, the organization was the first to bring scouting groups to town. In 1933, it was the original sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 18, which it continues to sponsor today. The Rotary Club of Calistoga also supports international causes such as the Health, Hunger and Humanity Program, which has raised millions of dollars to help improve health, alleviate hunger, and enhance the human condition everywhere. The organization has also generously supported Calistoga schools and students. The Calistoga Rotary has donated money in the form of scholarships to local students throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Calistoga is deeply appreciated for their work on behalf of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Calistoga Rotary on its 100th anniversary.

**PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARY CONTROLLED APPLICATIONS ACT**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. VAL T. HOYLE**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 13, 2024*

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in opposition to H.R. 7521, the so-called "Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act." This bill would force the sale of the social media application TikTok, whose parent company ByteDance is based in China.

Let me be clear: I share the national security concerns of many that the Chinese government is collecting Americans' personal data via TikTok. However, I believe H.R. 7521 is an inadequate proposal that unconstitutionally singles out a specific company, setting a dangerous precedent. Additionally, by restricting access to a social media application, I believe this bill threatens Americans' constitutional

rights to free speech, expression and a free press.

I also believe the bill's provisions to force ByteDance to divest from TikTok within 180 days are unrealistic. In reality, a sale of this magnitude could trigger an antitrust acquisition review in the United States—a process that could take up to a year or longer. During this period, TikTok users in the U.S. could lose access to the app.

This bill also ignores the fact that the Chinese government and other public and private entities around the world—including the U.S. government—are still able to purchase Americans' private information from third-party brokers. That's why I support comprehensive privacy reforms to protect Americans' constitutional right to privacy and close the data broker loophole.

The United States has rightfully criticized other countries for infringing on the rights of their own citizens by restricting free speech and censoring access to the internet. However, H.R. 7521's restriction of Americans' free speech and singling out of one company makes us no better than our adversaries, and it invites reciprocal attacks from other countries on U.S.-based companies.

We must not forget that the U.S. government also engages in what I strongly believe to be unconstitutional surveillance and collection of Americans' personal data and communications. If TikTok were sold to a U.S.-based company, I'm not convinced that American users' private data would be secure.

Instead of rushing a vote on a bill that was written behind closed doors without proper debate, Congress should pass comprehensive data privacy and security reform legislation that protects Americans from unconstitutional data collection by all companies, governments, and digital applications—not just one.

**RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF OPHELIA MARTINEZ SILVA**

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Ophelia Martinez Silva.

Ophelia was born March 8, 1924, in Los Angeles, California. She lived and worked throughout Southern California for her entire life. She married Henry Albaran Silva on August 8, 1947 at St. Joseph's Church in the City of Fontana. They were married for 63 years. They moved from Los Angeles to El Monte in the 1950s, where she worked at the city's Sears for 25 years. In her personal time, she volunteered at Epiphany Catholic School and the local adult school.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Ophelia on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent incredible

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

people like her. I hope that she and her family enjoy an incredible celebration in April. I wish her much happiness in the coming year.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF SENATOR ALAN G. SIEROTY**

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of former California State Senator Alan G. Sieroty, a champion for disability rights and a leader in efforts to preserve California's coastline and natural beauty. Mr. Sieroty, who passed away at the age of 93, leaves behind an indelible legacy of devout public service and advocacy.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Sieroty demonstrated his hard-working spirit from a young age. After earning his bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and graduating from the University of Southern California Goud School of Law, Mr. Sieroty began a lifelong career in public service. He served as an Administrative Assistant and Executive Secretary to California Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson and went on to become the Deputy Director of the Chile-California Program.

In 1967, Mr. Sieroty became a California State Assembly member and, after a decade of service, was elected to the California State Senate, where he served until his retirement in 1982. While serving in the State Assembly and Senate, Mr. Sieroty authored over 100 bills, many of which were critical pieces of environmental protection legislation. One of his most significant accomplishments was his leading role in creating the California Coastal Commission in 1972. Today, the Commission continues to play an integral part in protecting California's coastal waters and regulating environmentally sustainable development.

Mr. Sieroty's commitment to his community expanded beyond his extensive career in public service. He served on the board of several nonprofit organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the Venice Family Clinic. In addition, Mr. Sieroty and his family partnered with the Los Angeles Family Housing nonprofit to transform a former motel into a temporary housing facility for unhoused seniors.

Mr. Sieroty will be remembered for his decades of service to California and his critical efforts to preserve our environment for future generations. His enduring spirit will live on in his family and the communities he dedicated his life to serving. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Mr. Sieroty's loved ones. I know they and the people of California will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

**HONORING SHARON SCHAUER**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sharon Schauer, a member of the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Ms. Schauer is

being honored at this year's Yolo Crisis Nursery Crab Feed for her limitless volunteer contributions, which have greatly benefited the Yolo Crisis Nursery and our community.

The Yolo Crisis Nursery was founded in 2001 as a child-abuse prevention program. The Nursery aims to help children thrive and become resilient after traumatic experiences. The Nursery fulfills its mission through signature programs such as Crisis Overnight and Respite Care, Wraparound Services for Families, and a Specialized Infant Day Care and Preschool.

Since joining the Friends of the Yolo Crisis Nursery group in 2016, Ms. Schauer has brought a superior level of professionalism to the organization through her management and leadership. Not only has she been an active member, but also she has served as a Co-Chair of the organization since 2020, as well as a Board Associate on the Yolo Crisis Nursery Board of Directors.

Ms. Schauer's talents and contribution to the Yolo Crisis Nursery are invaluable. She is the only member of the volunteer organization to have a critical role in planning all fundraising events. Ms. Schauer is a skilled project manager with a background in business and finance. As a result of this, she has made every Crisis Nursery event a resounding success through her budget management and keen attention to detail.

Ms. Schauer's vision for expanding the resources of Yolo Crisis Nursery came to life when she added a fall Barn Dance to the organization's annual calendar of events. The result of this event is that it strengthened our community and raised awareness for child abuse prevention programs offered by the Yolo Crisis Nursery. The Nursery has provided more than 5,000 care packages of basic needs as part of their services and 3,000 safe stays in the Nursery's loving, home-like environment for children whose caretakers found themselves temporarily unable to provide a secure environment.

Through Ms. Schauer's selfless leadership, she has motivated the group of volunteers at the organization to raise approximately 10 percent of the annual operating budget for the Yolo Crisis Nursery through their unique events and community outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Schauer for her dedicated service and philanthropic actions in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

**CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD  
FOR FRED MOSES**

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Moses of Plano, Texas and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Fred is an outstanding leader who has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

As a young man, Fred was passionate about the political process and knew he wanted to play a bigger role in shaping the future of our Nation. Shortly after graduating from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in marketing, he was elect-

ed Justice of the Peace in Bridgeport and officiated marriages. Fred later moved to Plano and has remained active in local Republican politics for over 40 years. In 2008, he was elected as the Chairman of the Collin County Republican Party and worked diligently to advance the conservative agenda in North Texas. For his outstanding leadership and service, Fred was awarded the prestigious John McVeigh Award by the Collin County Republican Party.

Furthermore, Fred has launched numerous charitable initiatives to benefit our community. Since 1980, he has worked with the Plano Community Forum to provide scholarships for students in need and established scholarship endowment awards at colleges and universities nationwide. He has also supported charitable programs to help eradicate cancer and heart disease. For his work, Fred was awarded the Living Legend Award by Collin County Community College and inducted into the Minority Business Hall of Fame in 2019. Fred is a devoted man of faith and serves as an Associate Minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, where he also teaches Sunday School. In his free time, Fred enjoys golfing and volunteering with local community organizations.

It is an honor to bestow Fred with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

**RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA OWENS**

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a Hoosier whose exemplary service has led to the betterment of Indianapolis and our Nation. Christina Owens of the Indianapolis Vet Center served as a combat medic in Iraq and has since been aiding and encouraging veterans through the various changes in life that arise after military discharge.

