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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 9, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE EZELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

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.

GREEN NEW DEAL POLICIES HURT AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as I travel throughout central and western Pennsylvania, I hear from constituents about the struggle to find electric vehicle charging stations and how they are often forced to wait hours for a charge when traveling long distances.

Situations like this highlight the fact that our electric grid infrastructure is not prepared to handle President Biden's reckless electric vehicle mandates. These mandates would force more than two-thirds of new vehicles sold by 2033 to be electric.

Despite more than 75 percent of Americans' strong opposition to EV mandates, the Biden administration is continuing its brutal attempts to force Pennsylvania families to purchase cars that they do not want to purchase and vehicles that they cannot afford.

Last year, 92 percent of vehicles purchased were gas-powered cars, trucks, and SUVs. Complying with these backward regulations would require a 600 percent increase in the sale of electric vehicles within the next 8 years.

We know that these vehicles cannot handle the rugged terrain and the harsh winters that we see in Pennsylvania. It is time to put a stop to Green New Deal policies that will strain our electric grid, make travel unaffordable and unattainable, and ultimately hurt all American families.

HOLD SECRETARY MAYORKAS ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will send impeachment articles against Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to the Senate.

By failing to follow the law and by failing to secure our borders, Secretary Mayorkas has put Pennsylvania families at risk and jeopardized our national security.

Since Secretary Mayorkas was sworn into office, we have had 9 million encounters nationwide with illegal immigrants, 1.8 million known got-aways, and over 340 encounters with individuals who we know are on the terrorist watch list.

This continued security and humanitarian crisis is the result of the open-border policies implemented by Secretary Mayorkas using his parole authority, which should only be used on a case-by-case basis to grant parole for millions of illegal immigrants, including entire nations and classes of people.

By Mayorkas ending the remain in Mexico policy and returning to catch-and-release procedures, the Secretary has failed in his duty to protect the United States of America.

It is time for the Senate to hold a full and complete trial. The American people deserve accountability for these reckless actions that have put all American citizens in harm's way.

CONNECTICUT IS WORLD'S BASKETBALL CAPITAL

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise with an enormous sense of pride today. April 9 is my mother Pauline Nolan Larson's birthday. She would be 99 today, and I am sure she is smiling down on this magnificent day when we also celebrate Connecticut being the basketball capital of the world with Connecticut's UConn Huskies now winning back-to-back national championships and both the men and women going to the Final Four.

I won't go into the call on Friday night, but I will just say that Geno Auriemma and the women's team were outstanding, and Dan Hurley and the men's basketball team deserve all the credit in the world.

When you see JOE COURTNEY on the floor, Mr. Speaker, recognize his district in Storrs, Connecticut, as the basketball capital of the world.

I especially commend Dan Hurley for the shout-out he gave to all the former

players and former coaches, from Dee Rowe to Dom Perno and Kevin Ollie, and, of course, the house that Jim Calhoun built, bringing those initial championships to Connecticut, and nobody has won more basketball championships than Geno Auriemma and the women's team, as well.

Connecticut rightfully deserves that. We are so proud of everything that they have done, and we commend and congratulate them.

ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am also here to discuss Social Security.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, more than 70 million Americans are on Social Security and receive it. Yet, Congress, Mr. Speaker, has not acted since 1971 to enhance and improve anything about Social Security.

For the people in our audience today, they have to be scratching their heads and saying: What is this? Why is it that for 40 percent of all people on Social Security, it is the only pension benefit that they have, and every day 10,000 fellow Americans become eligible for Social Security, but Congress has not voted to enhance Social Security in more than 50 years?

It is long overdue. We have a proposal not to cut Social Security and not to raise the age. For every year you raise the age for Social Security, Mr. Speaker, that is a 7 percent cut in benefits.

Does it make any sense to say people are living longer, so we ought to raise the age so they can receive less the older they get? That makes no sense.

It is long overdue for Congress to take the steps and do what it should do. All the American people are asking is that we vote on their interest to increase Social Security, which hasn't been done since 1971.

We need to make sure that teachers, firefighters, and police officers see that WEP and GPO is repealed and paid for, that they get the benefits that they have been denied, and to make sure that people who are working currently and receiving Social Security don't pay tax on that Social Security.

Those are the things that we need to do to improve this program, which is the number one insurance program in the country. It is the number one program that prevents both the elderly from being impoverished and children from being impoverished.

Only in Congress do people sit here day after day and not take up the most important thing they can do on behalf of the American people to improve their lot in life.

As important as basketball championships are, Americans are having kitchen table discussion about: ''What are we going to do, honey? Why hasn't Congress voted to make sure that we get a cost-of-living increase that actually reflects the cost of things today that we have to account for?''

Mr. Speaker, 1971, when Richard Nixon was President of the United States, was the last time that Congress voted to enhance the Nation's number one insurance program. It is long overdue that Congress step up and make sure that we take these votes that will help every single American.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, while Women's History Month was in March, the impact that the women on the Education and the Workforce Committee have can be felt every day. I would like to take this time to highlight the accomplishments and legislative wins that Congresswomen on the Education and the Workforce Committee have secured.

When Congresswoman STEFANIK was elected in 2014, she was the youngest woman ever elected to Congress and is currently the youngest woman to serve in top House leadership. This Congress, she coauthored the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act, which will tackle workforce gaps and equip students with transferable skills.

Congresswoman STEEL was the first Korean American to be elected to Congress and has continued to pave the way ever since. Her bill, the DETERRENT Act, passed the House and will prohibit foreign adversaries from using monetary incentives to infiltrate U.S. universities.

Congresswoman LETLOW is the first woman to represent Louisiana in the House in more than 30 years. As a former education professional, she saw the need to increase transparency and expand school choice options. She authored the Parents Bill of Rights Act to restore parents' presence in their children's education and the Empower Charter School Educators to Lead Act to aid the charter school application process.

Congresswoman HOUCHIN has been a leader in her community for years and served in the Indiana State Senate for 8 years before her time in Congress. Language from her Students Bill of Rights Act, which codifies free speech protections on college campuses, was recently passed by the committee.

Congresswoman MILLER of Illinois is a conservative champion, local farmer, and vice chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Her work on the Parents Bill of Rights Act was vital to its passage and enshrines parents' right to make decisions for their children. Additionally, her work to protect women's sports has been instrumental. She will lead a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Biden administration's dangerous and unfair Title IX policies that allow biological males to compete in women's sports.

Before her time in Congress, Congresswoman MCCLAIN spent more than 30 years growing her own successful business from the ground up. She currently serves in House leadership and authored legislation to save taxpayers from Biden's $559 billion student loan transfer scheme.

Prior to her time in Congress, Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMER served as Happy Valley's first female and Latina mayor. She is the first Republican woman from Oregon elected to Congress. This Congress, her Health DATA Act was passed by the House to increase transparency in the health insurance marketplace.

This committee is dedicated to advancing opportunities for women both in the workplace and throughout their education. The remarkable women who serve on the committee play an indispensable role in that mission, and I thank them for their tireless work on behalf of the American people.

□ 1215

OUTDOOR LEGACY PARTNERSHIP

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will consider the EXPLORE Act. It is a bipartisan bill that will improve outdoor access and recreation opportunities for Americans.

This legislation includes my bill, the Outdoors for All Act, which updates the Outdoor Legacy Partnership program and codifies it into law.

I am proud to lead this bipartisan bill with my House colleague, Representative MICHAEL TURNER. With Outdoors for All, we protect the urban park funding in the Outdoor Legacy Partnership program. We modernize the program to include Tribes, smaller cities, and to fully account for the benefit parks provide.

Access to urban parks and the outdoors is a bipartisan issue because every community wants parks for its residents. Urban parks are good for our economy, our environment, and our physical and mental health.

However, not every community has access to parks, especially low-income communities and communities of color. This is a challenge in my district in Los Angeles, where far too many kids cannot walk to a park.

Now, this disparity is personal. When I was a kid, I grew up in the Harbor Gateway. I had to take a bus to go to baseball practice because there was not a field I could walk to.

My district also includes the L.A. Harbor community of Wilmington, which has the highest concentration of refineries throughout California. Close to 20 percent of the total land area in Wilmington is occupied by refineries. For context, that is 3½ times more than is available for parks and outdoor space.

With passage of the Outdoors for All Act, we can fund new trails, parks, green spaces, and playgrounds to bring

nature's benefits directly to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the coalition of environmental groups, outdoor recreation advocates, businesses, and local governments that have worked day in and day out to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Natural Resources Chairman WESTERMAN and my friend, Ranking Member Raul Grijalva, who have worked together on today's bipartisan outdoor recreation package.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the EXPLORE Act and to work with the Senate to get a strong outdoor recreation bill passed this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Auburn University's men's basketball team as the 2024 SEC Tournament champions.

It is my honor to congratulate Coach Bruce Pearl, the players, and staff on an outstanding season once again. The Auburn Tigers won their third SEC championship in program history as they fought to the finish line, beating the University of Florida 86–67.

As 1 Peter 4:10 says: ''As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.''

Winning this championship is not just about the celebration on the court, but it is a testament to the Tigers' character, dedication, and efforts for Christ.

Through the leadership of Coach Pearl, this program has embodied the Auburn creed by believing in a sound mind, a sound body, and a spirit that is not afraid. As they have developed these qualities, they have worked heartily and confidently to achieve their worldly and eternal goals.

The Auburn men's basketball team, under the leadership of Coach Bruce Pearl, has set a standard of excellence that will be remembered for years to come, not just in athletics, but in every aspect of life.

The State of Alabama is blessed to have men like them, and it is great to be an Auburn Tiger. ''War Eagle.''

SECOND CHANCE MONTH

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, April is Second Chance Month, a time to raise awareness of the challenges people face when attempting to return to life after time behind bars.

Securing a steady job, housing, and reintegrating into a community can be tough when you have a criminal record. This is a challenge that more than 70 million Americans face.

However, America is built on the principles of God and His grace. It has always been a land of new beginnings and second chances.

I am proud Alabama's Second Congressional District is home to J.F. Ingram State Technical College, which helps provide many of these second chances through education.

J.F. Ingram State offers 20 technical training programs for incarcerated adults, including automotive repair, construction, cosmetics, and logistics. I can vouch for the extensive training, as I visited last year and got a wonderful haircut.

In 2022, they placed nearly 250 formerly incarcerated adults in jobs. Those who participate in these correctional programs through education are 43 percent less likely to recidivate than those who do not.

Lamentations 3:21–23 King James version says: ''This, I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness.''

May we all be reminded of God's compassion towards us as we consider supporting those who are committed to rectifying their mistakes. Getting back on track and making meaningful contributions to society can reduce recidivism and make our communities a better place.

STREETCARS: THE FOUNDATION OF CITIES AND SUBURBAN AREAS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, streetcars are still the foundation of cities and suburban areas across the country, establishing a pattern that guided development for over a century.

By 1910, you could travel from Boston to Chicago entirely on streetcar lines, just transferring from one to another. Sadly, 60 years later, the streetcar had largely disappeared. Only the St. Charles Streetcar Line in New Orleans remained of this vast network.

We had a different vision in the city of Portland. In 1987, I called for the development of a circulator system in the central city that built around the streetcar.

I worked with the late Bill Naito, a visionary Portland businessman and developer, who bought old streetcars from Portugal. He brought them to town, thinking that if people actually saw them, it would help promote his concept of their reintroduction.

I worked with a gentleman named Rick Gustafson to bring this to fruition. We had a 10-member citizen steering committee, who worked with the city to fashion an approach going forward, and it worked. Within a decade, we had a loop in downtown Portland connecting it.

That loop of streetcars was the focus for much of our affordable housing. It changed the dimensions of downtown, where people used the streetcar for short trips rather than vehicles. It guided development in modern Portland.

This is part of a national movement reintroducing streetcars. I am proud to have helped lead that with the Portland model. We now have streetcars in over two dozen cities across the country, with more on the way. There is hard work in Omaha, Nebraska, which might be the next major development.

This is human-scale technology. It is proven. It is cost effective. People love streetcars. They are energy efficient and help promote a development pattern that is human oriented.

We have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to be able to continue this effort at mobilizing efforts to promote livable communities, another transportation alternative, and guide development.

I was pleased to, 10 years ago, be in Tucson, Arizona, for the opening of their streetcar. Before it even opened, the streetcar redefined its downtown development, relationship to the university, and promoted additional housing opportunities.

The streetcar is a chance for us to be able to use this proven technology and mobilize patterns of growth and development in a low-cost, high-energy initiative. The modern streetcar has the opportunity to help communities across the country.

I was pleased to be at the Streetcar Summit in Charlotte, North Carolina, this last week. People from around the country gathered to share their stories of streetcar development. This is a new wave of urban development, proven transportation technology, and an opportunity to reshape our central cities.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to look at these examples in so many of our communities. The streetcar is making a difference in a way that saves money, saves time, improves the planet, and makes people feel good about their urban environment.

HONORING WEGAYEWU FARIS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a local hero, whose selfless act exemplifies the very essence of courage and sacrifice.

Wegayewu Faris, an immigrant from Ethiopia who settled in Coralville, Iowa, displayed remarkable bravery when he risked his life to save an 8-year-old boy from drowning back in 2022. Without hesitation, Faris, who worked as a custodial worker at City High School in Iowa City for 17 years, leaped into action when he saw the boy in danger, struggling in the Iowa River. He jumped into the river, and his quick and decisive response underscores the true nature of heroism.

Tragically, Faris lost his life in the process, but his heroism did not go unnoticed. Recently, he was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, the highest civilian honor

for bravery in North America. This recognition serves as a testament to his extraordinary courage and selflessness.

Faris' legacy reminds us of the profound impact one individual can have on their community. May his bravery inspire us all to act with courage and compassion in the face of adversity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE IOWA HAWKEYES AND SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball team's incredible season.

I also commend the South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team. Their incredible performance led to the national title in the NCAA championship game. They played a great game. Despite their dominance in the first quarter, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes had a heart-wrenching loss.

Having lost three congressional races, I think I can say with all sincerity that I know how they feel. However, to the Hawkeye Nation and beyond, you are champions, regardless of the title.

What you have done to elevate women's basketball as a sport goes beyond titles. Take me, for example. I probably watched one pro basketball game and one college basketball game in person. I never watch it on TV, and I know nothing about basketball.

However, like millions of other people, I was drawn in by your incredible playing, demeanor, excitement, joy, inspiration, and enthusiasm that you displayed on and off the court, not to mention your academic achievements.

You created an opportunity for me and my son to talk together and to bond. Caitlin Clark and the team are such incredible players and people, both on and off the court, that they commanded attention.

Kate Martin, what an incredible player you are. I loved seeing you drive down the court and do a three-point shot.

Hannah Stuelke came through in a clutch against UConn.

Sydney Affolter, it was joyful watching you being able to guard and being able to do that layup underhanded.

Sharon Goodman, I think they said at the championship you had a 4.0 academic average as well as being a phenomenal athlete.

Molly Davis, we were heartbroken, but delighted to see you on the court in the final minute.

Gabbie Marshall, I am just going to say the words of a more famous coach: ''Pretty eyes. Defender. Sniper.''

Caitlin Clark, the records that you have broken, the elevation that you play in women's sports, I heard Coach Lisa Bluder say that when they recruited you to Iowa, you could have gone to any of those titled universities. You came to Iowa, walked into the locker room as a freshman, and said: We are going to the Final Four.

That vision, that drive, that enthusiasm, that goal, that command for excellence carried you through. Your legacy is beyond a national title.

This is your legacy: 18,300 in attendance at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, and I was one of them; 18.7 million viewership, 24 million at its peak.

Those other elite teams had all won national titles before, every one of them—LSU, UConn, South Carolina—but they did not do this. You did this, the University of Iowa women's basketball team.

You did so much to generate enthusiasm and excitement among millions of young girls and young boys, who now want to participate to be their best, which is the best of Iowa and the best of America.

You brought countless hours of joy, excitement, heartache, and camaraderie to the Hawkeye Nation and millions across this country, and even Cyclone fans. You became a national sensation, and we will remember not just the results, but we will remember the feelings and the joy that you gave us.

Champions are leaders, but leaders aren't titles. It was a high school student who asked me that. You are a doctor, a lieutenant colonel, a director, a Congresswoman. What does it take to be a leader?

Leaders inspire.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, Caitlin is the GOAT and the rest of the team are GOAT goddesses, and I suppose Coach Bluder is a GOAT herder. They don't need a national title. They are national heroes.

Forever, Go Hawks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

WE NEED PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have been attending town halls and meetings across my district for the last 2 weeks in smaller communities in Wisconsin like Edgerton, Sauk City, Monroe, Mazomanie, and Darlington. These are communities with hardworking people that have a strong work ethic and upper Midwestern values like fairness and compassion.

At those meetings, Mr. Speaker, I have heard a common thread: They don't like what they are seeing in Gaza and Israel. The vast majority recognize that the attack on October 7 was horrific and Israel had a right to respond, but they didn't have a right to collectively punish 2.3 million people stuck in Gaza.

They know that 1,200 people are dead in Israel from the attack and over 130 people are still being held by Hamas. However, they also know that nearly 34,000 people are dead in Gaza, 70 percent of which are women and children, clearly not members of Hamas.