Christina's service to country began in Iraq as a combat medic in the U.S. Army and continues through her work with the Indianapolis Vet Center and the Indianapolis Veteran Court Mentor Program. As the Post Commander for IUPUI's American Legion Post No. 360 and as District 11's Vice Commander, she continues to serve her community in a significant way by providing support to Hoosier veterans and their families, enabling so many to overcome immense challenges and lead healthy and meaningful lives.

Her work to engage veterans through programs like Irreverent Warriors is inspiring, and as a liaison between veterans and a variety of services, her mentorship and advocacy directly impacts the lives of Hoosier veterans. For her unwavering advocacy, Christina has received numerous accolades, and the legacy she has fostered will be cherished by Hoosiers for years to come.

Each month, our office recognizes women veterans who are too often overlooked and underrepresented. Beginning with its namesake, the Sheila Corcoran Hoosier Women Hero Award was created to highlight exemplary Hoosier veterans whose service to their community and Nation is unparalleled. I am proud to honor Christina Owens for her service to our community and country by recognizing her here today.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the inspirational woman veteran, Christina Owens.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL PHILADELPHIA HARRIS

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Lieutenant Colonel Paul Philadelphia Harris, who passed away at his home on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

Lt Col Harris was born here, in Washington, D.C., to two loving parents. He grew up in Satellite Beach, Florida before making the decision to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a Marine, he served at home and overseas in Syria, Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan.

A lifelong learner, Lt Col Harris devoted much of his free time to education. While enlisted, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degree in logistics on his own time.

His dedication to excellent service and to his country was evident. He served as a Marine for 30 years and rose through the ranks from Private to Lieutenant Colonel Electronics Maintenance Officer. He also served as a Marine Security Guard and bravely completed two tours in Okinawa, Japan, as well as a deployment to Southwest Asia as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Throughout his service, Lt Col Harris earned various awards—including four Expert Rifle Badges, three Expert Pistol Badges, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medals, as well as Kuwait Liberation Medals for both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, four Southwest Asia Service Medals, three Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, and a Marine Security Guard Ribbon. Prior to his retirement in October 2005, he was awarded many unit commendations in recognition of his exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding achievement. After retiring from the service, he continued to provide insight and brought his expertise to various roles as a government contractor.

Paul's love for dogs was well-known and he devoted much of his time to caring for his wife Marty's service dogs. He was often seen walking Sergeant III throughout the neighborhood in the early mornings. During his free time, he volunteered at the local SPCA, providing animals in the shelter with love and care.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Lieutenant Colonel Paul Philadelphia Harris' life and legacy of service. He will be greatly missed by his friends and loving family who will remember him for his kindness, courage, and strength.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DIXON'S ANNUAL CRAB FEED

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Dixon, as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of their Annual Crab Feed.

Since its chartering in 1930, the Rotary Club of Dixon has worked tirelessly to give back to the Dixon community. The Rotary Club of Dixon is an organization of men and women who are united to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace worldwide. It generously serves our community with time and the money it raises.

The Rotary Club of Dixon held their 20th Annual Crab Feed on February 24, 2024. This event serves as the organization's largest fundraiser of the year, and all members work tirelessly to ensure the event's success. The Dixon Rotary uses the money it raises at this event and others to fund high school scholarships, the Dixon 4th of July Fireworks, its work on behalf of local veterans, and the eradication of polio worldwide. They have generously given over \$90,000 to our community in 2022 and 2023.

The Dixon Rotary is dedicated to serving the veterans and armed service members in our community. This can be seen when the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery opened in 2006. Members of the Dixon Rotary arrived to place wreaths on the graves of fallen service members. Ever since this event, Dixon Rotary has continued to support the cemetery and has donated thousands of dollars to continue this tradition. Further, they annually purchase Christmas gift cards to give to the veterans living in the three different veterans' homes in Dixon. Dixon Rotary generously supports the Veterans Standdown, which is an event dedicated to connecting homeless and at-risk veterans with services and support by making breakfast for attendees. The organization also assists at events at the Travis Air Force Base by preparing and serving food to airmen and their families.

The Rotary Club of Dixon has worked tirelessly to support Dixon schools and students. Every year, the organization donates between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in high school scholarships, \$1,500 and \$2,000 to new teachers for their classrooms, \$1,000 to Bids for Kids, and \$6,000 to Camp Royal, the leadership training opportunity provided to outstanding high school students through Rotary. Throughout their history, Dixon Rotary has been committed to supporting educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club of Dixon is deeply appreciated for their work on behalf of Dixon's veterans, current armed forces members, and students. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Dixon Rotary's outstanding work in our Solano County community, and the 20th anniversary of its annual Crab Feed today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS REMOVAL ACT OF 2024

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the "Abandoned and Derelict Vessels Removal Act of 2024," which builds upon legislation by the same title sponsored by the late Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA) in 1997.

As detailed in a blue-ribbon report published by the State of California and other Pacific State's Oil Spill Task Force in 2020, the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels is a pervasive problem. Vessel owners abandon personal and commercial boats due to damage from severe storms, high maintenance and disposal costs, and many other factors. Abandoned and derelict vessels are a safety hazard, blight to our waterways, and eyesore. As these vessels decay, they pollute our waterways with debris, fiberglass from hulls, leftover gasoline, motor oil, battery fluids, and other harmful chemicals. This endangers people enjoying the water and harms the environment.

My new bill legislates the 2020 blue-ribbon report's recommendations, improving the inter-governmental response to abandoned and derelict vessels. Specifically, my bill would unlock up to \$1.5 billion annually from the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to remove abandoned vessels at no expense to taxpayers. Under current law, federal responders can only tap the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the costs of stopping fuel leaks from vessels. My bill would also hold those dumping their derelict vessels in our waterways accountable. Every vessel removed is one step closer to keeping our working waterfronts and waterways safe and clean for all to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working across the aisle to advance the proposed reforms in my bill. As a senior member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I plan to legislate key provisions from my bill in the coming "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024" and the "Water Resources Development Act of 2024." I encourage all Members of the House to join me in cosponsoring this commonsense bill.

RECOGNIZING PAUL RUSSO ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Paul Russo, a dedicated public servant, on his upcoming retirement. For the past forty years, Mr. Russo has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of our Nation's heroes through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Since 2018, he has been employed as the Director of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. In this capacity, Mr. Russo has overseen the delivery of healthcare for more than 130,000 Veterans in Florida. In addition to running the main hospital, Mr. Russo has managed eight outpatient clinics,

supervised 4,500 employees and managed an annual operating budget of more than \$1 billion. Mr. Russo also served as Director of the Miami VA Healthcare System for six years and at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina for two years. Mr. Russo is a recipient of numerous awards for distinguished service. He has also served on many boards and committees within the Department of Veterans Affairs and external to the agency. It is clear that Mr. Russo has made a profoundly positive impact on the lives of many Veterans, and I am grateful for his service.

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PAYING REMEMBRANCE TO  
DAVINA KEISER ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF HER PASSING

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HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Davina Keiser, who passed away on January 30, 2024 after her battle with brain cancer. Her family, friends, and community are devastated by this loss. A resident of Sugarloaf, CA, Davina was known as a selfless and caring individual and was a true friend to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Davina was a devoted educator for forty years in the Long Beach Unified School District, including over decade of service as a piano and mathematics teacher at Wilson High School, while simultaneously serving as the elected treasurer for the Teachers Union of Long Beach. She was an effective PTA President and Treasurer at Fremont Elementary School and was a highly recognized teacher throughout Southern California. Moreover, she was a proud elected delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly and worked tirelessly in many teaching organizations to ensure that her pupils and students throughout Southern California had access to quality education.

Davina was no less engaged with her San Bernardino mountain community. As a part-time Big Bear resident for over twenty years, she was deeply engaged in local politics, serving as a member of the Big Bear Valley Republican Assembly and as Executive Vice President of the California Republican Assembly. She was a passionate advocate who believed in the promise and opportunity that the Big Bear Valley and the Golden State represent. A 3rd generation Californian, Davina stood for the best of what our home state offers and fought to safeguard the freedoms and prosperity that are corner stones of the American dream.

Davina had an impact on every life she touched, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers are with Davina's family and friends as they navigate this difficult loss. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning Davina's passing and celebrating her life.

CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD  
FOR FRED AND SUE WORLEY

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HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred and Sue Worley of Emory, Texas, and present them with the Congressional Patriot Award. They have dedicated themselves to serving and uplifting our community.

Fred and Sue have known each other since elementary school, and they married in 1968. Together, they raised five amazing children. Fred's public service career began in 1973 when he became one of the first certified firefighter paramedics in Hunt County. During his time as a first responder, he spearheaded numerous initiatives to streamline ambulance and fire prevention services for North Texas residents. Thanks to Fred's efforts, our community can count on reliable and robust emergency services today.

Furthermore, Fred and Sue have passionately fought for Texas veterans to be honored for their life and service. Through their advocacy, the State of Texas has designated the Staff Sergeant Shawn Henry McNabb Memorial Bridge at Lake Tawakoni. Staff Sergeant McNabb served in the U.S. Army and was tragically killed while serving in Afghanistan in 2009. Fred and Sue were also instrumental in securing the naming of the Mildred McMillan Garrett Memorial Bridge. Mrs. Garrett enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War and served as a city councilmember and mayor pro tempore in Rains County. I highly commend Fred and Sue for their commitment to improving the world around them. I am proud to represent such wonderful and distinguished Americans.

It is an honor to bestow Fred and Sue with the Patriot Award for their exceptional service to our Nation and the people of North Texas.

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HONORING ROBERTA DUTEIL

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HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 102nd Birthday of Bartonville, Texas resident and World War II Navy veteran, Roberta Maxwell Richardson DuTeil. Mrs. DuTeil was born on January 10, 1922, in Waycross, GA.

In 1943, after graduating from the University of Alabama, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy. She trained first at the Midshipman's School then the Communications School, graduating with the rank of Ensign. Stationed at the U.S. Naval Base Headquarters, Terminal Island, CA, she worked rotating shifts around the clock, covering communications for Navy and Army installation in the area. Roberta was honorably discharged from active duty on May 11, 1946, at the rank of Lt (jg) and continued to serve in the Navy Reserves until March 1953.

Roberta married Army Captain Claude DuTeil in 1946 and supported his call to the ministry as he attended and graduated from

Virginia Theological Seminary before being ordained as an Episcopal Priest. Over the next four decades, the DuTeils ministered to congregations in Hawaii and established a full-scale homeless shelter. Upon retirement, the couple moved to Bartonville to be close to their family.

Roberta has been very active in her church and local communities, supporting many charities. She is always proud to participate in patriotic celebrations and has served as a highlighted participant in the annual Double Oak Fourth of July parade. I was pleased to present her with the 26th District Congressional Veteran Commendation in 2016.

It was a privilege to join the Town of Bartonville for the special celebration of Roberta "Tutu" DuTeil's 102nd birthday on March 13, 2024. I request that my colleagues join me in commanding Mrs. DuTeil's service on the mission field and military service to our Nation.

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RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE  
FRANK CHOPP'S SERVICE TO  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and legacy of Washington State Representative Frank Chopp. Representative Chopp is leaving the Washington State Legislature after three decades of committed service to the people of the 43rd Legislative District. Representative Chopp's impressive tenure also included 20 years of service as the Washington State House Speaker. I am proud to have worked alongside Representative Chopp and witnessed his strength of character firsthand during my time as a Washington State Senator.

Many of the strides that the State of Washington has made in support of workers' right to organize, critical infrastructure development, access to housing, immigration, expanded healthcare, and educational equity can be attributed to Representative Chopp's exceptional public service. He has been a relentless champion for low-income and working people across our state, doggedly pursuing every single opportunity to provide more affordable housing and safety net services.

Thanks to Representative Chopp's career and many accomplishments, thousands of Washingtonians have access to opportunity and the pursuit of the American Dream. I am very grateful for his incredible service and confident that he will be a staunch advocate for working families as he returns to his roots as a community organizer. His leadership will serve as a model for years to come.

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HONORING HARRIET ROBERTS

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HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harriet Roberts, an esteemed Tribal Citizen of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Harriet Roberts is being honored at this year's Yocha Dehe Fire Department Awards for her longstanding dedication

and leadership within the Tribe and its enterprises.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Roberts has served on various Boards and Committees, serving eighteen years on the Health & Wellness Committee and Yocha Dehe Wintun Academy Board, thirteen years on the Cache Creek Casino Resort Board of Directors, nine years on the Community Fund Board of Directors, Facilities & Infrastructure Committee, Property Farm & Ranch Committee, and Youth Adult Assistance Program Committee, eight years on the Events Committee, and six years on the Fire Commission and Cultural Resources Committee.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has for generations lived on lands which include Yolo, Solana, Lake, Colusa, and Napa counties. As longtime stewards of the land, Yocha Dehe has become a growing agricultural presence in the Capay Valley of Yolo County. The Tribe is an important member of our community and provides essential services—such as critical fire and emergency services—to the entire Capay Valley community. I am grateful for the critical work Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has done on behalf of its community and citizens. As a respected Tribal Citizen of Yocha Dehe, Harriet Roberts has been a beacon of strength and wisdom, her contributions spanning generations and leaving an indelible mark on her community. Her work on behalf of the Tribe is inspiring and humbling. Ms. Roberts traces her lineage back to the Lorenzo family, which has been rooted in the Capay Valley since time immemorial. She is admired and loved by her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews for her wisdom, guidance, and service to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Roberts for her dedicated service and philanthropic actions in our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

#### CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY

##### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Waynesburg University.

Originally formed in 1849 when the Cumberland Presbyterian Church united Greene Academy and Madison College, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania officially chartered Waynesburg College on March 25, 1850. The college gained early acclaim in 1857 when it became one of the first coeducational colleges in the United States and earned widespread praise for grounding its curriculum in faith and service. Following a decade of growth, the college gained university status in 2007 and officially became Waynesburg University.

Each year, the university's students, faculty, and staff engage in more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service to better the surrounding community. The university also remains committed to providing a quality and practical education. As a testament to its academic strength, nearly 99 percent of the class of 2022 reported employment or enrollment in a graduate program within one year of graduation.

Waynesburg University's reputation for excellence extends far beyond Pennsylvania. The institution's addictions counseling program ranked fourth nationally in 2021 and 2022, while its online Master of Business Administration ranked 21st nationally for the 2023–2024 academic year. Additionally, Waynesburg University's business and nursing programs were placed on the Colleges of Distinction roster during the 2023–2024 academic year.

Mr. Speaker, Waynesburg University is an integral part of our region's heritage and history. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the university's leadership and community on their 175th anniversary and thank them for their service to southwestern Pennsylvania.

#### RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

##### HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March as Developmental Disability Awareness Month. As a country, it is important that we acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and unique abilities of all individuals, regardless of developmental disabilities. By doing so, we promote a deeper understanding of developmental disabilities and the need to create a more inclusive and welcoming society for everyone.

In my district, several non-profit organizations are dedicated to providing positive opportunities and support for families impacted by disabilities. They work collaboratively with other stakeholders to foster a culture of inclusion, advocacy, community and learning.

We can certainly agree that all individuals deserve the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life, pursue their dreams, and contribute to the betterment of our society. I recognize and appreciate the good work of all non-profit organizations throughout Florida's 12th Congressional District that are working to advance this important goal through public-private partnerships. Together, we affirm the value and potential of every individual, regardless of developmental disability status, not only in the month of March, but throughout the year.

#### CELEBRATING JENNYFER CRAWFORD-WILLIAMS: A DECADE OF EMPOWERING MICHIGAN'S SMALL BUSINESSES

##### HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jennyfer Crawford-Williams, an inspiring entrepreneur and advocate for Michigan's small businesses, on the 10th anniversary of All Things Detroit. In 2014, with just \$1,500, she ventured into entrepreneurship, becoming a renowned name, supported by accolades like Crain's Detroit Business' 40 Under 40 and the Detroit Young Professionals Vanguard Award.

As founder of Ask Jennyfer and the successful All Things Detroit showcase, which

draws 12,000 attendees and earned its own holiday, Jennyfer has created a vibrant community for small business owners. Beyond events, she established All Things Marketplace, an online and brick-and-mortar hub, fostering opportunities for growth.