They know that 2 million people have been displaced in Gaza and the majority of the buildings and infrastructure have been demolished or damaged by Israeli bombs. They know that the people are dying of starvation because almost every entry point to Gaza is through Israel and not enough supplies and aid are getting through.

They understand that the United States is trying to help with aid, but we have to drop it from the air or bring it in by sea because our friend Israel won't allow us to bring it in through easier, safer ways like by truck and transport.

They know that aid workers are being killed, 200 plus to date, including some from Chef Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen. The limited food, water, and supplies that are being let in have to be distributed, but aid workers are too often killed in the process of delivering humanitarian aid, making alleviating suffering even more difficult.

They don't understand how we can provide both armaments and aid to the same area, as that doesn't make sense to people with Midwestern sensibilities.

They tell me it looks like punishment for being Palestinian. They tell me it appears Benjamin Netanyahu wants people to leave Gaza for good. They tell me it looks too much like what genocide would look like, and that concerns them greatly.

The bombings of the World Central Kitchen workers, the seemingly targeted and repeated bombings, despite the Israeli military knowing their location and purpose, has been one more step too far by the Netanyahu government's handling of this war.

Enough is enough.

The indiscriminate killing must stop. The aid must flow. The hostages must be released and a cease-fire must hold to protect every child in Gaza and Israel.

The devastation has been severe, far more severe than it ever needed to be. The world would have understood a response going after Hamas killers, but the Netanyahu government has gone too far, way too far in its response.

That is why I helped lead a letter signed by 56 Members of Congress to the President to stop any additional offensive arms transfers to Israel without a thorough investigation of the World Central Kitchen killings and a plan for aid and assistance to get to starving Palestinians.

The United States has long supported two nations existing side by side in peace, a two-state solution, but Benjamin Netanyahu doesn't support that reasoned path to peace. And that, along with his punishing innocent Palestinians while allegedly going after Hamas, has made it time to get a divorce from Benjamin Netanyahu.

I support the overwhelming majority of Israelis who want peace. They want to live safely without bombs raining on them from extremists in Gaza. They too don't like the direction and mistakes of the Netanyahu administration, and they want the hostages returned immediately.

The overwhelming majority of Palestinians want peace, as well. They just want to live their lives with dignity and independence as they should, but they need to be treated as equals with human rights, which too often they are not.

I urge our government to do more to help distribute aid, utilizing great groups like the World Central Kitchen, UNWRA, and so many others that are doing this work. Our government must stop supplying any offensive weapons or equipment that damages Gaza further, especially in regard to any invasion of Rafah.

Let's take this awful, current situation and make some good out of it. We need to double down on a two-state solution that recognizes the many, many good people of Israel and Palestine that want to live in peace. It is achievable, and the United States is crucial to that peace. That is what I am hearing in my district.

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 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, in these days when skies darken and nations rage, when politics become a weapon and discord takes center stage, we yearn for peace only You can give. Come quickly to our aid, that our hearts would not be troubled, with no more need to be afraid.

God, mend this House divided, for against itself it cannot stand. Grant Your peace upon us. May we live as You command, to look at foe or friend and see in them Your face, to strive to love each other and give to each Your grace.

In Your eternal name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEGAYEWU FARIS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a local hero whose selfless act exemplifies the very essence of courage and sacrifice.

Wegayewu Faris, an immigrant from Ethiopia who settled 7 years ago in Coralville, Iowa, displayed remarkable bravery when he risked his life to save an 8-year-old boy from drowning back in 2022.

Without hesitation, Faris, who had worked as a custodial worker at City High School, leaped into action and jumped into the full Iowa River when he saw the boy in danger and struggling. His quick and decisive response underscores the true nature of heroism.

Tragically, Faris lost his life in the process, but his heroism did not go unnoticed. Recently, he was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, the highest civilian honor for bravery in North America.

This recognition serves as a testament to his extraordinary courage and selflessness. Faris' legacy reminds us of the profound impact one individual can have on their community.

May his bravery inspire us all to act with courage and compassion in the face of adversity.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the University of South Carolina women's basketball team.

These amazing athletes from my good friend JOE WILSON's district completed a perfect season, culminating in a championship win.

Special congratulations to senior guard Te-Hina Paopao and her contributions to the team.

''Congratulations on your great sportsmanship.'' ''Malo le ta'alo fa'a tamali'i.''

Te-Hina Paopao is of Samoan heritage, and I know our islands always love to see our Pacific athletes excelling on the national stage. She will have lifelong memories of scoring 14 points in the national championship.

I congratulate all her friends and family cheering her on in our Polynesian communities from her home in California and elsewhere.

I so enjoyed watching this game that attracted millions of people with lots of nationwide excitement about all the great teams competing. I thank the South Carolina women's basketball team.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–129)

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 Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2024.

The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 9, 2024.*

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIED HARMFUL FOREIGN ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–130)

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 Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation declared in Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14066 of March 8, 2022, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 14039 of August 20, 2021, Executive Order 14068 of March 11, 2022, Executive Order 14071 of April 6, 2022, and Executive Order 14114 of December 22, 2023, is to continue in effect beyond April 15, 2024.

Specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation—in particular, efforts to undermine the conduct of free and fair democratic elections and democratic institutions in the United States and its allies and partners; to engage in and facilitate malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and its allies and partners; to foster and use transnational corruption to influence foreign governments; to pursue extraterritorial activities targeting dissidents or journalists; to undermine security in countries and regions important to United States national security; and to violate well-established principles of international law, including respect for the territorial integrity of states—continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 9, 2024.*

RECESS

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

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

□ 1503

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6011) to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to notify applicants of the completion status of right-of-way applications under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6011

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 ''Right-Of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act'' or the ''ROWATA Act''.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION REGARDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) NOTICE.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary concerned receives an application to grant a right-of-way, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) notify the applicant as to whether the application is complete; or

(2) notify the applicant that information is missing and specify any information that is required to be submitted for the application to be complete.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The term ''right-of-way'' means—

(A) a right-of-way issued, granted, or renewed under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761); or

(B) a right-of-way granted under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185).

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) with respect to public lands, the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) with respect to National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6011, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6011, the Right-of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act.

H.R. 6011, introduced by Congressman VALADAO, would expedite right-of-way applications on Federal lands for energy projects by requiring agencies to notify applicants within 90 days if the right-of-way application is complete or deficient.

The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service would both be required to meet this deadline and specify the information needed for applicants that are deemed deficient.

The Federal Land Policy Management Act, or FLPMA, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to grant rights-of-way on Federal lands for several activities that cause land disturbance. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 allows the respective Secretaries to issue rights-of-way for oil, natural gas, and refined product pipelines over Federal lands.

While both statutes include application requirements, neither includes timelines for the agencies to respond to applicants to tell them whether their applications are complete or deficient.

The lack of a timeline has created a bottleneck in the permitting process for energy projects that need a right-of-way to proceed, which is why this bill is needed.

During the Committee on Natural Resources' hearing on this bill, the American Clean Power Association testified in support of it and pointed out that the permitting system on Federal lands is overly burdensome and actively curtails investment.

Specifically, their testimony stated that ''delays are largely due to procedural inefficiencies in processing permits and have ripple effects throughout the economy, throwing off project timelines, domestic supply chains, and the indirect jobs and economic activity that would otherwise occur. Without further permitting reform, the United States may not be able to meet our growing energy demand.''

They also noted that the current average timeline for a project to obtain a right-of-way is often over 5 years, mainly due to the delays between filing an application and beginning the environmental review process.

That lag time, an unnecessary delay, is exactly what H.R. 6011 addresses.

This bill will also help expedite the process for rights-of-way for oil and gas gathering lines on Federal lands, which would help increase production while reducing emissions.

While this commonsense legislation is not a panacea for permitting on Federal lands, it does provide a meaningful step forward by allowing complete applications for energy projects to move forward and provide certainty to those with incomplete applications so that they can fix and resubmit those applications.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 6011, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 6011, the ''Right-Of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act''. Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 6011 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN ''GT'' THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2024.

Hon. GLENN ''GT'' THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 6011, the ''Right-Of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act,'' which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on December 6, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of this bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 6011 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6011, the Right-of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act.

There is a rapidly growing demand for renewable energy across the country, and our Federal public lands have significant potential to support that growth. In fact, we are well on our way to developing 25 gigawatts of clean energy on public lands by 2025, the goal set in the Energy Act of 2020.

Right now, the Bureau of Land Management is processing 74 utility-scale onshore clean energy projects, including solar, wind, geothermal, and transmission lines, all of which are vital to the clean energy transition.

In order for solar, wind, and transmission to use our public lands, however, these renewable projects are required to secure a right-of-way any time a project will use or disturb public lands.

Also, the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act have tremendous amount of potential on our public lands, as well as on Tribal lands. However, for example, when a Tribe, such as the Navajo Nation in my district, needs to repair a bridge, they must also secure a right-of-way. This can be an incredibly cumbersome process, especially when dealing with the checkerboard pattern of many Tribal areas that intersect with BLM land, Forest Service land, private land, allottee land, and land held in trust.

This legislation would, however, require that the Secretary of the Interior, with regard to Bureau lands, and the Secretary of Agriculture, with regard to National Forest System lands, to notify a right-of-way applicant within 90 days of applying as to whether the application is complete, or if it is not, to specify what information is missing.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with committee Democrats on compromise language to create these timelines while ensuring that they are workable for applicants and for our Federal agencies.

These clear requirements set out in this legislation will support the efficient and responsible deployment of clean energy on public lands. They will allow us to build those bridges, highways, and so much more that we authorized in the bipartisan infrastructure law.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on commonsense reforms to enhance clean energy deployment on public lands.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my bill, the Right-of-Way Application and Transparency Accountability Act.

The bill makes a commonsense reform to our broken Federal permitting process. Right now, there is no required timeline for Federal agencies to respond to right-of-way applications of projects on Federal lands. That means hundreds of these applications are just stuck in permitting purgatory instead of moving forward.

The time spent waiting for answers on these applications is a significant and preventable bottleneck. This wasted time is hindering domestic energy production, rural development, new roads, and so much more.

My bill would fix this by requiring Federal agencies to notify right-of-way applicants if their application is complete within 90 days of receiving it.

Notifying applicants about their status of their right-of-way application in a timely manner is a very basic step that will make the permitting process more efficient and transparent.

We cannot continue to let permitting red tape kill these infrastructure projects. We must reform the Federal permitting process so we can better utilize our domestic energy resources, expand rural broadband, build roads, and ultimately create more jobs here at home.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I thank the chairwomen for their support.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. I do recognize the important work that Representative VALADAO has done working on this bill, and I appreciate the fact that he pointed out this bill would help with job creation.

As I noted earlier, the bipartisan infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act, these bills that we passed in the 117th Congress, brought resources into our communities to build what we need for America's future.

Repairing those roads that cross our rural areas are so essential for districts and States like Montana and New Mexico and across the West. I am very appreciative of this bill, and I urge support of this legislation.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague from California, Mr. VALADAO, for working across the aisle on this bipartisan, all-of-the-above energy bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6011, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6011, 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.

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1515

MIGRATORY BIRDS OF THE AMERICAS CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2023

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4389) to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4389

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 ''Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 5(e)(1) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6104(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''25 percent'' and inserting ''33.3 percent''.

(b) COOPERATION.—Section 7 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6106) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the implementation of subsection (b) by the Secretary, which shall include, if applicable, a description of the composition of the advisory group convened under paragraph (1) of that subsection.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6109(a)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2028''.

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6103) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively.

(2) COOPERATION.—Section 7(b)(1) of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 6106(b)(1)) is amended in the second sentence by adding a period at the end.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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 H.R. 4389, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4389, sponsored by Congresswoman SALAZAR from Florida. This legislation reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which includes a grant program and research efforts designed to help conserve nearly 400 different species of birds that migrate between North America in the summer months and Latin America and the Caribbean in the winter months.

Protecting the habitat of these species is not only a good conservation policy but also good for economic activity. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service study found that roughly 96 million people participated in bird-watching activities, including maintaining habitat to benefit bird species. This includes individuals who participate in these activities in their local communities and those who travel to do so.

Encouraging habitat conservation efforts, such as those reauthorized by this bill, is a win for the environment, recreational activity, and local economies.

I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR) for her leadership on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 4389, the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act, which would help ensure the long-term protection of neotropical migratory birds.

More than half of our Nation's birds travel thousands of miles to spend winters south of the tropics, but habitat destruction has led to the loss of more than one in four of these birds since 1970. Imagine, a quarter of these birds have been lost.

This bipartisan bill will protect habitats along these migratory routes by reauthorizing the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation program.

This program has already benefited 5 million acres of migratory bird habitat in over 40 countries, and this bill will provide additional Federal support for these efforts.

This funding will facilitate multinational partnerships, conservation projects in habitat conservation, research, monitoring, and community outreach and education.

The bill will also address stakeholders' concerns and program inequities by easing matching requirements and enabling more high-quality projects to compete for grants.

These efforts will provide long-term protection for our beloved bird species and the habitats they rely on.

Our world is facing a biodiversity crisis with impacts that we are only just beginning to understand. I am pleased that we are working together across the aisle in a bipartisan manner today to address at least a part, but a very important part, of that serious challenge.

We all want to be able to continue to listen to the birdsong, to look up and marvel at the fact that these birds have traveled so far and are so essential to our entire habitat. I am very grateful for this bill.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR).

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 4389, the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023.

Bird populations have declined by over 3 million since 1970, and the iconic birds that we know and love must be actively protected.

Birds like the Baltimore oriole, wood stork, great blue heron, and snowy egret are not just beautiful to look at, they are vital to our environment and our economy.

Many of the migratory birds we see at home spend their winter months in Latin America and the Caribbean, but they are threatened by habitat loss along their journey back and forth. Federal efforts like H.R. 4389 are key to conserving these species.

My bill reauthorizes and improves the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Grant program. These government programs provide competitive grants for them to find refuge along the way, and, thankfully, they are matched 2 to 1 by private-sector investments who also care about the environment. The good news is that they pay major dividends.

Over the last two decades, almost $90 million invested by the United States in bird conservation produced almost $350 million from other countries who were partners in the Western Hemisphere.

Since 2002, these programs have supported 700 projects across dozens of Latin American countries, benefiting more than 5 million acres of habitat.

Protecting these beautiful birds is also highly important for my constituents in the city of Miami. The Florida

Everglades serves as a critical natural habitat for birds migrating and is one of the top bird-watching spots in the country, including for ibis, egrets, and herons.

In 2022, more than 96 million people across this country participated in bird-watching, generating more than $100 billion in economic benefits for the country. If we protect these migratory birds, we are protecting the Everglades and we are protecting the ecosystem. If we are the ecosystem, we are bolstering our economy. It is a clear bipartisan win for everybody.

I thank Chairman BRUCE WESTERMAN, Congressman RICK LARSEN, Congressman DAVID JOYCE, and Congresswoman MARY PELTOLA for coleading this bill with me.

As a champion of animal welfare and strong protector of the Everglades, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4389.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I really do commend the sponsor of the bill. As she noted, this bill is supported on a bipartisan basis by some of our most illustrious colleagues. I remember this bill when it was introduced last session as well, and the work that Representative SALAZAR and Ranking Member LARSEN have done on this bill is commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4389, the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act.

For more than two decades, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has been an essential tool to protect migratory bird habitat in the Pacific Northwest and across the Western Hemisphere.

Since 2002, the NMBCA has awarded more than $89 million in grants to over 700 conservation projects in the U.S., Canada, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, protecting more than 5 million acres of bird habitat.

The law has also been a critical tool in the fight to reverse the downward global trend in bird population over the past 50 years, which can be attributed to challenges like pesticide use, deforestation, and the lack of adequate environmental protection abroad.

This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the only Federal grant initiative for migratory birds through fiscal year 2028.

It also gives smaller organizations greater access to grants by lowering the cost-sharing requirement for grant recipients from 3 to 1 to 2 to 1, meaning for every $2 organizations contribute, the Federal Government matches with $1. That is great news for the organizations in the North Puget Sound, where I am from, doing important work to protect bird habitat and Washington State's environment.

More than 350 migratory bird species rely on the Pacific Northwest as their flyway, including: the western tanager, the violet-green swallow, Swainson's thrush, rufous hummingbird, western sandpiper, and the osprey; All of which but one I have had an opportunity to take photos of.

These migratory birds pollinate plants, control pests, and add to the diversity of local ecosystems. They also attract millions of birders to places like Skagit Bay, Padilla Bay, Port Susan Bay, Spencer Island, Wiser Lake, Deception Pass, and the San Juan Islands, just to name a few places in my district.

I have had the opportunity to meet with birders and go birding with them, folks from the Audubon Societies of Washington, Pilchuck, Skagit, North Cascades, Whidbey, and San Juan Islands in my district. These dedicated birders provide a boost to local and regional economies. They are ambassadors to the great outdoors. They sponsor great events, like the Snow Goose and Birding Festival in February every year in Stanwood, Washington, where thousands of people come from all over the country to go birding.

Success has many parents. I thank Representative MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR for leading the charge to reintroduce this bill, as well as Representatives MARY PELTOLA and DAVID JOYCE for coleading the bill.

I thank the many partner organizations that made this happen, like the National Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, and the aforementioned local organizations. I thank the taxpayers who are providing the critical funding needed to protect migratory birds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to keep bipartisan momentum going to protect migratory birds.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

As noted, this bill is bipartisan. It brings such joy as well as economic vibrancy to our communities. Listening to the lists of birds that have benefited from this bill, I cannot help but think about those amazing rufous hummingbirds that fly around and pollinate our flowers and bring smiles and joy to all of our lives in our small gardens.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Many of us in this Chamber come from communities where being outdoors is part of our way of life and communities with vibrant ecosystems, particularly in places that serve as a home for migratory species.

We know that habitat conservation is critical to their long-term health. H.R. 4389 will help further conservation efforts by providing resources to those who are dedicated to advancing habitat restoration efforts and encouraging collaborative research efforts.

I thank Ms. SALAZAR once again for her leadership in reauthorizing this program, and I ask my colleagues to support this effort. I urge adoption 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 gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4389, 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.

FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE LEASING AUTHORITY

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1246) to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian Tribes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1246

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

SECTION 1. FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE LEASING AUTHORITY.

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting '', land held in trust for any other Indian tribe included on the list published by the Secretary pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131)'' after ''Chehalis Reservation''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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 H.R. 1246, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1530

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

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 1246, would amend the Long-Term Leasing Act to authorize any federally recognized Indian Tribe to lease land held in trust for the Tribe's benefit for up to and including 99 years, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

In 1955, Congress passed the Long-Term Leasing Act, which authorized the Tribal owners to lease any lands held in trust for the benefit of the Tribes for nongrazing purposes, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the

Interior, for only up to 25 years. Any nongrazing lease could be renewed up to one additional term of 25 years for a total of 50 years.

The restriction on the length of time a Tribe can lease their land can have a negative impact on a Tribe's ability to negotiate long-term commercial leases and, subsequently, a Tribe's economic development opportunities.

Congress has amended the Long-Term Leasing Act more than 50 times to adjust the terms and conditions of leases of Tribal lands and authorize specific Tribes or Tribal lands to lease for a term of up to 99 years, subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

This legislation would put a stop to Tribes having to rely on Congress to pass specific legislation so that they can enter into long-term leases should they choose to do so.

H.R. 1246 would proactively extend leasing authority to all federally recognized Tribes while providing a more expedited path forward for economic development. This is commonsense legislation that will benefit Tribes long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage adoption of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1246, which would amend the Long-Term Leasing Act to authorize federally recognized Tribes to enter into lease agreements on their lands for periods of up to 99 years.

As noted, currently under the Long-Term Leasing Act, Tribes are generally limited to lease agreement terms that are no more than 25 years with an option to renew for an additional 25 years. This has led so many Tribes to enter into very complex leasing agreements of 25 plus 25 when all of that puts a constraint on the economic development opportunities that Tribes must be taking advantage of and that they want to take advantage of.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, these limits are challenging, and they are not needed.

For that reason, though, historically, Congress has passed noncontroversial bills to allow certain Tribes that come before them to have longer leases under the act. We have done this in a piecemeal fashion. In fact, as noted, since the passage of the Long-Term Leasing Act in 1955, some additional 60 Tribes have been added to the growing list of exceptions to the act.

Last Congress, we authorized long-term leasing authority for the Seminole Tribe, and on the floor of the House, I called for legislation to make this applicable to all Tribes so we didn't have to do it one at a time. I am pleased today that, under the leadership of Chair HAGEMAN, we are moving to make that a reality.

Today's bill, H.R. 1246, would strengthen Tribal sovereignty by allowing all federally recognized Tribes to enter into lease agreements for periods up to 99 years, providing Tribes the ability to pursue economic development activities for the benefit of their communities that have been typically limited under the Long-Term Leasing Act.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, as noted, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill and, in this manner, to support Tribal sovereignty and, once again, bipartisan legislation, which we often see coming out of the Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs. This is the way that we need to encourage to have work coming out of our committees in a bipartisan fashion that increases Tribal sovereignty and that leads us to honor our trust responsibility to our Tribes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my legislation would promote economic development for Tribes by ensuring that they are on the same playing field as other landowners who can enter into long-term leases on their land.

This legislation is a proactive step to support Tribes and their ability to create and pursue economic opportunity.

As the chairman of the Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, I do and will continue to advocate for commonsense solutions for our Indian Tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption 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 gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1246.

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.

JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE LAND TRANSFER ACT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6443) to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6443

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 ''Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE OF CALIFORNIA TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The approximately 172.1 acres of land owned in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California located in San Diego, California, and described in subsection (b) are hereby taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) PARCEL 1.—Those parcels of land totaling approximately 161.23 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that are held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2022–0010260 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 7, 2022.

(2) PARCEL 2.—That parcel of land totaling approximately 6 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2021–0540770 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded July 29, 2021.

(3) PARCEL 3.—That parcel of land totaling approximately 4.03 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 1998–0020339 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 15, 1998.

(4) PARCEL 4.—That parcel of land comprised of approximately 0.84 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2017–0410384 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded September 7, 2017.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the reservation of the Jamul Indian Village of California; and

(2) administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

(d) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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 H.R. 6443, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6443, the Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act, would place 172.1 acres of land owned in fee simple by the Jamul Indian Village into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribe.

The Jamul Indian Village is located in San Diego County and is part of the Kumeyaay people of southern California, otherwise known as the Mission

Indians. While the Tribe's history dates back 12,000 years, it only received Federal recognition in 1981. The Tribe's reservation consists of approximately 6.04 acres, but the Tribe has continued to work to restore its land base.

Unfortunately, bureaucratic inefficiencies have delayed the process. The Tribe has submitted fee-to-trust applications for the parcels identified in this legislation, including one submitted in August 2015 that the Department of the Interior has not yet finalized.

This legislation would end that bureaucratic delay and place these parcels into trust. The legislation also would prohibit any class II or class III gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act from occurring on the parcels to be placed into trust.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for his work on this bill. I encourage the adoption of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise also in support of H.R. 6443, the Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act.

The bill would take approximately 172 acres of land located in San Diego County, California, and owned in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, into trust for the benefit of the Tribe. The land in question contains four parcels, which include Tribal housing, council buildings, a historic church, and an ancestral cemetery. Each of these parcels is already within the Tribe's ancestral territory and is located near the Tribe's existing reservation.

I again want to acknowledge that land is the very essence of Tribal sovereignty, cultural survival, and economic prosperity in the future. That is why these land-into-trust transfers are so very important and why in Congress we should respond to them when they come before us and use them as another element of how we honor our trust responsibility to Tribes.

For that, I thank Representative ISSA for bringing this legislation forward.

Once the 172 acres have been placed into trust, the Tribe will be able to increase Tribal housing, preserve and protect cultural sites, and better provide essential governmental operations, including healthcare services, administrative offices, law enforcement, and other community resources such as a grocery store and educational services.

This bill honors the connection of the Tribe to its ancestral land and is a win for their self-determination.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and ranking member for bringing this bill here today.

Mr. Speaker, as Californians, our relationship with our Tribes and bands is different from that of many other places in the United States. The Kumeyaay Indians, including the Jamul band, were landless for decade after decade after decade. In fact, if not for the generosity of one landowner who allowed some of the Jamul Indians to get the 6 acres that they originally placed in trust, they might still be landless.

Those 6 acres were all they had to live on, and it wasn't enough for the various members because, unlike some immigrants, Native Americans lived here for thousands of years, and in those 13,000 years, they built a bond that could not be broken by the Spaniards and could not be broken by America as we annexed California.

In fact, as a landless Tribe, the Kumeyaay continued to practice their language and traditions even though they had to do so on whatever land they could find, usually not their own.

Since the 1980s, the Jamul band of Kumeyaay Indians has, in fact, clung to those 6 acres and amassed an ability to find additional plots of land.

It is ironic that one of the pieces of land we are considering today is, in fact, where they have been buried for more than 100 years, where they practice their Western faith taught to them by the Spaniards there on their land.

The other piece contains a farmhouse. It is a farmhouse where those Jamul Indians came to work in the fields of another man for decades. They have had the opportunity to buy that land now.

Many will say: But is there a conflict? Is there a reason for the Department of the Interior to take so long?

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there is no conflict about taking a cemetery where your dead are buried, or at least there shouldn't be.

The other piece of land was entitled by the County of San Diego to have more than twice as many homes on it as there are Jamul Indians. In fact, their intention is to preserve that farmhouse for all generations so that they can understand what life was like in San Diego County 100 years ago and so that their Tribal members will continue to celebrate those who treated them well when they had no land and no money.

Today, hopefully, we will put land in trust, but we will also celebrate the resilience of the Native Americans of California who stayed in the land of their birth even though they had their land taken from them for more than 600 years.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, as noted, this is a worthwhile bill for taking this land into trust.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation would take approximately 172.1 acres of land owned in fee simple by the Jamul Indian Village into trust by the United States for the benefit of this Tribe. I thank Mr. ISSA for his work on this legislation to benefit his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption 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 gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6443.

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.

□ 1545

PUYALLUP TRIBE OF INDIANS LAND INTO TRUST CONFIRMATION ACT OF 2023

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 382) to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 382

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 ''Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUYALLUP TRIBE OF THE PUYALLUP RESERVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The approximately 17.264 acres of land owned in fee by the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation in Pierce County, Washington, and described in subsection (b) is hereby taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) PARCEL 1.—Lots 1 to 4, inclusive, Block 85, Map of Tacoma Tidelands, as surveyed and platted by the Board of Appraisers of Tide and Shore Lands for Pierce County, according to Plat filed for record on September 14, 1895, in the Office of the County Auditor, in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington.

(2) PARCEL 2.—Lots 5 to 9, inclusive, Block 85, Map of Tacoma Tidelands, as surveyed and platted by the Board of Appraisers of Tide and Shore Lands for Pierce County, according to Plat filed for record on September 14, 1895, in the Office of the County Auditor, in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington.

(3) PARCEL 3.—Parcel A of City of Tacoma Boundary Line Adjustment MPD2011–40000166230, recorded October 12, 2011, under Pierce County Auditor Recording No. 201110125009, as corrected by Affidavit of Minor Correction of Map Recorded September 25, 2012, under Pierce County Auditor Recording No. 201209250440.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the Reservation of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation; and

(2) administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States shall not be liable for any environmental contamination that occurred on the land described in subsection (b) on or before the date on which that land is taken into trust under subsection (a).

(e) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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 S. 382, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 382, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act, would place approximately 17 acres of land in Pierce County, Washington, into trust for the Tribe.

The land in question is currently owned by the Tribe in fee simple, and the Tribe intends to use the land for economic development purposes to benefit the Tribe and the surrounding area.

The parcels contain evidence of environmental contamination, which complicates the process by which the Bureau of Indian Affairs would take land into trust through the administrative fee-to-trust process. Under an administrative process, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or BIA, would require full land remediation before the process even begins. This would be cost prohibitive for the Tribe and unnecessary given the Tribe's intended use of the land as a shipping terminal and transportation facility.

Additionally, S. 382 makes clear that the United States is not liable for any environmental contamination on the land and includes a prohibition on gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 382, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act of 2023, introduced by Senator CANTWELL and led in the House by my incredibly brilliant colleague from Washington, Representative KILMER.

We know that land is at the very essence of Tribal sovereignty, cultural survival, and economic sovereignty. That is why taking land into trust for Tribes, either through the BIA or congressional process, is essential if we are to honor our trust responsibilities to Tribes, if we are to honor our commitment to help reverse, if only by a few acres at a time, some of the worst of our Federal policies from the 19th and 20th centuries.

This bill would authorize the United States to take approximately 17.2 acres of land located in Pierce County, Washington, and owned by the Puyallup Tribe into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

Typically, land is taken into trust under the Bureau of Indian Affairs administrative process. However, it is not uncommon for Tribes to take a legislative route depending on their circumstances.

In the case of the Puyallup Tribe, the Tribe identified legacy contamination from historical industrial sites when undergoing environmental site assessments.

When placing land into trust, the Federal Government does not take liability for environmental contamination that could have occurred prior to the transfer. As that is the case here, the BIA is unable to take the land into trust administratively, and congressional action through legislation is the most viable option for the Tribe in this case.

This legislation would move the Tribe's land-into-trust process forward and ultimately expand job and economic development opportunities. By adding these lands in the port area, the Tribe will be able to develop a 21st century shipping terminal that will help address the backlog facing our Nation's ports. Placing this land into trust will make this land the first international Tribal trade center in modern times. I say in modern times because we know there was much trade that was going on before European contact.

The Puyallup Tribe is a signatory to the Treaty of Medicine Creek of 1854, which designated 200,000 acres as permanent homeland for their people. However, the ink had barely dried on the treaty before efforts to take the Tribe's land began through acts of Congress, illegal sales of reservation land, and outright theft.

Given so much historical and cultural loss, it is appropriate to grant the restoration of these lands to the Tribe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act, a critical piece of legislation that represents not only an act of justice, but a significant step toward economic revitalization and sustainable development in our region.

This bill, introduced by myself alongside my colleagues, Senator MARIA CANTWELL, Senator PATTY MURRAY, and Representative MARILYN STRICKLAND, seeks to transfer over 17 acres of land currently owned by Puyallup Tribe into Federal trust.

This action is not merely administrative, it is a restoration of the Tribe's ancestral homeland, a place that holds a deep cultural and historical significance for the Puyallup people.

As the Puyallup Tribe's lands, after recent congressional redistricting, fall within the region I am privileged to represent, I am aware of the profound impact this legislation can have.

Indeed, it is not just about land. It is about enabling the Puyallup Tribe to further diversify and expand economic opportunities, to spur job creation at the Port of Tacoma and along the Tacoma waterfront, a vision of prosperity that benefits not only the Tribe, but the entire South Puget Sound region.

When we introduced this bill, I pointed out that this legislation will help restore the Tribe's homelands, ensuring the Tribe can continue to diversify and grow economic opportunities and create jobs across our region. I stand by those words today, committed to ensuring that the Federal Government upholds its trust and treaty obligations.

Last year, I attended the State of the Union address with Puyallup Tribal Chairman Bill Sterud as my guest. Chairman Sterud joined the Puyallup Tribal Council in 1978 and has served as chairman and vice-chairman several times since his first election.

Chairman Sterud is a proud father and grandfather of a University of Washington Husky, who frequently gives welcomes to incoming students at the UW Tacoma and graduates at UW commencement, and someone who cares deeply about his people and those who live in the surrounding community.

In his own words, Chairman Sterud believes that the land into trust act will help the Tribe diversify its economy and bring critical infrastructure and business to the Tribe's port development and the entire region. In other words, this is a game changer for the Puyallup Tribe.

Our Federal Government has a solemn duty to ensure that Tribal communities are afforded the same opportunities that have spurred growth and prosperity across other communities in our State and Nation. Moreover, by putting this land into trust, Congress

can help unlock a host of Federal programs and services that can catalyze significant economic development and infrastructure investments for the Puyallup Tribe and surrounding communities.

In Washington State, this proposal has garnered widespread support not only from within the Tribe, but also from the city of Tacoma, from Pierce County, from Washington Governor Jay Inslee, and the team at the Port of Tacoma.

This broad base of community support underscores the mutual benefits anticipated from this action, benefits that will surely extend well beyond the boundaries of the land in question, fostering a more vibrant, healthy, and economically robust Puget Sound region.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Land Into Trust Confirmation Act. I thank the gentlewoman from across the aisle for her support of it. I thank my colleague for her support of it.

Let us take this step together as a forward-looking investment in the economic vitality and cultural richness of the Pacific northwest.

Moving forward, Congress can honor its commitments to Native nations, respect our shared history, and work hand in hand with Tribes like the Puyallup to build a future of prosperity and partnership.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative KILMER and Senator CANTWELL for bringing this legislation forward. I also thank Chairman Sterud and the people of the Puyallup Tribe because what they are doing here today is beneficial not only for the Tribe, but, as noted, for the entire region.

I think we will see this over and over again in the bills we are hearing today and that we will hear into the future with regards to taking land into trust. It benefits not just the Tribe and the local economy, but those who live around the Tribe. In this instance, because of the port, it will benefit the entire Nation. Therefore, we are grateful for the work that they have done in terms of pursuing this land-into-trust application.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation would take approximately 17 acres of fee land in Pierce County, Washington, into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe to support the development of a 21st century shipping and transportation facility.

I thank the sponsors of this legislation for their work on behalf of their constituents. I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 382.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT OF 2023

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1792) to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1792

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023''.

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

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA ACT OF 1988.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973 et seq.).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) APPLICABLE NATIONAL LAW.—Section 2(4) (16 U.S.C. 973(4)) is amended by striking ''described in paragraph 1(a) of Annex I of'' and inserting ''noticed and in effect in accordance with''.

(b) CLOSED AREA.—Section 2(5) (16 U.S.C. 973(5)) is amended by striking ''of the closed areas identified in Schedule 2 of Annex I of'' and inserting ''area within the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party that is closed to vessels pursuant to a national law of that Pacific Island Party and is noticed and in effect in accordance with''.