Her commitment to showcasing Detroit's small businesses is evident in initiatives like Conversations, Ask Jennyfer: The Podcast, and All Things Ticketing. Jennyfer actively curates' small business markets for local non-profits within the City of Detroit and serves on advisory boards.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Jennyfer Crawford-Williams for her impactful contributions to Michigan's small business community. Her dedication is a beacon of inspiration and deserves our commendation.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE BURBANK TEMPORARY AID CENTER

##### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC) in Burbank, California, upon its fiftieth anniversary.

The Burbank Temporary Aid Center was founded in 1974 when the Burbank Ministerial Association saw the need for a centralized source of services to provide assistance to those in the Burbank community who were less fortunate. Under the leadership of the late Reverend Larry Stamper, the association worked with various community members to create a center to address these needs. Originally located in one of the founders' garage and having operated out of several different buildings in Burbank, in the 1990s, BTAC relocated to a storefront property on Burbank Boulevard. After a building effort which spanned 18 months, in 2006, BTAC unveiled its remodeled and expanded facility which included several features, such as a modernized food pantry, to better provide for its clients.

Over the years the center has adapted in response to the changing needs of the community. With its original mission to provide food and clothing to housed residents of Burbank, services have expanded to include unhoused residents, and short-term assistance is now a long-term necessity for some people in the community. Among those receiving help are retired adults, people impacted by labor strikes, individuals and families, and refugees.

The center's main service is as a food pantry. For those with access to a kitchen, BTAC offers a robust monthly grocery program, with the option to personalize each order based on the household. To support the unhoused community, sack lunches are offered to ensure their nutritional needs are fulfilled. At the facility, personal hygiene items are distributed, and there are shower facilities and laundry machines available for use at no cost.

The Burbank Temporary Aid Center is funded by donations from foundations, religious institutions, private individuals, and service organizations. BTAC receives donations of hygiene items and food from various businesses, service clubs and local churches, in addition to daily and weekly donations from major grocery stores.

It is my great privilege to represent BTAC in my Congressional District. My commendations to longtime Executive Director Barbara Howell, BTAC staff, the Board of Directors and all the volunteers for their dedicated and outstanding service to the Burbank community.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the Burbank Temporary Aid Center upon its fiftieth anniversary.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND  
MEMORY OF AUDREY BURGETTE**

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Audrey Burgette. Mrs. Audrey lived a life of selflessness, service, and desire to better her community. There are individuals whose impact transcends time, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to have known them. Audrey June (Stewart) Burgette, the first Black female graduate of William Jewell College, was one of these special people.

Audrey Burgette was born in Liberty, Missouri on July 18, 1930. The circumstances of her childhood were a reflection of the times—Liberty was a racially segregated community still in the grips of Jim Crow laws. Her early educational years were also plagued by second-class treatment due to her race. This was before the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, so her schooling occurred under less than ideal conditions. She grew up in a supportive African American community and a loving family, which bolstered her to remain steadfast in her pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth. As a testament to this, she graduated as Valedictorian of her class at Garrison School in Liberty.

Throughout her life, Audrey stood as a beacon of resilience and determination for overcoming numerous challenges. In her early 20s, she married John West Stapleton and welcomed two children, Carrie Eileen Stapleton and John West Stapleton, Jr., Esq. At the young age of 25, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and was partially paralyzed by the disease. She battled back and regained her ability to walk, only to face the pain of divorce. Fortunately, she found love once again with Herbert Lee Burgette, a Korean War veteran from Kansas City. Together with Herbert, Audrey welcomed two more children into her loving embrace, the late Dr. Phillip Leroy Burgette, M.D., and Brigitte Burgette Bradley, Esq. Love was always present in her blended family's lives. Even though she and John were divorced, her second husband, Herbert, would sometimes connect with John Sr., a disabled war veteran, and offer to drive him to milestone events in Carrie and John Jr.'s lives, such as graduations and sporting events.

While raising four children under the age of 10, Audrey was unrelenting in her quest for education. She achieved her dream of attending and graduating from William Jewell College with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education in 1966. She later earned a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1972.

Audrey's dedication to education extended beyond her own academic pursuits. She was a revered elementary school teacher and counselor in the Kansas City MO School District for over 26 years. She touched the lives of countless children, instilling in them a passion for learning and a belief in their own potential. This commitment expanded beyond her professional life. Audrey became a foster parent to several young people during this time, giving them the same love and support she showed for her own students and children.

Audrey's commitment to excellence in education has also shaped the lives of her four children in profound ways, guiding them towards fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. They were inspired by her example to achieve great success in various fields, from law to medicine to public relations. Her legacy lives on through her three grandchildren, Carrie Nicole Randle, Langston Colin Taylor Burgette and Brandon Byron Hays; and one great-granddaughter, Nya Simone Payne. Carrie Nicole holds a master's degree and is pursuing a doctorate.

In the community, Audrey was an active member of the Kansas City Chapter of the National Association of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., for which she was an officeholder and served on several committees. She was also a charter member of the Kansas City Chapter of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which was established in 1979 by the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. Later in life, she added entrepreneur to her list of endeavors—she owned and operated a successful small business, the Stuart House of Maids.

Her relationship with Christ was a central force in her life with one ultimate goal: to give Jesus the glory. She was a member of Liberty's St. Luke A.M.E. Church, and later found her spiritual home at the Unity Church of New Life in Kansas City. She also wanted her children to put Jesus first . . . every Christmas Eve, her family would celebrate by holding a birthday party for Jesus with a cake with one candle, singing Happy Birthday to him, making sure they knew the real meaning of Christmas.

In 1986, the Urban League of Greater Kansas City's Black Family Recognition Committee honored the Burgette-Stapleton Family as a Model Black Family, recognizing them for their "sterling qualities of support, love, sharing, stability, nurturing, and the ability to overcome adversity."

Tragically, Audrey's life was cut short by cancer at the age of 62. Her passing left a void in the hearts of all who knew her, but her spirit of love, laughter, and dedication to education continues to inspire all who were touched by her presence. Her unwavering support for her family and community endures—a shining example of the transformative power of a life lived with purpose, perseverance, and passion.

As we remember Audrey June Burgette, we honor her trailblazing spirit, her commitment to education, and her profound impact on all of those whose lives she touched. As Audrey herself said in a letter to her daughter in 1983, "Remember to love all people, places, things, and mainly yourself. With love you need nothing else, but without it you have nothing else." Mr. Speaker, let us rise today and honor Audrey's life and legacy. May her memory continue to inspire future generations to em-

brace challenges with courage to pursue their dreams with determination, and to always strive for excellence in all endeavors. Audrey June Brigette, a pioneer in education and a mother extraordinaire, will forever hold a special place in our hearts and in local history.

**CELEBRATING JANIE BARRERA**

**HON. GREG CASAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to call the attention of the House in celebration of a true Texas visionary, Ms. Janie Barrera, for decades of work to provide small business owners and working families with the means to achieve their dreams.

A native of Corpus Christi and a sixth-generation Texan, Ms. Barrera's entrepreneurial spirit began in her youth. At the age of 12, after her mother denied her request to purchase a new bicycle, Janie went door-to-door selling raffle tickets for her old bicycle and used the proceeds to purchase a new one. Later, as a waitress in her parents' restaurant, Ms. Barrera witnessed both the hard work and the great financial risks of running a small business.

After high school, Ms. Barrera became a nun and joined a local covenant. She ran the Telecommunications Center for the Diocese of Corpus Christi for 15 years. When a bishop told Ms. Barrera that she couldn't get a promotion because of her lack of business experience, she pursued a Master of Business Administration from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. She left the covenant shortly after graduation.

Ms. Barrera's parents ended up with nothing saved for retirement after running their restaurant for 20 years. This motivated her to use her personal experience and academic training to support both small businesses and working families. In 1994, Ms. Barrera founded Accion Texas (later renamed LiftFund) with the commitment to provide small businesses with sorely needed financial support through microloans and ongoing guidance as they navigated complex financial systems.