(c) FISHING.—Section 2(6) (16 U.S.C. 973(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''for any purpose'' after ''harvesting of fish''; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

''(F) use of any other vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or hovercraft, for any activity described in this paragraph except for emergencies involving the health or safety of the crew or the safety of a vessel.''.

(d) FISHING VESSEL.—Section 2(7) (16 U.S.C. 973(7)) is amended by striking ''commercial fishing'' and inserting ''commercial purse seine fishing for tuna''.

(e) LICENSING AREA.—Section 2(8) (16 U.S.C. 973(8)) is amended by striking ''in the Treaty Area'' and all that follows and inserting ''under the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party, except for internal waters, territorial seas, archipelagic waters, and any Closed Area.''.

(f) LIMITED AREA; PARTY; TREATY AREA.—Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 973) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (10), (13), and (18);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and (12) as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (14) as paragraph (12); and

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through (17) as paragraphs (14) through (16), respectively.

(g) REGIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 973) is amended by inserting after paragraph (12), as so redesignated, the following:

''(13) The term 'regional terms and conditions' means any of the terms or conditions attached by the Administrator to the license issued by the Administrator, as notified by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) (16 U.S.C. 973c(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, it'' at the beginning and inserting ''It'';

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (13) as paragraphs (3) through (11), respectively;

(4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by inserting '', except in accordance with an agreement pursuant to the Treaty'' after ''Closed Area'';

(5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by striking ''or'' at the end;

(6) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(12) to violate any of the regional terms and conditions; or

''(13) to violate any limit on authorized fishing effort or catch.''.

(b) IN THE LICENSING AREA.—Section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 973c(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, it'' and inserting ''It'';

(2) by striking paragraph (5); and

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively.

SEC. 5. EXCEPTIONS.

Section 6 (16 U.S.C. 973d) is repealed.

SEC. 6. CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

Section 7(a) (16 U.S.C. 973e(a)) is amended by striking ''section 5(a) (8), (10), (11), or (12)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (6), (8), (9), or (10) of section 5(a)''.

SEC. 7. CIVIL PENALTIES.

(a) DETERMINATION OF LIABILITY; AMOUNT; PARTICIPATION BY SECRETARY OF STATE IN ASSESSMENT PROCEEDING.—Section 8(a) (16 U.S.C. 973f(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Code'' after ''liable to the United States''; and

(2) by striking ''Except for those acts prohibited by section 5(a) (4), (5), (7), (8), (10), (11), and (12), and section 5(b) (1), (2), (3), and (7) of this Act, the'' and inserting ''The''.

(b) WAIVER OF REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Section 8(g) (16 U.S.C. 973f(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''section 5(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), or (13)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (11), (12), or (13) of section 5(a)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking '', all Limited Areas closed to fishing,'' after ''outside of the Licensing Area''.

SEC. 8. LICENSES.

(a) FORWARDING AND TRANSMITTAL OF VESSEL LICENSE APPLICATION.—Section 9(b) (16 U.S.C. 973g(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) In accordance with subsection (e), and except as provided in subsection (f), the Secretary shall forward a vessel license application to the Administrator whenever such application is in accordance with application procedures established by the Secretary.''.

(b) FEES AND SCHEDULES.—Section 9(c) (16 U.S.C. 973g(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) Fees required under the Treaty shall be paid in accordance with the Treaty and any procedures established by the Secretary.''.

(c) MINIMUM FEES REQUIRED TO BE RECEIVED IN INITIAL YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR FORWARDING AND TRANSMITTAL OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—Section 9 (16 U.S.C. 973g) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f);

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(3) by amending subsection (f), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(f) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may determine that a license application should not be forwarded to the Administrator if—

''(1) the application is not in accordance with the Treaty or the procedures established by the Secretary; or

''(2) the owner or charterer—

''(A) is the subject of proceedings under the bankruptcy laws of the United States, unless reasonable financial assurances have been provided to the Secretary;

''(B) has not established to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the fishing vessel is fully insured against all risks and liabilities normally provided in maritime liability insurance; or

''(C) has not paid any penalty which has become final, assessed by the Secretary in accordance with this Act.''; and

(4) in subsection (g), as so redesignated—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) chapter 12113 of title 46, United States Code;'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''of 1972'' after ''Marine Mammal Protection Act'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''of 1972'' after ''Marine Mammal Protection Act''; and

(D) in the matter that follows paragraph (3), by striking ''any vessel documented'' and all that follows and inserting the following:

''any vessel documented under the laws of the United States as of the date of enactment of the Fisheries Act of 1995 for which a license has been issued under subsection (a) may fish for tuna in the Licensing Area, and on the high seas and in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States west of 146° west longitude and east of 129.5° east longitude in accordance with international law, subject to the provisions of the Treaty, this Act, and other applicable law, provided that no such vessel intentionally deploys a purse seine net to encircle any dolphin or other marine mammal in the course of fishing.''.

SEC. 9. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS TO PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY CONCERNING INSTITUTION AND OUTCOME OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 10(c)(1) (16 U.S.C. 973h(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''paragraph 8 of Article 4 of''; and

(2) by striking ''Article 10 of''.

(b) SEARCHES AND SEIZURES BY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS; LIMITATIONS ON POWER.—Section 10(d)(1)(A) (16 U.S.C. 973h(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(2) in clause (iii), by adding ''or'' at the end.

SEC. 10. FINDINGS BY SECRETARY.

(a) ORDER TO LEAVE WATERS UPON FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO JURISDICTION OF PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY; PROCEDURE APPLICABLE.—Section 11(a) (16 U.S.C. 973i(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking '', all Limited Areas,'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph 2 of Article 3 of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''within the Treaty Area'' and inserting ''under the jurisdiction''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''section 5 (a)(4), (a)(5), (b)(2), or (b)(3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4) of section 5(a) or paragraphs (2) or (3) of section 5(b)'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(7)'' and inserting ''(6)''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''(7)'' and inserting ''(6)''.

(b) ORDER OF VESSEL TO LEAVE WATERS WHERE PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED TREATY INFRINGEMENT.—Section 11(b) (16 U.S.C. 973i(b)) is amended by striking ''paragraph 7 of Article 5 of''.

SEC. 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

Section 12 (16 U.S.C. 973j) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 12. REPORTING.

''(a) PROHIBITED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall keep confidential and may not disclose the following information, except in accordance with subsection (b):

''(1) Information provided to the Secretary by the Administrator that the Administrator has designated confidential.

''(2) Information collected by observers.

''(3) Information submitted to the Secretary by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

''(b) PERMITTED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The Secretary may disclose information described in subsection (a)—

''(1) if disclosure is ordered by a court;

''(2) if the information is used by a Federal employee—

''(A) for enforcement; or

''(B) in support of the homeland and national security missions of the Coast Guard as defined in section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468);

''(3) if the information is used by a Federal employee or an employee of the Fishery Management Council for Treaty administration or fishery management and monitoring;

''(4) to the Administrator, in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty and this Act;

''(5) to the secretariat or equivalent of an international fisheries management organization of which the United States is a member, in accordance with the requirements or decisions of such organization, and insofar as possible, in accordance with an agreement that prevents public disclosure of the identity of any person that submits such information;

''(6) if the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person providing such information, and disclosure does not violate other requirements of this Act; or

''(7) in an aggregate or summary form that does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity of any person that submits such information.''.

SEC. 12. CLOSED AREA STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 13 (16 U.S.C. 973k) is amended by striking ''. In particular, the boom shall be lowered'' and all that follows and inserting ''and in accordance with any requirements established by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 13. OBSERVERS.

Section 14 (16 U.S.C. 973l) is repealed.

SEC. 14. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 15 (16 U.S.C. 973m) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 15. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

''The Secretary and the Secretary of State may provide assistance to a Pacific Island Party to benefit such Pacific Island Party from the development of fisheries resources and the operation of fishing vessels that are licensed pursuant to the Treaty, including—

''(1) technical assistance;

''(2) training and capacity building opportunities;

''(3) facilitation of the implementation of private sector activities or partnerships; and

''(4) other activities as determined appropriate by the Secretary and the Secretary of State.''.

SEC. 15. ARBITRATION.

Section 16 (16 U.S.C. 973n) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Article 6 of'' after ''arbitral tribunal under''; and

(2) by striking ''paragraph 3 of that Article'', and inserting ''the Treaty, shall determine the location of the arbitration''.

SEC. 16. DISPOSITION OF FEES, PENALTIES, FORFEITURES, AND OTHER MONEYS.

Section 17 (16 U.S.C. 973o) is amended by striking ''Article 4 of''.

SEC. 17. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS.

Section 18 (16 U.S.C. 973p) is amended by striking ''Within 30 days after'' and all that follows and inserting ''The Secretary may establish procedures for review of any agreements for additional fishing access entered into pursuant to the Treaty.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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 H.R. 1792, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1792, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023, sponsored by Mrs. RADEWAGEN of American Samoa.

This legislation would make critical updates to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, consistent with amendments that were agreed to between the United States and the 16 Pacific Island parties in 2016 and ratified by the Senate in 2022.

The amendments will provide the United States fishing vessels with greater clarity about the areas that they can access in the parties' exclusive economic zones. This relationship gives the United States access to an abundant fishing resource while strengthening our presence in the region.

Despite the importance of this treaty, the recent amendments are not self-

executing. This has led to conflicts between our domestic regulatory regime and the treaty structure. Making the necessary changes in the statute to allow the United States and its regulatory agencies to fully implement the treaty amendments will ensure that they are carried out effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, for her leadership on this important issue and urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1792, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023, will ensure the continued effective management of tuna fisheries and the conservation of marine resources in the South Pacific, benefiting American fisheries in the South Pacific and contributing to the stability of the region.

Specifically, this legislation would implement the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, a multilateral treaty between the United States Government and the Pacific Island States. This treaty authorizes a small U.S. purse seine vessel fleet to fish in specific and exclusive economic zones of Pacific Island countries that are party to the treaty. These parties are Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The South Pacific Tuna Treaty entered into force in 1988 and was extended in 1993 and then again in 2002. Most recently, the parties began to renegotiate the treaty and its annexes starting in 2009.

□ 1600

The treaty has been vital for almost three decades, fostering a mutually beneficial strategic and economic relationship between the United States and the Pacific Island countries.

The treaty provides access to lucrative tuna fishing grounds and facilitates cooperation on various issues.

H.R. 1792 proposes adjustments to the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 to implement the amended treaty, mainly providing more flexibility for U.S. vessels and the Pacific Island countries to negotiate access levels while ensuring a stable operating environment.

This legislation will enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to efficiently implement annual access and fee agreements and new operational requirements, thereby allowing the United States and its vessels operating under the treaty to better utilize its benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, thank Mrs. RADEWAGEN for leading on this issue and for understanding the needs that we see in the Blue Continent and understanding the needs of the nations, the freely associated States and territories in pursuing this kind of legislation.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN).

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1792, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act, which I introduced along with my original cosponsor, ED CASE of Hawaii.

As Representatives of the beautiful islands of American Samoa in the South Pacific, a marine economy which depends on a fishing economy like Hawaii, I applaud our Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee Chair CLIFF BENTZ of Oregon and Ranking Member JARED HUFFMAN of California for their bipartisan support implementing this treaty with my friends and neighbors in the South Pacific.

This bill implements into statute the most recent changes to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty that was negotiated between NOAA and other signatory countries to the treaty.

These changes are important to support the American fishing fleet in the South Pacific where many boats call the port in American Samoa home.

These changes improve the operation, condition, and flexibility for the fleet, which is America's last true distant water fishing fleet.

The 1987 treaty enables American tuna purse seine vessels to fish in the exclusive economic zones of 16 Pacific Island nations and is key to the ongoing operations of America's South Pacific tuna fleet, including the 11 purse seiners based in American Samoa.

In 2016, the treaty signatories agreed to several amendments to the treaty; however, those changes have not yet been reflected in U.S. law, leaving South Pacific tuna fishermen in a state of uncertainty for years.

H.R. 1792 will fix these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries Kelly Kryc and American Tunaboat Association Executive Director William Gibbons-Fly who testified in support of the bill at last July's hearing.

Finally, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA who guided the Natural Resources Committee to unanimously approving H.R. 1792 at last October's markup.

''Live long and prosper.'' ''Soifua ma ia manuia.''

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation so that we can continue to protect our fishing fleet, protect the waters, and, importantly, protect the tuna that provides such economic vitality to those fishermen in those countries which rely on their ability to both capture the tuna. All of those restaurants and households really want to make sure that we continue to ensure that tuna is caught in an environmentally and sound way.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, when President Ronald Reagan signed the initial legislation establishing this treaty, he spoke of the longstanding cooperation and partnership between the United States and the South Pacific. He stated that the legislation would ''reinforce the bonds of friendship and affection that unite our peoples.''

The bill we are considering today furthers that effort.

By updating the South Pacific Tuna Treaty in accordance with the 2016 amendments, we begin the next chapter of the partnership between the United States and the South Pacific. Strengthening these relationships could not be more important at a time when the United States' leadership is needed in this region to counter the growing malign influence of the Chinese Communist Party.

I, once again, thank Mrs. RADEWAGEN for her leadership on this important issue. I urge the adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLOUD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1792, 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.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY RECOGNITION ACT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3250) to recognize the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3250

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 ''National Museum of Play Recognition Act''.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION.—Congress—

(1) recognizes that the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, DBA Strong Museum, located in Rochester, New York, is the only museum of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of exploring the ways in which play encourages learning, creativity, and discovery, and how it illuminates cultural history; and

(2) officially designates the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum as the National Museum of Play.

(b) EFFECT OF RECOGNITION; DESIGNATION.—The National Museum of Play recognized in subsection (a) is not a unit of the National Park System and the designation under subsection (a) shall not be construed to require

or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose related to the Museum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. 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 on H.R. 3250, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3250, the National Museum of Play Recognition Act, which recognizes the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, as the National Museum of Play.

This bipartisan bill, led by Representatives MORELLE and LANGWORTHY, provides Federal recognition without adding to the Federal estate or burdening taxpayers.

Inspired by her parents' passion for traveling, Margaret Woodbury amassed more than 27,000 dolls from around the world.

After her passing, Ms. Woodbury left a large portion of her financial resources for a museum, which opened in downtown Rochester in 1982.

Today, the museum spans over 100,000 square feet, serving as a reminder of the importance of play to visitors from around the country. As our country evaluates the implications of technology in our children's lives, this bill recognizes how play can be utilized to encourage learning, creativity, and discovery in child development.

This bill recognizes the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum, which draws over half a million visitors annually, in no small part, due to its unique important purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, with much delight and joy in my heart, I rise in support of H.R. 3250, the National Museum of Play Recognition Act, introduced by my esteemed colleague—and very playful, I might say—from New York, Representative JOE MORELLE.

This legislation would designate the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, as the National Museum of Play.

The Strong Museum is a unique institution dedicated to the exploration of how play serves to promote learning, creativity, discovery, and cultural history.

Who among us has not been in kindergarten or Head Start or preschool either as a child or as a parent of the child and recognize the importance of play in the growth of our children.

Indeed, I was recently reading a book this weekend that pointed out the importance of play and how we tap into the divinity and the creativity in each of us.

That is why this museum, which was established in 1969, initially housing the personal collections of the Rochester local, Margaret Woodbury Strong, is so important.

As one of the largest museums in the country, the Strong Museum displays the most comprehensive collection of historical materials related to play and provides families with interactive exhibits and programs.

This institution hosts the National Toy Hall of Fame and the World Video Game Hall of Fame and publishes the peer-reviewed American Journal of Play.

H.R. 3250 recognizes and honors the distinct and special role that the Strong Museum contributes to our national story.

I thank Representative MORELLE for his leadership in this effort and the representatives of the Strong Museum for their advocacy.

This is a straightforward, bipartisan, and commonsense effort to honor and recognize the contributions of a unique and dynamic institution. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE), the very serious but also very playful sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from New Mexico, who is also playful but serious, for yielding. I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 3250, the National Museum of Play Recognition Act. This bipartisan bill will designate the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in Rochester, New York, where I am grateful and privileged to represent, as the National Museum of Play.

As has been described by my colleagues, the museum was founded by Margaret Woodbury Strong in 1968. It is the only museum of its kind that exists for the exclusive purpose of exploring the ways in which play encourages learning, creativity, and discovery, and how it illuminates cultural history.

Children are the hope of each and every community across this country. We must continue to inspire future generations to learn, grow, and innovate, and we know the best way to do that is through play.

In 2023, the Strong Museum completed its most recent 90,000-square foot expansion of new exhibit space, bringing the museum total square footage to 282,000 square feet of areas of play.

The museum also features the Toy Hall of Fame. Each year, the Hall of Fame selects inductees like the Fisher-Price Corn Popper, the American Girl dolls, the board game Monopoly, the Atari 2600 game system, Slinky, and last year's new inductee, Cabbage Patch Kids.

I am incredibly proud to have such a noteworthy institution in my district, working to serve the children and families from upstate New York and the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I extend an invitation to all of my colleagues to come to Rochester and spend time at the National Museum of Play.

I also thank Representative LANGWORTHY for his partnership with this legislation, as well as Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and the House Committee on Natural Resources for advancing this bill on a bipartisan and unanimous basis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3250.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as noted above, this bill is quite worthy of our support. While we have been talking about it with a smile in our hearts, we must recognize that it is incredibly important, and we must be thankful to those who have compiled this collection because it is so essential for us to understand our history and the history of play in our country and the contributions it makes to our society.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill provides recognition to a museum that is a source of local pride without draining taxpayer resources or increasing the burden on the National Park Service. I support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3250.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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.

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CONVEYANCE OF PLEASANT VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SITE TO GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1829) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1829

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PLEASANT VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SITE TO GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ''County'' means Gila County, Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Pleasant Valley Admin Site Proposal'' and dated September 23, 2021.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to this section, if the County submits to the Secretary a written request for conveyance of the property described in subsection (c) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in subsection (b) is the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as ''Gila County Area'' on the map, consisting of approximately 232.9 acres of National Forest System land located in the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

(2) MAP.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct minor errors in the map.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(3) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights;

(2) made without consideration;

(3) made by quitclaim deed; and

(4) subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (b), the County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (c)(3);

(2) any environmental analysis or resource survey required under Federal law; and

(3) any analysis required to comply with division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''National Historic Preservation Act'').

(f) ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding section 120(h)(3)(A) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)(3)(A)), the Secretary shall not be required to provide any covenant or warranty for the land and improvements conveyed to the County under subsection (b).

(g) USE OF LAND.—The land conveyed to the county under subsection (b) shall be used by the County only for the purposes of serving and supporting veterans of the Armed Forces.

(h) REVERSION.—If any land conveyed under subsection (b) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirements of subsection (g), all right, title, and interest in and to the land shall revert to the United States, at the discretion of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. 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. 1829, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative CRANE's bill, H.R. 1829. This is a good bill that would transfer land from the Forest Service to create a retreat facility in Gila County, Arizona, for veterans and their families to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Gila County is home to more than 5,000 veterans. Overall, the State of Arizona has a population of more than 500,000 veterans. Creating this facility will help those who have served our country find healing and reconnect with nature, and it will help ease the transition back to civilian life.

Almost 60 percent of the land in Gila County is federally owned, which creates significant limitations on available land for laudable efforts like this proposed retreat for veterans. This retreat center would be created from a Forest Service site that was scheduled to be torn down. In total, this 232-acre site includes 17 buildings, 2 residences, 2 barracks, a historic ranger house and barn, and helipads.

Gila County intends to remodel many of the buildings to provide an excellent experience for veterans and their families. Repurposing the site in this way is a win-win, as it will be a great resource for Arizona's veterans while freeing the Forest Service from maintaining the property that it no longer needs.

I applaud Representative CRANE for his leadership in this effort. His diligent work with Gila County and the Forest Service has led to an important effort which will make a meaningful difference in the lives of Arizona's veterans. I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1829, which would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona.

Adjacent to the rural town of Young, Arizona, the parcel was previously an administrative site for the Forest Service but is no longer in use for this purpose. The conveyance authorized by this bill would provide Gila County with the opportunity to establish a veterans retreat and community center that would support the communities in Young and the surrounding area.

Supporting and uplifting our Nation's veterans is a goal that we can all get behind. It is never enough to tell our veterans: ''Thank you for your service.'' We must always act to show our gratitude by providing veterans the services they need wherever they live.

Our rural and Native American veterans deserve to have a place of their own on their own land to carry out the services we owe these patriotic rural and first Americans. This bill contributes to that goal by conveying Forest Service land to create a vibrant veterans center with family housing, resources, meeting and event spaces, a VA mobile clinic, ceremonial grounds, and access to outdoor recreational opportunities. The partnership made possible by this bill will provide new life to deteriorating buildings, barns, barracks, and existing wastewater systems.

During our hearing on the bill, the chair of the Gila County Board of Supervisors noted the goal of creating ''the ultimate experience for veterans and their families.'' This bill is a win-win.

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE).

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of my bill, which was the first piece of legislation I introduced and is a testament to veterans in Arizona. Specifically, my bill would enable Gila County, Arizona, to operate a veterans center on 232 acres in Young, Arizona.

As a veteran myself, I know the importance of providing these resources cannot be overstated. This legislation will serve our State and its heroes well.

The veterans center would protect and maintain the rich history of the property while providing family housing, meeting and activity spaces, resource rooms, veteran ceremonial grounds, and outdoor recreation. It would be the first of its kind in northern Arizona, providing resources and support to primarily rural veterans and their families.

Furthermore, this legislation is an exemplary model of efficient land management. Out West, the Federal Government retains vast amounts of land, limiting States' ability to maintain, conserve, recreate, and responsibly produce on the lands within their own States.

Anytime Congress can vote on legislation that returns power to the State is a good thing. In this case, veterans of northern Arizona will get a space to heal and reconnect with their families after putting their lives on the line for the peace and freedom of all Americans.

I would like to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my friend who helped lay the foundation for this effort, as well as Senators SINEMA and KELLY, who are leading this bill in the Senate.

It is my hope that we can get this bill across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to put into good use this land for the benefit of our veterans, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again applaud Representative CRANE for his leadership in this effort. As a veteran himself, I know that he understands just how important this veterans retreat center will be for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption 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 gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1829, 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.

EXPANDING PUBLIC LANDS OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCES ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6492) to improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6492

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act'' or the ''EXPLORE Act''.

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

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term ''Federal land management agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

(2) FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.—The term ''Federal recreational lands and waters'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801).

(3) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term ''gateway community'' means a community that serves as an entry point, or is adjacent, to a recreation destination on Federal recreational lands and waters or non-Federal land at which there is consistently high, in the determination of the Secretaries, seasonal or year-round visitation.

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(5) LAND USE PLAN.—The term ''land use plan'' means—

(A) a land use plan prepared by the Secretary pursuant to section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(B) a land management plan prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the National Forest Service pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(6) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means each of—

(A) the Secretary; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; or

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land managed by the Forest Service.

(9) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.

TITLE I—OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Outdoor Recreation Policy

SEC. 111. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the Federal Government to foster and encourage recreation on Federal recreational lands and waters, to the extent consistent with the laws applicable to specific areas of Federal recreational lands and waters, including multiple-use mandates and land management planning requirements.

SEC. 112. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION.

(a) INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall—

(A) conduct an inventory and assessment of recreation resources for Federal recreational lands and waters;

(B) develop the inventory and assessment with support from public comment; and

(C) update the inventory and assessment as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.

(2) UNIQUE RECREATION VALUES.—An inventory and assessment conducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) recognize—

(i) any unique recreation values and recreation opportunities; and

(ii) areas of concentrated recreational use; and

(B) identify, list, and map recreation resources by—

(i) type of recreation opportunity and type of natural or artificial recreation infrastructure;

(ii) to the extent available, the level of use of the recreation resource as of the date of the inventory; and

(iii) identifying, to the extent practicable, any trend relating to recreation opportunities or use at a recreation resource identified under subparagraph (A).

(3) ASSESSMENTS.—For any recreation resource inventoried under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall assess—

(A) the maintenance needs of, and expenses necessary to administer, the recreation resource;

(B) the suitability for developing, expanding, or enhancing the recreation resource; and

(C) the adequacy of the current management of the recreation resource.

(b) EXISTING EFFORTS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall use or incorporate existing applicable research and planning decisions and processes in carrying out this section.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 200103 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h), respectively.

SEC. 113. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON OUTDOOR RECREATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 200102 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (4) and (5) respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (4), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) COUNCIL.—The term 'Council' means the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation established under section 200104.

''(2) FEDERAL LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term 'Federal land and water management agency' means the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(3) FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.—The term 'Federal recreational lands and waters' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) and also includes Federal lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Corps of Engineers, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.''.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL.—Section 200104 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 200104. Federal interagency council on outdoor recreation

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an interagency council, to be known as the 'Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation'.

''(b) COMPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of representatives of each of the following agencies, to be appointed by the head of the respective agency:

''(A) The National Park Service.

''(B) The Bureau of Land Management.

''(C) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

''(D) The Bureau of Indian Affairs.

''(E) The Bureau of Reclamation.

''(F) The Forest Service.

''(G) The Army Corps of Engineers.

''(H) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(2) ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.—In addition to the members of the Council appointed under paragraph (1), the Secretary may invite participation in the Council's meetings or other activities from representatives of the following:

''(A) The Council on Environmental Quality.

''(B) The Natural Resources Conservation Service.

''(C) Rural development programs of the Department of Agriculture.

''(D) The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

''(E) The Environmental Protection Agency.

''(F) The Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration.

''(G) The Tennessee Valley Authority.

''(H) The Department of Commerce, including—

''(i) the Bureau of Economic Analysis;

''(ii) the National Travel and Tourism Office; and

''(iii) the Economic Development Administration.

''(I) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

''(J) An applicable State agency or office.

''(K) An applicable agency or office of a local government.

''(L) Other organizations or interests, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(3) STATE COORDINATION.—In determining additional participants under this subsection, the Secretary shall seek to ensure that States are invited and represented in the Council's meetings or other activities.

''(4) LEADERSHIP.—The leadership of the Council shall rotate every 2 years among the Council members appointed under paragraph (1), or as otherwise determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture, Defense, and Commerce.

''(5) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding section 708 of title VII of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328), the Council members appointed under paragraph (1) may enter into agreements to share the management and operational costs of the Council.

''(c) COORDINATION.—The Council shall meet as frequently as appropriate for the purposes of coordinating on issues related to outdoor recreation, including—

''(1) recreation programs and management policies across Federal land and water management agencies, including activities associated with the implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.), as appropriate;

''(2) the response by Federal land and water management agencies to public health emergencies or other emergencies, including those that result in disruptions to, or closures of, Federal recreational lands and waters;

''(3) investments relating to outdoor recreation on Federal recreational lands and waters, including funds made available under section 40804(b)(7) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592a(b)(7));

''(4) management of emerging technologies on Federal recreational lands and waters;

''(5) research activities, including quantifying the economic impacts of recreation;

''(6) dissemination to the public of recreation-related information, in a manner that ensures the recreation-related information is easily accessible with modern communication devices;

''(7) the improvement of access to Federal recreational lands and waters; and

''(8) the identification and engagement of partners outside the Federal Government—

''(A) to promote outdoor recreation;

''(B) to facilitate collaborative management of outdoor recreation; and

''(C) to provide additional resources relating to enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities; and

''(9) any other outdoor recreation-related issues that the Council determines necessary.

''(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authorities, regulations, or policies of any Federal agency described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 2001 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 200104 and inserting the following:

''200104. Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation''.

SEC. 114. RECREATION BUDGET CROSSCUT.

Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2025, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress and make public online a report that describes and itemizes the total amount of funding relating to outdoor recreation that was obligated in the preceding fiscal year in accounts in the Treasury for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

Subtitle B—Public Recreation on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

SEC. 121. BIKING ON LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall identify—

(1) not fewer than 10 long-distance bike trails that make use of trails and roads in existence on the date of the enactment of this title; and

(2) not fewer than 10 areas in which there is an opportunity to develop or complete a trail that would qualify as a long-distance bike trail.

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall—

(1) develop a process to allow members of the public to comment regarding the identification of trails and areas under subsection (a); and

(2) consider the identification, development, and completion of long-distance bike trails in a geographically equitable manner.

(c) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—For any long-distance bike trail identified under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may—

(1) publish and distribute maps, install signage, and issue promotional materials; and

(2) coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any non-Federal resources necessary for the stewardship, development, or completion of trails.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries, in partnership with interested organizations, shall prepare and publish a report that lists the trails identified under subsection (a), including a summary of public comments received in accordance with the process developed under subsection (b).

(e) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—Before identifying a long-distance bike trail under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure the long-distance bike trail—

(1) minimizes conflict with—

(A) the uses, before the date of the enactment of this title, of any trail or road that is part of that long-distance bike trail;

(B) multiple-use areas where biking, hiking, horseback riding, or use by pack and saddle stock are existing uses on the date of the enactment of this title;

(C) the purposes for which any trail was or is established under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.); and

(D) any area managed under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) complies with land use and management plans of the Federal recreational lands and waters that are part of that long-distance bike trail.

(f) EMINENT DOMAIN OR CONDEMNATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries may not use eminent domain or condemnation.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LONG-DISTANCE BIKE TRAIL.—The term ''long-distance bike trail'' means a continuous route, consisting of 1 or more trails or rights-of-way, that—

(A) is not less than 80 miles in length;

(B) primarily makes use of dirt or natural surface trails;

(C) may require connections along paved or other improved roads;

(D) does not include Federal recreational lands where mountain biking or related activities are not consistent with management requirements for those Federal recreational lands; and

(E) to the maximum extent practicable, makes use of trails and roads that were on Federal recreational lands on or before the date of the enactment of this title.

(2) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting jointly.

SEC. 122. PROTECTING AMERICA'S ROCK CLIMBING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this title, each Secretary concerned shall issue guidance for recreational climbing activities on covered Federal land.

(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall ensure that recreational climbing activities comply with the laws (including regulations) applicable to the covered Federal land.

(c) WILDERNESS AREAS.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall recognize that recreational climbing (including the use, placement, and maintenance of fixed anchors) is an appropriate use within a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, if undertaken—

(1) in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and other applicable laws (including regulations); and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions determined by the Secretary concerned to be appropriate.

(d) AUTHORIZATION.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall describe the requirements, if any, for the placement and maintenance of fixed anchors for recreational climbing in a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including any terms and conditions determined by the Secretary concerned to be appropriate, which may be issued programmatically or on a case-by-case basis.

(e) EXISTING ROUTES.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall include direction providing for the continued use and maintenance of recreational climbing routes (including fixed anchors along the routes) in existence as of the date of the enactment of this title, in accordance with this Act.

(f) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Before finalizing the guidance issued under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall provide opportunities for public comment with respect to the guidance.

(g) COVERED FEDERAL LAND DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered Federal land''—

(1) means the lands described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2); and

(2) includes components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

SEC. 123. RANGE ACCESS.

(a) DEFINITION OF TARGET SHOOTING RANGE.—In this section, the term ''target shooting range'' means a developed and managed area that is authorized or operated by the Forest Service, a concessioner of the Forest Service, or the Bureau of Land Management (or their lessee) specifically for the purposeful discharge by the public of legal firearms, firearms training, archery, or other associated activities.

(b) ASSESSMENT; IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET SHOOTING RANGE LOCATIONS.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall make available to the public a list that—

(A) identifies each National Forest and each Bureau of Land Management district that has a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in paragraph (3)(B);

(B) identifies each National Forest and each Bureau of Land Management district that does not have a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in paragraph (3)(B); and

(C) for each National Forest and each Bureau of Land Management district identified under subparagraph (B), provides a determination of whether applicable law or the applicable land use plan prevents the establishment of a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in paragraph (3)(B).

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET SHOOTING RANGE LOCATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall identify at least 1 suitable location for a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in paragraph (3)(B) within each National Forest and each Bureau of Land Management district with respect to which the Secretary concerned has determined under paragraph (1)(C) that the establishment of a target shooting range is not prevented by applicable law or the applicable land use plan.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries, in consultation with the entities described in subsection (d), shall, for purposes of identifying a suitable location for a target shooting range under subparagraph (A)—

(i) consider the proximity of areas frequently used by recreational shooters;

(ii) ensure that the target shooting range would not adversely impact a shooting range operated on non-Federal land; and

(iii) consider other nearby recreational uses, including proximity to units of the National Park System, to minimize potential conflict and prioritize visitor safety.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TARGET SHOOTING RANGES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, at 1 or more suitable locations identified on each eligible National Forest and Bureau of Land Management district under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary concerned shall—

(i) subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, construct a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (B) or modify an existing target shooting range to meet the requirements described in subparagraph (B); or

(ii) enter into an agreement with an entity described in subsection (d)(1), under which the entity shall establish or maintain a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A target shooting range established under this paragraph—

(i)(I) shall be able to accommodate rifles and pistols;

(II) may include skeet, trap, or sporting clay infrastructure; and

(III) may accommodate archery;

(ii) shall include appropriate public safety designs and features, including—

(I) significantly modified landscapes, including berms, buffer distances, or other public safety designs or features; and

(II) a designated firing line; and

(iii) may include—

(I) shade structures;

(II) trash containers;

(III) restrooms;

(IV) benches; and

(V) any other features that the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary.

(C) RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Secretary concerned may consider a target shooting range that is located on land transferred or leased pursuant to the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), as a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (B).

(c) RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—The management of a target shooting range shall be subject to such conditions as the Secretary concerned determines are necessary for the safe, responsible use of—

(A) the target shooting range; and

(B) the adjacent land and resources.

(2) CLOSURES.—Except in emergency situations, the Secretary concerned shall seek to ensure that a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subsection (b)(3)(B), or an equivalent shooting range adjacent to a National Forest or Bureau of Land Management district, is available to the public prior to closing Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Chief of the Forest Service or the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to recreational shooting, in accordance with

section 4103 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 7913).

(d) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries shall coordinate with—

(A) State, Tribal, and local governments;

(B) nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations, including organizations that are signatories to the memorandum of understanding entitled ''Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding'' and signed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management on August 17, 2006;

(C) shooting clubs;

(D) Federal advisory councils relating to hunting and shooting sports; and

(E) individuals or entities with authorized leases or permits in an area under consideration for a target shooting range.