Today, LiftFund has over 100 employees and has disbursed close to \$500 million to small business owners in underserved communities, particularly people of color and low- and moderate-income individuals. Ms. Barrera stepped down as CEO of LiftFund in 2023 after three decades.

Ms. Barrera has been an integral part of the creation and sustainability of countless small businesses. Her work has received high recognition in Texas and beyond, including the "Small Business Administration Financial Services Advocate of the Year," and the "Minority Enterprise Development Consortium's Corporate Advocate of the Year." She received the 2022 Ned Gramlich Lifetime Achievement Award for Responsible Finance, which is the Community Development Financial Institution industry's highest individual honor. Ms. Barrera has also served on boards of directors at various levels, including the Federal Reserve Board's National Consumer Advisory Council. An invaluable leader in her field, President Barack Obama appointed Ms. Barrera to the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability.

As Texans, we are all forever grateful to Ms. Barrera for her vision of shared prosperity, her decades-long service to creating economic mobility, and her unwavering dedication to our community. As the Congressman for the 35th District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate Ms. Barrera and LiftFund on 30 years of service in Texas, and beyond.

**HONORING DOUGLAS G. LEE FOR HIS SERVICE TO WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY**

**HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Douglas G. Lee on his exceptional decade of service as President of Waynesburg University. He assumed the office on July 1, 2013.

President Lee devoted the past decade to improving the educational experience for students and serving the Waynesburg, Pennsylvania community. He managed a \$32 million revitalization of the Paul R. Stewart Science Hall and successfully implemented a health and safety plan that allowed students to remain on campus throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. His efforts ensured continued academic excellence and a safe environment for the university's thriving student population.

A Waynesburg University alumnus himself, President Lee graduated from the university in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. His loyalty to the institution deepens his connection to the school's faith, academic mission, and focus on the community. President Lee continues to serve the university and Pennsylvania's academic community as secretary and treasurer of the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Pennsylvania. He also serves on the NCAA Division III Board of Governors to help student athletes grow their academic and athletic character.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce awarded President Lee the Distinguished Service Award to recognize his contributions to the university and community. President Lee lives out his faith as an elder at his church, a board member of several local charities, and a loving husband and father.

Mr. Speaker, President Lee leads a life of integrity and service. He inspires all members of the Waynesburg University community to pursue a life of leadership and purpose. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate President Douglas G. Lee on this remarkable anniversary and look forward to Waynesburg University's continued success under his leadership.

**HONONNG DR. RONALD VAUGHN AND HIS EXCEPTIONAL CAREER**

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career and service of Dr. Ronald Vaughn, president of the University of

Tampa. Throughout his 28 years of leadership with the University of Tampa, Dr. Vaughn has lifted students, faculty, the university, and the Tampa Bay community. He spearheaded a remarkable turnaround for the university and leaves UT ranked among the best medium-sized private universities in America.

Dr. Vaughn's remarkable career, his lifelong commitment to education, and exceptional stewardship of the University of Tampa have propelled the school into being an academic powerhouse. During his tenure as president, the school's academic offerings and footprint grew into the dynamic, community-connected institution that we are proud of today. Dr. Vaughn embraced the history of the historic Tampa Bay Hotel, Plant Hall and the iconic minarets and infused the university with life and amenities for students including an expanded campus with 71 construction projects completed or underway and investments worth a total of \$950 million.

The University of Tampa now hosts students from all 50 states and from almost all 195 countries. Dr. Vaughn's leadership has been fundamental to achieving academic excellence with a unique entrepreneurial spirit.

Dr. Vaughn's academic journey is a model for my others—a B.A and an MBA from Indiana State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Georgia. Dr. Vaughn's comprehensive career as a business owner of a multi-office marketing research and consulting company provided him with the skills to lead the university into the established institution we know today.

His journey with the University of Tampa started in August 1984 as the Coordinator of the Marketing Department and holder of the Max H. Hollingsworth Endowed Chair of American Enterprise. Dr. Vaughn subsequently served as Director of the MBA Program, Dean of the College of Business and Graduate Studies and Co-Chief Academic Officer. In January of 1995 he became the president of the university.

Dr. Vaughn and UT hosted President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in 2010 for a major economic policy announcement and a visit with students—the first time in UT's history that a sitting President made an official visit to the UT campus, and a rare joint appearance. President Joe Biden also visited the campus in 2023, the day after his State of the Union address, with many students watching from the pool deck and one noting "pretty cool vibes." As Vice President, Joe Biden also made a major international affairs speech in the Fletcher Lounge to Bay area business leaders in 2016.

Beyond his work as president of the university, Dr. Vaughn and his wife, Renée Vaughn, have been active members of the community. He has served on numerous boards and leadership positions, including the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, the Gulf Ridge Council of the Boy Scouts, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Aquarium.

Dr. Vaughn has received numerous honors in recognition of his lifelong commitment to education and his exceptional stewardship of the University of Tampa. Among the countless awards that have been bestowed upon him nationally as well as locally are the Hillsborough County Administrative Volunteer of the Year for Tampa Bay's Chapter of the American Red Cross and the prestigious national recognition by the Ellis Island Honors

Society in 2004. Furthermore, the multi-purpose Vaughn Center facility is named in his honor, and it serves as the hub of student life and activity on the University of Tampa campus.

As we congratulate Dr. Vaughn for his remarkable career, we also express our gratitude for his continued commitment to uplifting the youth and laying the groundwork for a better tomorrow. Dr. Vaughn is the definition of a true public servant. On behalf of my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area, the great State of Florida, and our Nation, I thank Dr. Vaughn for his years of dedicated service and tireless commitment to making the University of Tampa the dynamic and growing university it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude sending best wishes to Dr. Vaughn and his family in their future endeavors.

**COMMEMORATING JAMES SOLOMON RUSSELL DAY**

**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, the Virginia General Assembly proclaimed March 28th as James Solomon Russell Day. Today, I use to honor his legacy and incredible contributions to our Commonwealth.

Born enslaved in 1857, James Solomon Russell's life journey exemplifies resilience and determination. After receiving his teaching license in Warren County, North Carolina, and beginning to teach in the area, he attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in 1874. However, due to financial difficulties, he was unable to complete his studies and returned to teach in Warren County.

Thereafter, he became interested in the Episcopal Church and was the first student at Saint Stephen's Normal and Industrial School (later Bishop Payne Divinity School) in Petersburg, VA. He dedicated himself to uplifting his community and worked among Zion Union members in Brunswick County. His tireless efforts included the establishment of schools, senior housing, and the founding of Saint Paul's College in 1888. Through his leadership, thousands of African American youth were empowered to pursue education, becoming beacons of progress across the Commonwealth.

Despite closing its doors in 2013, James Solomon Russell's indelible mark at Saint Paul's College is kept alive at the James Solomon Russell—Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives in Lawrenceville, Virginia. I commend the James Solomon Russell Commemoration Committee and the Saint Paul's College Museum Committee for spearheading the community effort to open the museum to the public in 2019.

Moreover, I extend my deepest appreciation to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture Robert F. Smith Center for the Digitization and Curation of African American History. Their collaboration with the James Solomon Russell—Saint Paul's College Museum and Archives is invaluable. The Center's expertise in archiving and digitizing historical records ensures that Russell's story, along with the rich

history of Saint Paul's College, remains accessible to future generations.

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**TRIBUTE TO BRIAN NESTANDE**

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my good friend and former California State Assemblyman Brian Nestande, who passed away at his home in Palm Desert earlier this month. Brian was a dedicated leader in the Coachella Valley who has left us far too soon, and he will be deeply missed.

Born in Orange County, California, on January 10, 1964, Brian was exposed to the world of public service and politics at an early age. Brian's father, Bruce, was a staff member for then-California Governor Ronald Reagan and later an elected member of the State Assembly and Orange County Board of Supervisors. After graduating from California State University, Fullerton in 1991, Brian started his own political career by taking a position as the Deputy Campaign Manager for the successful congressional campaign of Michael Buffington in Santa Barbara County. A few years later, Brian managed then-Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono's congressional campaign, which was also successful. He went on to serve as Sonny's Chief of Staff. In 1998, it was Brian who made the unforgettable phone call to me to share the shocking and tragic news of Sonny's death.