(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretaries may—

(A) coordinate with an entity described in paragraph (1) to assist with the construction, modification, operation, or maintenance of a target shooting range; and

(B) explore opportunities to leverage funding to maximize non-Federal investment in the construction, modification, operation, or maintenance of a target shooting range.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title and annually thereafter through fiscal year 2033, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made with respect to the implementation of this section.

(f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Secretary concerned to administer a target shooting range that is in addition to the target shooting ranges that meet the requirements described in subsection (b)(3)(B) on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 124. RESTORATION OF OVERNIGHT CAMPSITES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RECREATION AREA.—The term ''Recreation Area'' means the recreation area and grounds associated with the recreation area on the map entitled ''Ouachita National Forest Camping Restoration'' and dated November 30, 2023, on file with the Forest Service.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this title, identify 54 areas within the Recreation Area that may be suitable for overnight camping; and

(2) not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title—

(A) review each area identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) from the areas so identified, select and establish at least 27 campsites and related facilities within the Recreation Area for public use.

(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CAMPSITES AND RELATED FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) ensure that at least 27 campsites are available under subsection (b), of which not less than 8 shall have electric and water hookups; and

(2) ensure that each campsite and related facility identified or established under subsection (b) is located outside of the 1 percent annual exceedance probability flood elevation.

(d) REOPENING OF CERTAIN SITES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall open each campsite within the Recreation Area that—

(1) exists on the date of the enactment of this title;

(2) is located outside of the 1 percent annual exceedance probability flood elevation;

(3) was in operation on June 1, 2010; and

(4) would not interfere with any current (as of the date of the enactment of this title) day use areas.

(e) DAY USE AREAS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to rehabilitate and make publicly accessible the areas in the Recreation Area identified for year-round day use, including the following:

(1) Loop A.

(2) Loop B.

(3) The covered, large-group picnic pavilion in Loop D.

(4) The parking lot in Loop D.

SEC. 125. FEDERAL INTERIOR LAND MEDIA.

(a) FILMING IN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM UNITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking section 100905 and inserting the following:

''§ 100905. Filming and still photography in System units

''(a) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that a filming or still photography activity or similar project in a System unit (referred to in this section as a 'filming or still photography activity') and the authorizing or permitting of a filming or still photography activity are carried out consistent with—

''(A) the laws and policies applicable to the Service; and

''(B) an applicable general management plan.

''(2) NO PERMITS REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall not require an authorization or a permit or assess a fee, if a fee for a filming or still photography activity is not otherwise required by law, for a filming or still photography activity that—

''(A)(i) involves fewer than 6 individuals; and

''(ii) meets each of the requirements described in paragraph (5); or

''(B) is merely incidental to, or documenting, an activity or event that is allowed or authorized at the System unit, regardless of—

''(i) the number of individuals participating in the allowed or authorized activity or event; or

''(ii) whether any individual receives compensation for any products of the filming or still photography activity.

''(3) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AUTHORIZATIONS FOR DE MINIMIS USE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a de minimis use authorization for certain filming or still photography activities that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (F).

''(B) POLICY.—For a filming or still photography activity that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (F), the Secretary—

''(i) may require a de minimis use authorization; and

''(ii) shall not require a permit.

''(C) NO FEE.—The Secretary shall not charge a fee for a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph.

''(D) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall enable members of the public to apply for and obtain a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph—

''(i) through the website of the Service; and

''(ii) in person at the field office of the applicable System unit.

''(E) ISSUANCES.—The Secretary shall—

''(i) establish a procedure—

''(I) to automate the approval of an application submitted through the website of the Service under subparagraph (D)(i); and

''(II) to issue a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph immediately on receipt of an application that is submitted in person at the field office of the applicable System unit under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

''(ii) if an application submitted under subparagraph (D) meets the requirements of this paragraph, immediately on receipt of the application issue a de minimis use authorization for the filming or still photography activity.

''(F) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall only issue a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph if the filming or still photography activity—

''(i) involves a group of not fewer than 6 individuals and not more than 8 individuals;

''(ii) meets each of the requirements described in paragraph (5); and

''(iii) is consistent with subsection (c).

''(G) CONTENTS.—A de minimis use authorization issued under this paragraph shall list the requirements described in subparagraph (F).

''(4) REQUIRED PERMITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary may require a permit application and, if a permit is issued, assess a reasonable fee, as described in subsection (b)(1), for a filming or still photography activity that—

''(i) involves more than 8 individuals; or

''(ii) does not meet each of the requirements described in paragraph (5).

''(B) WILDERNESS ACT CLARIFICATION.—No provision of this subsection is intended to or shall be construed to conflict with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

''(5) REQUIREMENTS FOR FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY.—The requirements referred to in paragraphs (2)(A)(ii), (3)(F)(ii), (4)(B), and (7)(C) are as follows:

''(A) A person conducts the filming or still photography activity in a manner that—

''(i) does not impede or intrude on the experience of other visitors to the applicable System unit;

''(ii) except as otherwise authorized, does not disturb or negatively impact—

''(I) a natural or cultural resource; or

''(II) an environmental or scenic value; and

''(iii) allows for equitable allocation or use of facilities of the applicable System unit.

''(B) The person conducts the filming or still photography activity at a location in which the public is allowed.

''(C) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity does not require the exclusive use of a site or area.

''(D) The person does not conduct the filming or still photography activity in a localized area that receives a very high volume of visitation.

''(E) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity does not use a set or staging equipment, subject to the limitation that handheld equipment (such as a tripod, monopod, and handheld lighting equipment) shall not be considered staging equipment for the purposes of this subparagraph.

''(F) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity complies with and adheres to visitor use policies, practices, and regulations applicable to the applicable System unit.

''(G) The filming or still photography activity is not likely to result in additional administrative costs being incurred by the Secretary with respect to the filming or still photography activity, as determined by the Secretary.

''(H) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity complies with other applicable Federal, State (as such term

is defined in section 3 of the EXPLORE Act), and local laws (including regulations), including laws relating to the use of unmanned aerial equipment.

''(6) CONTENT CREATION.—Regardless of distribution platform, any video, still photograph, or audio recording for commercial or noncommercial content creation in a System unit shall be considered to be a filming or still photography activity under this subsection.

''(7) EFFECT.—

''(A) PERMITS REQUESTED THOUGH NOT REQUIRED.—On the request of a person intending to carry out a filming or still photography activity, the Secretary may issue a permit for the filming or still photography activity, even if a permit for the filming or still photography activity is not required under this section.

''(B) NO ADDITIONAL PERMITS, COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS, OR FEES FOR FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AT AUTHORIZED EVENTS.—A filming or still photography activity at an activity or event that is allowed or authorized, including a wedding, engagement party, family reunion, or celebration of a graduate, shall be considered merely incidental for the purposes of paragraph (2)(B).

''(C) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—The receipt of monetary compensation by the person conducting the filming or still photography activity shall not affect the permissibility of the filming or still photography activity.

''(b) FEES AND RECOVERY COSTS.—

''(1) FEES.—The reasonable fees referred to in subsection (a)(4) shall meet each of the following criteria:

''(A) The reasonable fee shall provide a fair return to the United States.

''(B) The reasonable fee shall be based on the following criteria:

''(i) The number of days of the filming or still photography activity.

''(ii) The size of the film or still photography crew present in the System unit.

''(iii) The quantity and type of film or still photography equipment present in the System unit.

''(iv) Any other factors that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect from the applicant for the applicable permit any costs incurred by the Secretary related to a filming or still photography activity subject to a permit under subsection (a)(4), including—

''(i) the costs of the review or issuance of the permit; and

''(ii) related administrative and personnel costs.

''(B) EFFECT ON FEES COLLECTED.—All costs recovered under subparagraph (A) shall be in addition to the fee described in paragraph (1).

''(3) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

''(A) FEES.—All fees collected under this section shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(B) COSTS.—All costs recovered under paragraph (2)(A) shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, at the System unit at which the costs are collected; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(c) PROTECTION OF RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall not allow a person to undertake a filming or still photography activity if the Secretary determines that—

''(1) there is a likelihood that the person would cause resource damage at the System unit, except as otherwise authorized;

''(2) the person would create an unreasonable disruption of the use and enjoyment by the public of the System unit; or

''(3) the filming or still photography activity poses a health or safety risk to the public.

''(d) PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a process to ensure that the Secretary responds in a timely manner to an application for a permit for a filming or still photography activity required under subsection (a)(4).

''(2) COORDINATION.—If a permit is required under this section for 2 or more Federal agencies or System units, the Secretary and the head of any other applicable Federal agency, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate permit processing procedures, including through the use of identifying a lead agency or lead System unit—

''(A) to review the application for the permit;

''(B) to issue the permit; and

''(C) to collect any required fees.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 100905 and inserting the following:

''100905. Filming and still photography in System units.''.

(b) FILMING ON OTHER FEDERAL LAND.—Public Law 106–206 (16 U.S.C. 4601–6d) is amended by striking section 1 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 1. FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY.

''(a) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall ensure that a filming or still photography activity or similar project at a Federal land management unit (referred to in this section as a 'filming or still photography activity') and the authorizing or permitting of a filming or still photography activity are carried out consistent with—

''(A) the laws and policies applicable to the Secretary concerned; and

''(B) an applicable general management plan.

''(2) NO PERMITS REQUIRED.—The Secretary concerned shall not require an authorization or a permit or assess a fee, if a fee for a filming or still photography activity is not otherwise required by law, for a filming or still photography activity that—

''(A)(i) involves fewer than 6 individuals; and

''(ii) meets each of the requirements described in paragraph (5); or

''(B) is merely incidental to, or documenting, an activity or event that is allowed or authorized at the Federal land management unit, regardless of—

''(i) the number of individuals participating in the allowed or authorized activity or event; or

''(ii) whether any individual receives compensation for any products of the filming or still photography activity.

''(3) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AUTHORIZATIONS FOR DE MINIMIS USE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall establish a de minimis use authorization for certain filming or still photography activities that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (F).

''(B) POLICY.—For a filming or still photography activity that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (F), the Secretary concerned—

''(i) may require a de minimis use authorization; and

''(ii) shall not require a permit.

''(C) NO FEE.—The Secretary concerned shall not charge a fee for a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph.

''(D) ACCESS.—The Secretary concerned shall enable members of the public to apply for and obtain a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph—

''(i) through the website of the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, as applicable; and

''(ii) in person at the field office for the Federal land management unit.

''(E) ISSUANCES.—The Secretary concerned shall—

''(i) establish a procedure—

''(I) to automate the approval of an application submitted through the website of the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, as applicable, under subparagraph (D)(i); and

''(II) to issue a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph immediately on receipt of an application that is submitted in person at the field office for the Federal land management unit under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

''(ii) if an application submitted under subparagraph (D) meets the requirements of this paragraph, immediately on receipt of the application issue a de minimis use authorization for the filming or still photography activity.

''(F) TERMS.—The Secretary concerned shall only issue a de minimis use authorization under this paragraph if the filming or still photography activity—

''(i) involves a group of not fewer than 6 individuals and not more than 8 individuals;

''(ii) meets each of the requirements described in paragraph (5); and

''(iii) is consistent with subsection (c).

''(G) CONTENTS.—A de minimis use authorization issued under this paragraph shall list the requirements described in subparagraph (F).

''(4) REQUIRED PERMITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary concerned may require a permit application and, if a permit is issued, assess a reasonable fee, as described in subsection (b)(1), for a filming or still photography activity that—

''(i) involves more than 8 individuals; or

''(ii) does not meet each of the requirements described in paragraph (5).

''(B) WILDERNESS ACT CLARIFICATION.—No provision of this subsection is intended to or shall be construed to conflict with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

''(5) REQUIREMENTS FOR FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY.—The requirements referred to in paragraphs (2)(A)(ii), (3)(F)(ii), (4)(B), and (7)(C) are as follows:

''(A) A person conducts the filming or still photography activity in a manner that—

''(i) does not impede or intrude on the experience of other visitors to the Federal land management unit;

''(ii) except as otherwise authorized, does not disturb or negatively impact—

''(I) a natural or cultural resource; or

''(II) an environmental or scenic value; and

''(iii) allows for equitable allocation or use of facilities of the Federal land management unit.

''(B) The person conducts the filming or still photography activity at a location in which the public is allowed.

''(C) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity does not require the exclusive use of a site or area.

''(D) The person does not conduct the filming or still photography activity in a localized area that receives a very high volume of visitation.

''(E) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity does not use a set

or staging equipment, subject to the limitation that handheld equipment (such as a tripod, monopod, and handheld lighting equipment) shall not be considered staging equipment for the purposes of this subparagraph.

''(F) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity complies with and adheres to visitor use policies, practices, and regulations applicable to the Federal land management unit.

''(G) The filming or still photography activity is not likely to result in additional administrative costs being incurred by the Secretary concerned with respect to the filming or still photography activity, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

''(H) The person conducting the filming or still photography activity complies with other applicable Federal, State (as such term is defined in section 3 of the EXPLORE Act), and local laws (including regulations), including laws relating to the use of unmanned aerial equipment.

''(6) CONTENT CREATION.—Regardless of distribution platform, any video, still photograph, or audio recording for commercial or noncommercial content creation at a Federal land management unit shall be considered to be a filming or still photography activity under this subsection.

''(7) EFFECT.—

''(A) PERMITS REQUESTED THOUGH NOT REQUIRED.—On the request of a person intending to carry out a filming or still photography activity, the Secretary concerned may issue a permit for the filming or still photography activity, even if a permit for the filming or still photography activity is not required under this section.

''(B) NO ADDITIONAL PERMITS, COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS, OR FEES FOR FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AT AUTHORIZED EVENTS.—A filming or still photography activity at an activity or event that is allowed or authorized, including a wedding, engagement party, family reunion, or celebration of a graduate, shall be considered merely incidental for the purposes of paragraph (2)(B).

''(C) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—The receipt of monetary compensation by the person engaged in the filming or still photography activity shall not affect the permissibility of the filming or still photography activity.

''(b) FEES AND RECOVERY COSTS.—

''(1) FEES.—The reasonable fees referred to in subsection (a)(4) shall meet each of the following criteria:

''(A) The reasonable fee shall provide a fair return to the United States.

''(B) The reasonable fee shall be based on the following criteria:

''(i) The number of days of the filming or still photography activity.

''(ii) The size of the film or still photography crew present at the Federal land management unit.

''(iii) The quantity and type of film or still photography equipment present at the Federal land management unit.

''(iv) Any other factors that the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary.

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall collect from the applicant for the applicable permit any costs incurred by the Secretary concerned related to a filming or still photography activity subject to a permit under subsection (a)(4), including—

''(i) the costs of the review or issuance of the permit; and

''(ii) related administrative and personnel costs.

''(B) EFFECT ON FEES COLLECTED.—All costs recovered under subparagraph (A) shall be in addition to the fee described in paragraph (1).

''(3) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

''(A) FEES.—All fees collected under this section shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary concerned, without further appropriation; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(B) COSTS.—All costs recovered under paragraph (2)(A) shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary concerned, without further appropriation, at the Federal land management unit at which the costs are collected; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(c) PROTECTION OF RESOURCES.—The Secretary concerned shall not allow a person to undertake a filming or still photography activity if the Secretary concerned determines that—

''(1) there is a likelihood that the person would cause resource damage at the Federal land management unit, except as otherwise authorized;

''(2) the person would create an unreasonable disruption of the use and enjoyment by the public of the Federal land management unit; or

''(3) the filming or still photography activity poses a health or safety risk to the public.

''(d) PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall establish a process to ensure that the Secretary concerned responds in a timely manner to an application for a permit for a filming or still photography activity required under subsection (a)(4).

''(2) COORDINATION.—If a permit is required under this section for 2 or more Federal agencies or Federal land management units, the Secretary concerned and the head of any other applicable Federal agency, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate permit processing procedures, including through the use of identifying a lead agency or lead Federal land management unit—

''(A) to review the application for the permit;

''(B) to issue the permit; and

''(C) to collect any required fees.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT UNIT.—The term 'Federal land management unit' means—

''(A) Federal land (other than National Park System land) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; and

''(B) National Forest System land.

''(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term 'Secretary concerned' means—

''(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(B).''.

SEC. 126. CAPE AND ANTLER PRESERVATION ENHANCEMENT.

Section 104909(c) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking ''meat from'' and inserting ''meat and any other part of an animal removed pursuant to''.

SEC. 127. MOTORIZED AND NONMOTORIZED ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall seek to have, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, in a printed and publicly available format that is compliant with the format for geographic information systems—

(1) for each district administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, a ground transportation linear feature map authorized for public use or administrative use; and

(2) for each unit of the National Forest System, a motor vehicle use map, in accordance with existing law.

(b) OVER-SNOW VEHICLE-USE MAPS.—The Secretary concerned shall seek to have, not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of this title, in a printed and publicly available format that is compliant with the format for geographic information systems, an over-snow vehicle-use map for each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Chief of the Forest Service or Director of the Bureau of Land Management on which over-snow vehicle-use occurs, in accordance with existing law.