After Sonny's passing, Brian went on to serve as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Mary Bono from 1998 until 2000. He launched a government affairs consulting business named Nestande and Associates, and worked collaboratively with clients on alternative energy and healthcare issues. In 2008, Brian's own name was on the ballot for the first time and he was elected to the California State Assembly, where he would serve until 2014. In Sacramento, Brian was a tireless advocate for the Coachella Valley and Riverside County, working on important local issues like the Salton Sea and improving our infrastructure. After his time in the Assembly, Brian joined the County of Riverside where he served as Deputy CEO, coordinating legislative priorities with state and federal representatives in the region.

Brian is survived by his wife Gina; his son Hayden; his daughter Sophia; and his step-children Sadie, Tad, Mason, Molly and Savana. I extend my personal and heartfelt condolences to the Nestande family, his friends, and everyone fortunate enough to know Brian. Although he may be gone, the many contributions he made to his community and family have left an enduring legacy.

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**HONORING ERVAD ZARIR F. BHANDARA**

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zarir F. Bhandara, a resident of Irvine

and Ervad of the Zoroastrian Temple in the City of Orange, for his dedication to inspiring his community with his spiritual leadership.

Ervad Bhandara has dedicated his life to promoting the message of the Zoroastrian founding prophet, Zarathustra, through prayers, religious classes, and pastoral services. As a leader of the Zoroastrian community, Ervad Bhandara provides his communities in Orange and Irvine with support, guidance, mentorship, and motivation.

During COVID-19, Ervad Bhandara served his community by visiting hospitals and providing food, counseling, and financial assistance to those in need. As a way to keep his community connected during trying times, Ervad Bhandara live-streamed prayers with messages of Peace, Unity, Harmony, and Hope, reaching hundreds of people quarantining at home. Since 2020, Ervad Bhandara has donated his platelets and plasma over 545 times, helping save over 1,635 American lives. He leads by example to spread the messages of service and sacrifice for our great country.

Please join in recognizing Ervad Bhandara's unparalleled selflessness and humanitarian services to his community. His compassion has helped make a positive difference in the lives of countless people.

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**RECOGNIZING JULIE SHAMBARGER'S CONTRIBUTIONS RESTORING THE TIMES THEATER IN ROCHESTER, INDIANA**

**HON. RUDY YAKYM III**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Julie Shambarger for the incredible work she has done to revitalize downtown Rochester, Indiana, by spearheading the effort to refurbish and reopen The Times Theater in Rochester.

As is the case with so many venues on Main Streets across America, The Times Theater was an iconic symbol of Main Street Rochester before closing its doors in 2014.

Rather than accept The Times Theater's apparent fate as a project of the past, Julie Shambarger poured her heart and soul into the mission of ensuring this cherished community fixture would be open for business and welcome visitors once again.

Guided by her belief that The Times Theater could be restored as the vibrant heart of the Rochester community, Julie marshalled the effort to acquire the grants and donations needed to renovate The Times Theater so its reopening could be not only a possibility, but a reality.

Today, The Times Theater is host to not only movies but also live music and community events, and it has welcomed over 9,000 guests since reopening last February. It has elevated the cultural landscape of Rochester and been a beacon of artistic innovation and creative expression.

At a time when many of America's social and civic ties are fraying, places like The Times Theater—places the community can take pride in and congregate at—are all the more important.

I and so many other Hoosiers are immensely grateful to Julie Shambarger for the

dedicated and diligent work she has done to bring more energy and life back to downtown Rochester and all of Fulton County.

I look forward to visiting The Times Theater again soon and seeing how Julie Shambarger's efforts will continue to pay dividends in the years ahead.

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**TRIBUTE TO PETER ANDREW STURROCK, PH.D. ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Andrew Sturrock, Ph.D., who celebrates the centennial of his birth on March 20, 2024.

Dr. Sturrock grew up in Essex, England and studied at Palmers School, Grays, Essex, where his favorite subject was mathematics. He studied mathematics at Cambridge University, then helped develop radar systems at what is now the Royal Radar Establishment. He earned a scholarship to St. John's College where he was elected to a fellowship.

Dr. Sturrock then pursued work in electron physics at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, the National Bureau of Standards, and the Ecole Normale Supérieure at the University of Paris.

In 1951, Dr. Sturrock earned his Ph.D in astrophysics. He researched nuclear physics at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment; plasma physics at St. John's College, Cambridge; microwave tubes at Stanford University; and accelerator physics at the European Organization for Nuclear Research. He invented a number of implements, including a novel microwave tube later dubbed the "Free electron laser."

In 1961, Dr. Sturrock was appointed Professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University, where he lived for nearly 40 years with his wife Marilyn. He is Emeritus Professor of Applied Physics at Stanford and Emeritus Director of the Center for Space Science and Astrophysics. In 1990, he was awarded the Arctowski Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Sturrock founded and then served as president for many years at the Society for Scientific Exploration. He also served as Chairman of the Plasma Physics Division and the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society.

In 2009, Dr. Sturrock published his autobiography, *A Tale of Two Sciences: Memoirs of a Dissident Scientist*, which covered both his research in conventional physics and his less mainstream investigations.

In 2013, he published *AKA Shakespeare: A Scientific Approach to the Authorship Question*. In this book, he lays out a method for weighing evidence which he developed for studying pulsars. Dr. Sturrock then invites the reader to apply the method to tabulate their own "degree of belief" in three different candidates for authorship of the works usually attributed to Shakespeare.

He was elected a Legacy Fellow of the American Astronomical Society in 2020 and has a deep interest in unidentified flying objects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Peter

Sturrock on achieving this extraordinary milestone and in thanking him for his lifetime of superb scientific endeavors. He is, indeed, a national treasure.

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INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DUE PROCESS RIGHTS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SERVING IN SENSITIVE POSITIONS

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**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. This bill would overturn an unprecedented federal court decision, *Kaplan v. Conyers and MSPB*, that stripped many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from their jobs on grounds of ineligibility. The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, a commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found to be no longer eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions. In 2014, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, which allowed the decision to stand. This bill is cosponsored by Representative ANDRÉ CARSON.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal employees who are designated as “noncritical sensitive” from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision affects at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated

as noncritical sensitive. Even more concerning is that most federal employees could potentially lose the right to an independent review of an agency’s decision because of a rule issued by the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that permits agency heads to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive, which went into effect in July 2015.

The decision undercuts Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers, as required by the Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right to an independent review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head. This bill would stop the use of “national security” to undo a vital component of civil service protection and of due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 79 (E-BRIDGE Act); YEA on Roll Call No. 80 (Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act); NAY on Roll Call No. 81 (Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6276) USE IT Act, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1065) denouncing the Biden administration’s immigration policies); and NAY on Roll Call No. 86 (Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act).

HONORING REVEREND DR.  
ANTHONY L. RILEY

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**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2024*

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise with the people of St. Louis to honor the outstanding tenure of Reverend Dr. Anthony L. Riley. Rev. Riley has served as Senior Pastor at Central Baptist Church for five years.

As a historically Black church in the St. Louis community, Central Baptist Church has a rich 178-year-old history. Rev. Riley has made his mark as the church’s fourteenth senior pastor. He formerly served as Executive Pastor for the Luke Church in Texas, where he provided leadership to staff, associate ministers, and diaconate.

As a devoted father and dedicated pastor to the congregants of Central Baptist Church, Rev. Riley has consistently answered the call of public service. In 2022, Rev Riley earned his Doctorate of Ministry degree in Leadership and Preaching at Virginia Union University’s School of Theology. Within his education and ministry, Rev. Riley has strived to establish holistic practices for the next generation of ministers. His goal of teaching and unifying our communities of faith distinguishes him as a leader for all people.