(c) OUT-OF-DATE MAPS.—Not later than 20 years after the date on which the Secretary concerned adopted or reviewed, through public notice and comment, a map described in subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary concerned shall seek to review, through public notice and comment, and update, as necessary, the applicable map.

(d) MOTORIZED AND NONMOTORIZED ACCESS.—The Secretaries shall seek to create additional opportunities, as appropriate, and in accordance with existing law, for motorized and nonmotorized access and opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Chief of the Forest Service or the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section prohibits a lawful use, including authorized motorized or nonmotorized uses, on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Chief of the Forest Service or the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, if the Secretary concerned fails to meet a timeline established under this section.

SEC. 128. AQUATIC RESOURCE ACTIVITIES ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES TASK FORCE.—The term ''Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force'' means the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force established by section 1201(a) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4721(a)).

(2) DECONTAMINATION.—The term ''decontamination'' means actions to remove aquatic nuisance species to prevent introduction or spread into new aquatic ecosystems.

(3) FEDERAL LAND AND WATER.—The term ''Federal land and water'' means Federal land and water operated and maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service, or the National Park Service, as applicable.

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(5) INSPECTION.—The term ''inspection'' means actions to find aquatic nuisance species to prevent introduction or spread into new aquatic ecosystems.

(6) PARTNER.—The term ''partner'' means—

(A) a Reclamation State;

(B) an Indian Tribe in a Reclamation State;

(C) an applicable nonprofit organization in a Reclamation State;

(D) a unit of local government in a Reclamation State; or

(E) a private entity.

(7) RECLAMATION STATE.—The term ''Reclamation State'' includes any of the following States:

(A) Alaska.

(B) Arizona.

(C) California.

(D) Colorado.

(E) Idaho.

(F) Kansas.

(G) Montana.

(H) Nebraska.

(I) Nevada.

(J) New Mexico.
(K) North Dakota.
(L) Oklahoma.
(M) Oregon.
(N) South Dakota.
(O) Texas.
(P) Utah.
(Q) Washington.
(R) Wyoming.

(8) RECLAMATION PROJECT.—The term ''reclamation project'' has the meaning given such term in section 2803(3) of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 4601-32(3)).

(9) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means each of the following:

(A) The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Commissioner of Reclamation, and the Director of the National Park Service.

(B) The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(10) VESSEL.—The term ''vessel'' means any watercraft or other contrivance used or designed for transportation or navigation on, under, or immediately above, water.

(b) AUTHORITY OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND FOREST SERVICE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN AQUATIC RESOURCE ACTIVITIES ON FEDERAL LAND AND WATERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Federal land management agency is authorized to carry out inspections and decontamination of vessels entering or leaving Federal land and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective Federal land management agency.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall—

(A) in carrying out an inspection and decontamination under paragraph (1), coordinate with 1 or more partners;

(B) consult with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to identify potential improvements and efficiencies in the detection and management of aquatic nuisance species on Federal land and water; and

(C) to the maximum extent practicable, inspect and decontaminate vessels in a manner that minimizes disruptions to public access for boating and recreation in noncontaminated vessels.

(3) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretaries may enter into a partnership to lead, collaborate with, or provide technical assistance to a partner—

(A) to carry out an inspection or decontamination of vessels; or

(B) to establish an inspection and decontamination station for vessels.

(4) LIMITATION.—The Secretaries shall not prohibit access to vessels due solely to the absence of a Federal, State, or partner's inspection program or station.

(5) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) AUTHORITY TO REGULATE VESSELS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commandant of the Coast Guard to regulate vessels provided under any other provision of law.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—Authorities granted in this subsection shall not apply at locations where inspection or decontamination activities would duplicate efforts by the Coast Guard.

(6) DATA SHARING.—The Secretaries shall make available to a Reclamation State any relevant data gathered related to inspections or decontaminations carried out under this subsection in such State.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM FOR RECLAMATION STATES FOR VESSEL INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION STATIONS.—

(1) VESSELS INSPECTIONS IN RECLAMATION STATES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall establish a competitive grant program to provide financial assistance to partners to conduct inspections and decontamination of vessels operating in Reclamation projects, including to purchase, establish, operate, or maintain a vessel inspection and decontamination station.

(2) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a grant under paragraph (1), including personnel costs, shall not exceed 75 percent.

(3) STANDARDS.—Before awarding a grant under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall determine that the project is technically and financially feasible.

(4) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate with—

(A) each of the Reclamation States;

(B) affected Indian Tribes; and

(C) the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

Subtitle C—Supporting Gateway Communities and Addressing Park Overcrowding

SEC. 131. GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND NEEDS IN GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—The Secretaries—

(1) shall collaborate with State and local governments, Indian Tribes, housing authorities, applicable trade associations, nonprofit organizations, private entities, and other relevant stakeholders to identify needs and economic impacts in gateway communities, including—

(A) housing shortages;

(B) demands on existing municipal infrastructure;

(C) accommodation and management of sustainable visitation; and

(D) the expansion and diversification of visitor experiences by bolstering the visitation at—

(i) existing developed locations that are underutilized on nearby Federal recreational lands and waters that are suitable for developing, expanding, or enhancing recreation use, as identified by the Secretaries; or

(ii) existing developed and suitable lesser-known recreation sites, as identified under section 5(b)(1)(B), on nearby land managed by a State agency or a local agency; and

(2) may address a need identified under paragraph (1) by—

(A) providing financial or technical assistance to a gateway community under an existing program;

(B) entering into an agreement, right-of-way, or easement, in accordance with applicable laws; or

(C) issuing an entity referred to in paragraph (1) a special use permit (other than a special recreation permit (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)), in accordance with applicable laws.

(b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Administrator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service), in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall provide to businesses in gateway communities the assistance described in paragraph (2) to establish, operate, or expand infrastructure to accommodate and manage sustainable visitation, including hotels, campgrounds, and restaurants.

(2) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide assistance under paragraph (1) through the use of existing, or the establishment of new, entrepreneur and vocational training programs, technical assistance programs, low-interest business loan programs, and loan guarantee programs.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries may, in accordance with applicable laws, enter into a public-private partnership, cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or similar agreement with a gateway community or a business in a gateway community.

SEC. 132. IMPROVED RECREATION VISITATION DATA.

(a) CONSISTENT VISITATION DATA.—

(1) ANNUAL VISITATION DATA.—The Secretaries shall establish a single visitation data reporting system to report accurate annual visitation data, in a consistent manner, for—

(A) each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(B) land held in trust for an Indian Tribe, on request of the Indian Tribe.

(2) CATEGORIES OF USE.—Within the visitation data reporting system established under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall—

(A) establish multiple categories of different recreation activities that are reported consistently across agencies; and

(B) provide an estimate of the number of visitors for each applicable category established under subparagraph (A) for each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) REAL-TIME DATA PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, using existing funds available to the Secretaries, the Secretaries shall carry out a pilot program, to be known as the ''Real-Time Data Pilot Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Pilot Program''), to make available to the public, for each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters selected for participation in the Pilot Program under paragraph (2)—

(A) real-time or predictive data on visitation (including data and resources publicly available from existing nongovernmental platforms) at—

(i) the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(ii) to the extent practicable, areas within the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(iii) to the extent practicable, recreation sites managed by any other Federal agency, a State agency, or a local agency that are located near the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(B) through multiple media platforms, information about lesser-known recreation sites located near the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters (including recreation sites managed by any other Federal agency, a State agency, or a local agency), in an effort to encourage visitation among recreational sites.

(2) LOCATIONS.—

(A) INITIAL NUMBER OF UNITS.—On establishment of the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall select for participation in the Pilot Program—

(i) 10 units of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Secretary;

(ii) 5 units of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service);

(iii) 1 unit of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Secretary of Commerce (acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration); and

(iv) 1 unit of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall submit a report to Congress regarding the implementation of the pilot program, including policy recommendations to expand the pilot program to additional units managed by the Secretaries.

(C) FEEDBACK; SUPPORT OF GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—The Secretaries shall—

(i) solicit feedback regarding participation in the Pilot Program from communities adjacent to units of Federal recreational lands and waters and the public; and

(ii) in carrying out subparagraphs (A) and (B), select a unit of Federal recreation lands and waters to participate in the Pilot Program only if the community adjacent to the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters is supportive of the participation of the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters in the Pilot Program.

(3) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretaries may disseminate the information described in paragraph (1) directly or through an entity or organization referred to in subsection (c).

(4) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program, the Secretaries may, to the extent practicable, rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of enactment of this title.

(c) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary concerned may—

(1) coordinate and partner with—

(A) communities adjacent to units of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(B) State and local outdoor recreation and tourism offices;

(C) local governments;

(D) Indian Tribes;

(E) trade associations;

(F) local outdoor recreation marketing organizations;

(G) permitted facilitated recreation providers; or

(H) other relevant stakeholders; and

(2) coordinate or enter into agreements, as appropriate, with private sector and nonprofit partners, including—

(A) technology companies;

(B) geospatial data companies;

(C) experts in data science, analytics, and operations research; or

(D) data companies.

(d) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Secretaries may use existing programs or products of the Secretaries to carry out this section.

(e) PRIVACY CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section provides authority to the Secretaries—

(1) to monitor or record the movements of a visitor to a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(2) to restrict, interfere with, or monitor a private communication of a visitor to a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; or

(3) to collect—

(A) information from owners of land adjacent to a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; or

(B) information on non-Federal land.

(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Secretaries shall publish on a website of the Secretaries a report that describes the annual visitation of each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, including, to the maximum extent practicable, visitation categorized by recreational activity.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.—The term ''Federal recreational lands and waters''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801); and

(B) includes Federal lands and waters managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

(2) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means—

(A) the Secretary, with respect to lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, with respect to lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service;

(C) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with respect to Federal waters under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(D) the Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works, with respect to lakes and reservoirs under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

SEC. 133. MONITORING FOR IMPROVED RECREATION DECISION MAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall seek to capture comprehensive recreation use data to better understand and inform decision making by the Secretaries.

(b) PILOT PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, and after public notice and comment, the Secretaries shall establish pilot protocols at not fewer than 10 land management units under the jurisdiction of each of the Secretaries to model recreation use patterns (including low-use recreation activities and dispersed recreation activities) that may not be effectively measured by existing general and opportunistic survey and monitoring protocols.

(c) SECRETARIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Secretaries'' means—

(1) the Secretary, with respect to lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(2) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, with respect to lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service;

(3) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with respect to Federal waters under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(4) the Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works, with respect to lakes and reservoirs under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Subtitle D—Broadband Connectivity on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

SEC. 141. CONNECT OUR PARKS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term ''broadband internet access service'' has the meaning given the term in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(3) CELLULAR SERVICE.—The term ''cellular service'' has the meaning given the term in section 22.99 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(4) NATIONAL PARK.—The term ''National Park'' means a unit of the National Park System.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall complete an assessment of National Parks to identify—

(A) locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service, based on the considerations described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, based on the considerations described in paragraph (2)(B).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—For purposes of identifying locations in National Parks under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall consider, with respect to each National Park, the availability of broadband internet access service in—

(i) housing;

(ii) administrative facilities and related structures;

(iii) lodging;

(iv) developed campgrounds; and

(v) any other location within the National Park in which broadband internet access service is determined to be necessary by the superintendent of the National Park.

(B) CELLULAR SERVICE.—For purposes of identifying areas in National Parks under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider, with respect to each National Park, the availability of cellular service in any developed area within the National Park that would increase—

(i) the access of the public to emergency services and traveler information technologies; or

(ii) the communications capabilities of National Park Service employees.

(3) REPORT.—On completion of the assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make available on the website of the Department of the Interior, a report describing the results of the assessment.

(c) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall develop a plan, based on the results of the assessment completed under subsection (b) and subject to paragraph (4)—

(A) to install broadband internet access service infrastructure in certain locations in National Parks; and

(B) to install cellular service equipment and infrastructure in certain areas of National Parks.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) affected Indian Tribes; and

(B) local stakeholders that the superintendent of the applicable National Park determines to be appropriate.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide for avoiding or minimizing impacts to—

(i) National Park viewsheds;

(ii) cultural and natural resources;

(iii) the visitor experience;

(iv) historic properties and the viewsheds of historic properties; and

(v) other resources or values of the National Park.

(B) provide for infrastructure providing broadband internet access service or cellular service to be located in—

(i) previously disturbed or developed areas; or

(ii) areas zoned for uses that would support the infrastructure;

(C) provide for the use of public-private partnerships—

(i) to install broadband internet access service or cellular service equipment; and

(ii) to provide broadband internet access service or cellular service;

(D) be technology neutral; and

(E) in the case of broadband internet access service, provide for broadband internet access service of at least—

(i) a 100–Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

(ii) a 20–Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

(4) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a plan developed under that paragraph shall not be required to address broadband internet access service or cellular service in any National Park with respect to which the superintendent of the National Park determines that there is adequate access to broadband internet access service or cellular service, as applicable.

SEC. 142. BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY AT DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Chief of the Forest Service shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Commerce to foster the installation or construction of broadband internet infrastructure at developed recreation sites on Federal recreational lands and waters to establish broadband internet connectivity—

(1) subject to the availability of appropriations; and

(2) in accordance with applicable law.

(b) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter through fiscal year 2031, the Secretary and the Chief of the Forest Service, in coordination with States and local communities, shall make publicly available—

(1) a list of the highest priority developed recreation sites, as determined under subsection (c), on Federal recreational lands and waters that lack broadband internet;

(2) to the extent practicable, an estimate of—

(A) the cost to equip each of those sites with broadband internet infrastructure; and

(B) the annual cost to operate that infrastructure; and

(3) a list of potential—

(A) barriers to operating the infrastructure described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) methods to recover the costs of that operation.

(c) PRIORITIES.—In selecting developed recreation sites for the list described in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary and the Chief of the Forest Service shall give priority to developed recreation sites—

(1) at which broadband internet infrastructure has not been constructed due to—

(A) geographic challenges; or

(B) the location having an insufficient number of nearby permanent residents, despite high seasonal or daily visitation levels; or

(2) that are located in an economically distressed county that could benefit significantly from developing the outdoor recreation economy of the county.

SEC. 143. PUBLIC LANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out activities related to communications sites on lands managed by Federal land management agencies, including—

(1) administering communications use authorizations;

(2) preparing needs assessments or other programmatic analyses necessary to establish communications sites and authorize communications uses on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency;

(3) developing management plans for communications sites on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency on a competitively neutral, technology neutral, nondiscriminatory basis;

(4) training for management of communications sites on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency;

(5) obtaining, improving access to, or establishing communications sites on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency; and

(6) any combination of purposes described in subparagraphs (1) through (5).

(b) CLARIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE FOREST SERVICE.—Section 8705(f) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (4).''.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF RENTAL FEE RETENTION AUTHORITY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive assessment to evaluate the potential benefits of rental fee retention whereby any fee collected for the occupancy and use of Federal lands and waters authorized by a communications use authorization would be deposited into a special account and used solely for activities related to communications sites on lands and waters managed by the Secretary.

Subtitle E—Public–Private Parks Partnerships

SEC. 151. AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

Section 8623 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by striking ''dwelling;'' and inserting ''dwelling or multiunit dwelling;'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''Secretary'' in the middle of the sentence and inserting ''Chief of the Forest Service, or their designee'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by inserting ''such as housing,'' after ''improvements,'';

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in subclause (III), by striking ''or'' at the end and inserting ''and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) services occurring off the administrative site that—

''(aa) occur at another administrative site in the same unit in which the administrative site is located or a different unit of the National Forest System;

''(bb) benefit the National Forest System; and

''(cc) support activities occurring within the unit of the National Forest System in which the administrative site is located; or''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) LEASE TERM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of a lease of an administrative site under this section shall be not more than 100 years.

''(B) REAUTHORIZATION OF USE.—A lease of an administrative site under this section shall include a provision for reauthorization of the use if the—

''(i) use of the administrative site, at the time of reauthorization, is still being used for the purposes authorized;

''(ii) use to be authorized under the new lease is consistent with the applicable land management plan; and

''(iii) lessee is in compliance with all the terms of the existing lease.''

''(C) SAVINGS.—A reauthorization of use under subparagraph (B) may include new terms in the use, as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, or their designee.'';

(4) in subsection (g), by—

(A) striking ''to a leaseholder'' after ''payments''; and

(B) inserting ''or constructed'' after ''improved''; and

(5) in subsection (i), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2028''.

SEC. 152. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS CREATING TANGIBLE SAVINGS.

Section 101703 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 101703. Cooperative management agreements

''(a) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the administration of the System, the Secretary, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers advisable, may enter into an agreement with an eligible entity managing lands and waters located near a System unit to provide for cooperative management of either a System unit or the lands and waters located near a System unit to promote more effective and efficient management of a System unit. The Secretary may not transfer administration responsibilities for any System unit under this paragraph.

''(b) PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under a cooperative management agreement, the Secretary may acquire by purchase, donation, or exchange from and provide to an eligible entity on a reimbursable basis goods and services to be used by the Secretary or the eligible entity in the cooperative management of land and waters.

''(2) RETENTION OF FUNDS.—Reimbursements received under this section may be credited to the appropriation current at the time reimbursements are received.