Rev. Riley truly embodies the principles of love, dignity, service, and humility that define the characteristics of a successful leader in ministry. On behalf of Missouri’s First District, I congratulate Rev. Riley on his five-year anniversary and thank him for his continued commitment to service.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S2423–S2447*

**Measures Introduced:** Sixteen bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3966–3981, and S. Res. 591–597. **Pages S2438–39**

#### **Measures Passed:**

**AmeriCorps:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 595, recognizing the contributions of AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the lives of the people and communities of the United States. **Page S2446**

**Girl Scouts 112th Birthday:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 596, 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. **Page S2446**

**Recognizing American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Women:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 597, recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States. **Page S2446**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2025; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; which was referred to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget. (PM–44) **Pages S2437–38**

**Kiel and Lee Nominations—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination

of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey; that the motions to invoke cloture with respect to the nominations of Edward Sunyol Kiel, and Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, ripen at 12 noon; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, all time be considered expired at 5:15 p.m. **Pages S2446–47**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 94), Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit. **Pages S2423–33, S2447**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

3 Army nominations in the rank of general. Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Page S2447**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S2439–41**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S2441–46**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S2436–37**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—94) **Page S2433**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2446–47.)

### *Committee Meetings*

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 24 public bills, H.R. 7710–7733; and 10 resolutions, H. Res. 1086–1095, were introduced. **Pages H1233–34**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H1235–37**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6185, to require coordination among Federal agencies on regulatory actions that affect the reliable operation of the bulk-power system (H. Rept. 118–427); and

H. Res. 1085, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1023) to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1121) to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6009) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7023) to amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes.

**Pages H1232–33**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative D’Esposito to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1191**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1192**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m. **Page H1193**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:57 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1220**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Embassy Construction Integrity Act:** H.R. 6306, amended, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to prohibit the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity beneficially owned by the People’s Republic of China; **Pages H1194–95**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To direct the Secretary of State to avoid or minimize the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.”; **Pages H1194–95**

**Upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement Through Sanctions Act:** H.R. 4723, amended, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 30 nays, Roll No. 87; **Pages H1195–98, H1220–21**

**Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act:** H.R. 6610, amended, to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process;

**Pages H1198–H1201**

**Condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation:** H. Res. 149, amended, condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 390 yeas to nays, Roll No. 88; **Pages H1201–03, H1221–22**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Condemning the illegal abduction and forcible transfer of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation.”; **Pages H1221–22**

**Amending the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process:** H.R. 6602, amended, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process; **Pages H1203–04**

**Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act:** H.R. 766, amended, to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings; **Pages H1204–09**

**Federal Oversight of Construction Use and Safety Act:** H.R. 6260, amended, to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings; and **Pages H1209–11**

**Impact of Crime on Public Building Usage Act:** H.R. 6261, to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage. **Pages H1211–13**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

**Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act:** H.R. 1836, amended, to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities; and

Pages H1213–16

**Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act:** H.R. 7520, amended, to prohibit data brokers from transferring sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries.

Pages H1216–19

**Presidential Message:** Received a message from the President transmitting the Budget Message for FY 2025—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–96).

Pages H1193, H1219–20

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1220–21 and H1221–22.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

**TO REPEAL SECTION 134 OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT, RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND [CUTTING GREEN CORRUPTION AND TAXES ACT]; PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT; RESTORING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE ACT; NATIONWIDE PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT ACT [CREATING CONFIDENCE IN CLEAN WATER PERMITTING ACT]; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY; DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION**

**Committee on Rules:** Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1023, to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund [Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act]; H.R. 1121, the “Protecting American Energy Production Act”; H.R. 6009, the “Restoring American Energy Dominance Act”; H.R. 7023, the “Nationwide Permitting Improvement Act” [Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act]; H. Con. Res. 86, expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; and H. Res. 987, denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1023, the “Cutting Green Cor-

ruption and Taxes Act”, H.R. 1121, the “Protecting American Energy Production Act”, H.R. 6009, the “Restoring American Energy Dominance Act”, H. Con. Res. 86, Expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, H. Res. 987, Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes, and H.R. 7023, the “Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1023, the “Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–26 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 1121, the “Protecting American Energy Production Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 6009, the “Restoring American Energy Dominance Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 86, Expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. The rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall be considered as

read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 987, Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes, under a closed rule. The rule provides that upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider H. Res. 987. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 7023, the “Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–25 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in the Rules Committee report are waived. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Duncan, Tonko, Stauber, Dingell, Rouzer, Larsen of Washington, Miller of West Virginia, and Graves of Louisiana.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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## NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D247)

S. 206, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and

update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry. Signed on March 18, 2024. (Public Law 118–43)

S. 1858, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance. Signed on March 18, 2024. (Public Law 118–44)

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the final report of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform Commission, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine an update on the state of the Department of Defense acquisition system, 2 p.m., SR–222.

*Committee on the Budget:* to hold hearings to examine the nature of climate costs, 10 a.m., SD–608.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine promoting a safe environment in U.S. athletics, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine PFAS as hazardous substances, 10 a.m., SD–406.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Social Security Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Robert William Forden, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador, and Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, all of the Department of State, and other pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine reforming Federal records management to improve transparency and accountability, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight, to hold hearings to examine strengthening international cooperation to stop the flow of fentanyl into the United States, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine public safety and justice resources in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Georgia N. Alexakis, to be United States District Judge

for the Northern District of Illinois, Krissa M. Lanham, and Angela M. Martinez, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Sparkle L. Sooknanan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine post *Dobbs* America and reproductive freedoms, 2:30 p.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship*: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Select Committee on Intelligence*: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging*: to hold hearings to examine keeping our promise to older adults and people with disabilities, focusing on the status of Social Security today, 10 a.m., SD-562.

## House

*Committee on Agriculture*, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Danger China Poses to American Agriculture", 11:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations*, March 20, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Quality of Life in the Military", 10:30 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services*, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled "U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region", 11:15 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled "U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command—Challenges and Resource Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025", 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, March 20, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, March 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7655, the "Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024"; H.R. 7673, the "Liberty in Laundry Act"; H.R. 7645, the "Clothes Dryers Reliability Act"; H.R. 7637, the "Refrigerator Freedom Act"; H.R. 7626, the "Affordable Air Conditioning Act"; H.R. 7700, the "Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act"; H.R. 7650, the "Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024"; H.R. 619, the "NAPA Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 620, the "Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act"; H.R. 7218, the "Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act of 2024"; H.R. 4581, the "Maternal

and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2024"; H.R. 2706, the "Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act"; H.R. 4646, the "SIREN Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 6160, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care program; H.R. 6960, the "Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 7153, the "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act"; H.R. 7251, the "Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 7224, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; H.R. 7208, the "Dennis John Beningo Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 6829, the "Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, and Research, and AED Training in the Schools Act of 2024"; H.R. 7189, the "Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 7406, the "DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2024"; H.R. 3916, the "SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2024"; H.R. 5074, the "Kidney PATIENT Act"; H.R. 2864, the "Countering CCP Drones Act"; H.R. 820, the "Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency Act"; H.R. 1513, the "Future Uses of Technology Upholding Reliable and Enhancing Networks Act"; and H.R. 7589, the "Removing Our Unsecure Technologies to Ensure Reliability and Security Act", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, March 20, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled "SEC Overreach: Examining the Need for Reform", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 20, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "The Characteristics and Challenges of Today's Homebuyers", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, March 20, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, hearing entitled "Pakistan After the Elections: Examining the Future of Democracy in Pakistan and the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship", 10:15 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6727, to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes; H.R. 7256, to require a full review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa; H.R. 7701, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person that knowingly participates in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that connects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula; H. Res. 901, expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan; H.R. 3334, to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; H. Res. 1084, condemning the killing of Alexei Navalny and calling for the release of all political prisoners in the Russian Federation; H.R. 5245, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require certain congressional notification prior to entering into, renewing, or extending a science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; H.R. 6831, to reauthorize the Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance,

and Development Act of 2019, and for other purposes; and H.R. 7710, to authorize and encourage the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expand engagement with local partners and increase its local partner base, 12 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining the Current Status of Iran’s Axis of Resistance and the Implications for Homeland Security and U.S. Interests”, 10 a.m., HVC-210. Part of this hearing is closed.

March 20, Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, hearing entitled “Securing our Nation from WMDs: A Review of the Department of Homeland Security’s Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, March 20, Subcommittee on Modernization, hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Support Modernizing the Congressional Research Service and the Use of Federal Data”, 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, March 20, Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, hearing entitled “Reining in the Administrative State: Agency Adjudication and Other Agency Action”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, March 20, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 5015, the “Seedlings for Sustainable Habitat Restoration Act of 2023”; H.R. 5499, the “Congressional Oversight of the Antiquities Act”; H.R. 6085, to prohibit the implementation of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming; H.R. 6209, the “Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act”; H.R. 6547, the “Colorado Energy Prosperity Act”; and H.R. 7006, to prohibit natural asset companies from entering into any agreement with respect to land in the State of Utah or natural assets on or in such land, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 20, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Advancing Tribal Self-Determination: Examining the Opportunities and Challenges of the 477 Program”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 20, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Assessing Domestic Offshore Energy Reserves and Ensuring U.S. Energy Dominance”, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Influence Peddling: Examining Joe Biden’s Abuse of Public Office”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, March 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 272, the “ASTRO Act”; H.R. 6219, the “ASCEND Act”; H.R. 7687, the “NASA Streamlining Partnerships”; H.R. 4152, the “Space Resources Institute Act”; H.R. 7630, the “ANCHOR Act”; H.R. 7686, the “Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program Definition Clarification”; H.R. 7073, the “Next Generation Pipelines R&D Act”; and H.R. 7685, the “IMPACT Act”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Conducting Oversight: Testimony from the Small Business Administrator”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, March 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7659, the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024”; H.R. 6140, the “Facilitating Access to Swiftly Transport Goods during a Publicly Announced State of Emergency Situation Act”; and General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, March 20, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 6656, the “Stuck on Hold Act”; H.R. 7323, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a limitation on the amount of entitlement to educational assistance payable for flight training under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the restoration of entitlement of individuals entitled to educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who use such entitlement to pursue a course or program of education at an educational institution found to have violated certain prohibitions on advertising, sales, and enrollment practices, and for other purposes; legislation to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make improvements to certain programs for a member nearing separation, or for a veteran who recently separated, from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; H.R. 6225, the “Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act”; legislation 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; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment; and legislation on the Fair Access to Co-ops for Veterans Act of 2024, 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

March 20, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Lost in Translation: How VA’s Disability Claims and Appeals Letters Should be Simplified”, 1 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, March 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled “President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

**CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD**  
**Week of March 20 through March 22, 2024**

**Senate Chamber**

On Wednesday, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:15 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

**Senate Committees**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Armed Services:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine the final report of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform Commission, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

March 20, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine an update on the state of the Department of Defense acquisition system, 2 p.m., SR-222.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Indo-Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on the Budget:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine the nature of climate costs, 10 a.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* March 20, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine promoting a safe environment in U.S. athletics, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine spectrum and national security, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* March 21, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Rosner, of Massachusetts, Lindsay S. See, of West Virginia, and Judy W. Chang, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine PFAS as hazardous substances, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Social Security Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD-215.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025, 10 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* March 20, business meeting to consider the nominations of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Robert William Forden, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador, and Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, all of the Department of State, and other pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

March 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

March 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine implementation of the U.S. anti-corruption strategy, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine reforming Federal records management to improve transparency and accountability, 10 a.m., SD-342.

March 20, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight, to hold hearings to examine strengthening international cooperation to stop the flow of fentanyl into the United States, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine public safety and justice resources in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* March 20, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Georgia N. Alexakis, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Krissa M. Lanham, and Angela M. Martinez, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and Sparkle L. Sooknanan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine post *Dobbs* America and reproductive freedoms, 2:30 p.m., SD-G50.

March 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1306, to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and the nominations of Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Dena M. Coggins, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Eric C. Schulte, and Camela C. Theeler, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of South Dakota, and David O. Barnett, Jr., to be United States Marshal for the District of New Mexico, and Clinton J. Fuchs, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maryland, both of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* March 20, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Select Committee on Intelligence*: March 20, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging*: March 20, to hold hearings to examine keeping our promise to older adults and people with disabilities, focusing on the status of Social Security today, 10 a.m., SD-562.

## House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations*, March 21, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request and Economic Outlook”, 2:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services*, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in the Greater Middle East and Africa”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “FY25 Strategic Forces Posture”, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 22, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled “The Technology and AI Fight for 21st Century Operations in the Department of Defense”, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget*, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, March 21, Full Committee, markup on H.J. Res. 116, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Labor relating to “Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act”; H.R. 6418, the “Empower Charter School Educators to Lead Act”; H.R. 3724, the “Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2023”; and H.R. 7683, the “Respecting the First Amendment on Campus Act”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, March 21, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Evaluating Approaches to Diagnostic Test Regulation and the Impact of the FDA’s Proposed Rule”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, hearing entitled “Timeout: Evaluating Safety Measures Implemented to Protect Athletes”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Importing Global Governance: Examining the Dangers of Ceding Authority Over American Financial Regulation”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Countering China on the World Stage: Empowering American Businesses and Denying Chinese Military Our Technology”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled “Assessing State Department Compliance with Oversight”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 21, Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific, hearing entitled “Commerce as Statecraft: Better Leveraging U.S. Business to Advance our Economic and National Security Goals in the Indo-Pacific”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, March 21, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, joint hearing entitled “Examining CBP One: Functions, Features, Expansion, and Risks”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Safety on Capitol Hill: DC Crime’s Impact on Congressional Operations and Visitors”, 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, March 21, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the One Agency Act; H.R. 7198, the “Prove It Act of 2024”; H.R. 5082, the “Revising Existing Procedures on Reporting via Technology Act”; H.R. 7187, the “Protection of Women in Olympic and Amateurs Sports Act”; H.R. 1631, the “Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act”; H.R. 661, “Sarah’s Law”; and H.R. 3591, the “Asylum Accountability Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, March 21, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 1395, the “Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023”; H.R. 5487, the “Help Our Kelp Act”; H.R. 6814, the “Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act”; and H.R. 7020, the “Great Lakes Mapping Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, March 21, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “White House Overreach on AI”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 21, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled “Assessing America’s Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 2”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

March 22, Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “Accountable Assistance: Reviewing Controls to Prevent Mismanagement of Foreign Aid”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, March 21, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Advancing Scientific Discovery: Assessing the Status of NASA’s Science Mission Directorate”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, March 21, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Rural Transportation Challenges: Stakeholder Perspectives”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, March 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Legislative Hearing on: Toxic Exposure Fund Improvement Act of 2024”, 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

March 21, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 3584, the “Veterans Care Act”; H.R. 3644, the “Act for Veterans Act”; H.R. 3649, the “Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act”; H.R. 4424, the

“Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act”; H.R. 5530, the “VA Emergency Transportation Access Act”; H.R. 6324, the “FY24 VA Major Medical Facility Authorization Act”; H.R. 6373, the “Veterans STAND Act”; H.R. 7347, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on whether the Secretary will include certain psychedelic drugs in the formulary of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3225, the “BUILD for Veterans Act”; H.R. 5794, the “VA Peer Review Neutrality Act”; H.R. 3303, the “Maternal Health for Veterans Act”; and H.R. 5247, the “Expedited Hiring for VA Trained Psychiatrists Act of 2023”, 2 p.m., 360 Cannon.

March 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on H.R. 6452, the “Veterans Scam and

Fraud Evasion Act”; H.R. 6531, the “TRAIN VA Employees Act”; H.R. 6538, the “VA Correct Compensation Act”; H.R. 6874, the “VA WEB Act”; H.R. 6947, the “Veterans Affairs Centennial and Heritage Act”; H.R. 7342, the “Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act”; legislation on the VA Security Screening Pilot Program Act; legislation on the Required Notation of Investigation in Personnel Record File Act; and legislation on the Reporting Performance Plans for VA Political Appointees Act, 4:30 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, March 21, Subcommittee on Social Security; and Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, joint hearing entitled “Hearing with the Commissioner of Social Security, Martin O’Malley”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
10 a.m., Wednesday, March 20

Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:15 p.m.

*(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
10 a.m., Wednesday, March 20

House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 1121—Protecting American Energy Production Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of H.R. 6009—Restoring American Energy Dominance Act (Subject to a Rule).

**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

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# Congressional Record

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