''(c) CO-LOCATION.—Under the cooperative management agreement, the Secretary and an eligible entity may co-locate in offices and facilities owned or leased by either party.

''(d) EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) ASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEE.—The Secretary may arrange an assignment under section 3372 of title 5 of a Federal employee or an employee of an eligible entity as mutually agreed upon, for work on any Federal, State, local, or Tribal land.

''(2) EXTENSION OF ASSIGNMENT.—The assignment provided in paragraph (1) may be extended for any period of time determined by the Secretary and the eligible entity to be mutually beneficial.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a State or local entity or any political subdivision thereof, or an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

''(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304(e)).

''(3) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.

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

SEC. 153. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS TO MODERNIZE FEDERALLY OWNED CAMPGROUNDS, RESORTS, CABINS, AND VISITOR CENTERS ON FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ''covered activity'' means—

(A) a capital improvement, including the construction, reconstruction, and nonroutine

maintenance of any structure, infrastructure, or improvement, relating to the operation of, or access to, a covered recreation facility; and

(B) any activity necessary to operate or maintain a covered recreation facility.

(2) COVERED RECREATION FACILITY.—The term ''covered recreation facility'' means a federally owned campground, resort, cabin, or visitor center that is—

(A) in existence on the date of the enactment of this title; and

(B) located on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by—

(i) the Chief of the Forest Service; or

(ii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a unit of State, Tribal, or local government;

(B) a nonprofit organization; and

(C) a private entity.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretaries shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary concerned may enter into an agreement with, or issue or amend a land use authorization to, an eligible entity to allow the eligible entity to carry out covered activities relating to a covered recreation facility, subject to the requirements of this section and the terms of any relevant land use authorization, regardless of whether the eligible entity holds, on the date of the enactment of this title, an authorization to be a concessionaire for the covered recreation facility.

(c) MINIMUM NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS OR LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall enter into at least 1 agreement or land use authorization under subsection (b) in—

(1) a unit of the National Forest System in each region of the National Forest System; and

(2) Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in not fewer than 5 States in which the Bureau of Land Management administers Federal recreational lands and waters.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT PLANS.—Before entering into an agreement or issuing a land use authorization under subsection (b), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary concerned a development plan that—

(A) describes investments in the covered recreation facility to be made by the eligible entity during the first 3 years of the agreement or land use authorization;

(B) describes annual maintenance spending to be made by the eligible entity for each year of the agreement or land use authorization; and

(C) includes any other terms and conditions determined to be necessary or appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

(2) AGREEMENTS AND LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—An agreement or land use authorization under subsection (b) shall—

(A) be for a term of not more than 30 years, commensurate with the level of investment;

(B) require that, not later than 3 years after the date on which the Secretary concerned enters into the agreement or issues or amends the land use authorization, the applicable eligible entity shall expend, place in an escrow account for the eligible entity to expend, or deposit in a special account in the Treasury for expenditure by the Secretary concerned, without further appropriation, for covered activities relating to the applicable covered recreation facility, an amount or specified percentage, as determined by the Secretary concerned, which shall be equal to not less than $500,000, of the anticipated receipts for the term of the agreement or land use authorization;

(C) require the eligible entity to operate and maintain the covered recreation facility and any associated infrastructure designated by the Secretary concerned in a manner acceptable to the Secretary concerned and the eligible entity;

(D) include any terms and conditions that the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary for a special use permit issued under section 7 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Granger-Thye Act'') (64 Stat. 84, chapter 97; 16 U.S.C. 580d), including the payment described in subparagraph (E) or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), as applicable;

(E) provide for payment to the Federal Government of a fee or a sharing of revenue—

(i) consistent with—

(I) the land use fee for a special use permit authorized under section 7 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Granger-Thye Act'') (64 Stat. 84, chapter 97; 16 U.S.C. 580d); or

(II) the value to the eligible entity of the rights provided by the agreement or land use authorization, taking into account the capital invested by, and obligations of, the eligible entity under the agreement or land use authorization; and

(ii) all or part of which may be offset by the work to be performed at the expense of the eligible entity that is separate from the routine costs of operating and maintaining the applicable covered recreation facility and any associated infrastructure designated by the Secretary concerned, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned;

(F) include provisions stating that—

(i) the eligible entity shall obtain no property interest in the covered recreation facility pursuant to the expenditures of the eligible entity, as required by the agreement or land use authorization;

(ii) all structures and other improvements constructed, reconstructed, or nonroutinely maintained by that entity under the agreement or land use authorization on land owned by the United States shall be the property of the United States; and

(iii) the eligible entity shall be solely responsible for any cost associated with the decommissioning or removal of a capital improvement, if needed, at the conclusion of the agreement or land use authorization; and

(G) be subject to any other terms and conditions determined to be necessary or appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

(e) LAND USE FEE RETENTION.—A land use fee paid or revenue shared with the Secretary concerned under an agreement or land use authorization under this section shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary concerned for recreation-related purposes on the unit or area of Federal recreational lands and waters at which the land use fee or revenue is collected, without further appropriation.

SEC. 154. PARKING AND RESTROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.

(a) PARKING OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall seek to increase and improve parking opportunities for persons recreating on Federal recreational lands and waters—

(A) in accordance with existing laws and applicable land use plans;

(B) in a manner that minimizes any increase in maintenance obligations on Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(C) in a manner that does not impact wildlife habitat that is critical to the mission of a Federal agency responsible for managing Federal recreational lands and waters.

(2) AUTHORITY.—To supplement the quantity of parking spaces available at units of Federal recreational lands and waters on the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries may—

(A) enter into a public-private partnership for parking opportunities on non-Federal land;

(B) enter into contracts or agreements with State, Tribal, or local governments for parking opportunities using non-Federal lands and resources; or

(C) provide alternative transportation systems for a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) RESTROOM OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall seek to increase and improve the function, cleanliness, and availability of restroom facilities for persons recreating on Federal recreational lands and waters, including by entering into partnerships with non-Federal partners, including State, Tribal, and local governments and volunteer organizations.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit a report to Congress that identifies—

(A) challenges to maintaining or improving the function, cleanliness, and availability of restroom facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters;

(B) the current state of restroom facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters and the effect restroom facilities have on visitor experiences; and

(C) policy recommendations that suggest innovative new models or partnerships to increase or improve the function, cleanliness, and availability of restroom facilities for persons recreating on Federal recreational lands and waters.

SEC. 155. PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR.—The term ''independent evaluator'' means an individual or entity, including an institution of higher education, that is selected by the pay-for-performance beneficiary and pay-for-performance investor, as applicable, or by the pay-for-performance project developer, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to make the determinations and prepare the reports required under subsection (e).

(2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The term ''National Forest System land'' means land in the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))).

(3) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT.—The term ''pay-for-performance agreement'' means a mutual benefit agreement (excluding a procurement contract, grant agreement, or cooperative agreement described in chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code) for a pay-for-performance project—

(A) with a term of—

(i) not less than 1 year; and

(ii) not more than 20 years; and

(B) that is executed, in accordance with applicable law, by—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(ii) a pay-for-performance beneficiary or pay-for-performance project developer.

(4) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE BENEFICIARY.—The term ''pay-for-performance beneficiary'' means a State or local government, an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit or for-profit organization that—

(A) repays capital loaned upfront by a pay-for-performance investor, based on a project outcome specified in a pay-for-performance agreement; or

(B) provides capital directly for costs associated with a pay-for-performance project.

(5) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INVESTOR.—The term ''pay-for-performance investor'' means a State or local government, an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit or for-profit organization that provides upfront loaned capital for a pay-for-performance project with the expectation of a financial return dependent on a project outcome.

(6) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT.—The term ''pay-for-performance project'' means a project that—

(A) would provide or enhance a recreational opportunity;

(B) is conducted on—

(i) National Forest System land; or

(ii) other land, if the activities would benefit National Forest System land (including a recreational use of National Forest System land); and

(C) would use an innovative funding or financing model that leverages—

(i) loaned capital from a pay-for-performance investor to cover upfront costs associated with a pay-for-performance project, with the loaned capital repaid by a pay-for-performance beneficiary at a rate of return dependent on a project outcome, as measured by an independent evaluator; or

(ii) capital directly from a pay-for-performance beneficiary to support costs associated with a pay-for-performance project in an amount based on an anticipated project outcome.

(7) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT DEVELOPER.—The term ''pay-for-performance project developer'' means a nonprofit or for-profit organization that serves as an intermediary to assist in developing or implementing a pay-for-performance agreement or a pay-for-performance project.

(8) PROJECT OUTCOME.—The term ''project outcome'' means a measurable, beneficial result (whether economic, environmental, or social) that is attributable to a pay-for-performance project and described in a pay-for-performance agreement.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a pilot program in accordance with this section to carry out 1 or more pay-for-performance projects.

(c) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available through a pay-for-performance agreement or appropriations, all or any portion of a pay-for-performance project may be implemented by—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture; or

(B) a pay-for-performance project developer or a third party, subject to the conditions that—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture shall approve the implementation by the pay-for-performance project developer or third party; and

(ii) the implementation is in accordance with applicable law.

(2) RELATION TO LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—A pay-for-performance project carried out under this section shall be consistent with any applicable land management plan developed under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(3) OWNERSHIP.—

(A) NEW IMPROVEMENTS.—The United States shall have title to any improvements installed on National Forest System land as part of a pay-for-performance project.

(B) EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS.—Investing in, conducting, or completing a pay-for-performance project on National Forest System land shall not affect the title of the United States to—

(i) any federally owned improvements involved in the pay-for-performance project; or

(ii) the underlying land.

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The carrying out of any action for a pay-for-performance project does not provide any right to any party to a pay-for-performance agreement.

(5) POTENTIAL CONFLICTS.—Before approving a pay-for-performance project under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consider and seek to avoid potential conflicts (including economic competition) with any existing written authorized use.

(d) PROJECT AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 30, 1914 (38 Stat. 430, chapter 131; 16 U.S.C. 498), or subtitle C of title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397n et seq.), in carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a pay-for-performance agreement under which a pay-for-performance beneficiary, pay-for-performance investor, or pay-for-performance project developer agrees to pay for or finance all or part of a pay-for-performance project.

(2) SIZE LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture may not enter into a pay-for-performance agreement under the pilot program under this section for a pay-for-performance project valued at more than $15,000,000.

(3) FINANCING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A pay-for-performance agreement shall specify the amounts that a pay-for-performance beneficiary or a pay-for-performance project developer agrees to pay to a pay-for-performance investor or a pay-for-performance project developer, as appropriate, in the event of an independent evaluator determining pursuant to subsection (e) the degree to which a project outcome has been achieved.

(B) ELIGIBLE PAYMENTS.—An amount described in subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) based on—

(I) the respective contributions of the parties under the pay-for-performance agreement; and

(II) the economic, environmental, or social benefits derived from the project outcomes; and

(ii)(I) a percentage of the estimated value of a project outcome;

(II) a percentage of the estimated cost savings to the pay-for-performance beneficiary or the Secretary of Agriculture derived from a project outcome;

(III) a percentage of the enhanced revenue to the pay-for-performance beneficiary or the Secretary of Agriculture derived from a project outcome; or

(IV) a percentage of the cost of the pay-for-performance project.

(C) FOREST SERVICE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Agriculture may contribute funding for a pay-for-performance project only if—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture demonstrates that—

(I) the pay-for-performance project would provide a cost savings to the United States;

(II) the funding would accelerate the pace of implementation of an activity previously planned to be completed by the Secretary of Agriculture; or

(III) the funding would accelerate the scale of implementation of an activity previously planned to be completed by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(ii) the contribution of the Secretary of Agriculture has a value that is not more than 50 percent of the total cost of the pay-for-performance project.

(D) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—Any funds received by the Secretary of Agriculture under subsection (c)(1)—

(i) shall be retained in a separate fund in the Treasury to be used solely for pay-for-performance projects; and

(ii) shall remain available until expended and without further appropriation.

(4) MAINTENANCE AND DECOMMISSIONING OF PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS.—A pay-for-performance agreement shall—

(A) include a plan for maintaining any capital improvement constructed as part of a pay-for-performance project after the date on which the pay-for-performance project is completed; and

(B) specify the party that will be responsible for decommissioning the improvements associated with the pay-for-performance project—

(i) at the end of the useful life of the improvements;

(ii) if the improvements no longer serve the purpose for which the improvements were developed; or

(iii) if the pay-for-performance project fails.

(5) TERMINATION OF PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may unilaterally terminate a pay-for-performance agreement, in whole or in part, for any program year beginning after the program year during which the Secretary of Agriculture provides to each party to the pay-for-performance agreement a notice of the termination.

(e) INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS.—

(1) PROGRESS REPORTS.—An independent evaluator shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture and each party to the applicable pay-for-performance agreement—

(A) by not later than 2 years after the date on which the pay-for-performance agreement is executed, and at least once every 2 years thereafter, a written report that summarizes the progress that has been made in achieving each project outcome; and

(B) before the first scheduled date for a payment described in subsection (d)(3)(A), and each subsequent date for payment, a written report that—

(i) summarizes the results of the evaluation conducted by the independent evaluator to determine whether a payment should be made pursuant to the pay-for-performance agreement; and

(ii) analyzes the reasons why a project outcome was achieved or was not achieved.

(2) FINAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a pay-for-performance project is completed, the independent evaluator shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture and each party to the pay-for-performance agreement a written report that includes, with respect to the period covered by the report—

(A) an evaluation of the effects of the pay-for-performance project with respect to each project outcome;

(B) a determination of whether the pay-for-performance project has met each project outcome; and

(C) the amount of the payments made for the pay-for-performance project pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(A).

(f) ADDITIONAL FOREST SERVICE-PROVIDED ASSISTANCE.—

(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide technical assistance to facilitate pay-for-performance project development, such as planning, permitting, site preparation, and design work.

(2) CONSULTANTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Agriculture may hire a contractor—

(A) to conduct a feasibility analysis of a proposed pay-for-performance project;

(B) to assist in the development, implementation, or evaluation of a proposed pay-for-performance project or a pay-for-performance agreement; or

(C) to assist with an environmental analysis of a proposed pay-for-performance project.

(g) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall approve a record of decision, decision notice, or decision memo for any activities to be carried out on National Forest System land as part of a pay-for-performance project before the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a pay-for-performance agreement involving the applicable pay-for-performance project.

(h) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) SUNSET.—The authority to enter into a pay-for-performance agreement under this section terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title.

(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in paragraph (1) affects any pay-for-performance project agreement entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section before the date described in that paragraph.

SEC. 156. OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an entity or combination of entities that represents or otherwise serves a qualifying area.

(2) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''eligible nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(3) ENTITY.—The term ''entity'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) a political subdivision of a State, including—

(i) a city;

(ii) a county; or

(iii) a special purpose district that manages open space, including a park district; and

(C) an Indian Tribe, urban Indian organization, or Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community or organization.

(4) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term ''low-income community'' has the same meaning given that term in 26 U.S.C. 45D(e)(1).

(5) OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—The term ''Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program'' means the program codified under subsection (b)(1).

(6) QUALIFYING AREA.—The term ''qualifying area'' means—

(A) an urbanized area or urban cluster that has a population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census;

(B) 2 or more adjacent urban clusters with a combined population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census; or

(C) an area administered by an Indian Tribe or an Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community organization.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) CODIFICATION OF PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established an existing program, to be known as the ''Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program'', under which the Secretary may award grants to eligible entities for projects—

(i) to acquire land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes in qualifying areas; and

(ii) to develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities that provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public in qualifying areas.

(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants to eligible entities under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

(i) create or significantly enhance access to park and recreational opportunities in a qualifying area;

(ii) engage and empower low-income communities and youth;

(iii) provide employment or job training opportunities for youth or low-income communities;

(iv) establish or expand public-private partnerships, with a focus on leveraging resources; and

(v) take advantage of coordination among various levels of government.

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall provide matching funds in the form of cash or an in-kind contribution in an amount equal to not less than 100 percent of the amounts made available under the grant.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 7 percent of funds provided to an eligible entity under a grant awarded under paragraph (1) may be used for administrative expenses.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants to eligible entities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the extent to which a project would—

(A) provide recreation opportunities in low-income communities in which access to parks is not adequate to meet local needs;

(B) provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and public land volunteerism;

(C) support innovative or cost-effective ways to enhance parks and other recreation—

(i) opportunities; or

(ii) delivery of services;

(D) support park and recreation programming provided by local governments, including cooperative agreements with community-based eligible nonprofit organizations;

(E) develop Native American event sites and cultural gathering spaces;

(F) provide benefits such as community resilience, reduction of urban heat islands, enhanced water or air quality, or habitat for fish or wildlife; and

(G) facilitate any combination of purposes listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(4) ELIGIBLE USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an eligible entity may use a grant awarded under paragraph (1) for a project described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of that paragraph.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON USE.—An eligible entity may not use grant funds for—

(i) incidental costs related to land acquisition, including appraisal and titling;

(ii) operation and maintenance activities;

(iii) facilities that support semiprofessional or professional athletics;

(iv) indoor facilities, such as recreation centers or facilities that support primarily nonoutdoor purposes; or

(v) acquisition of land or interests in land that restrict public access.

(C) CONVERSION TO OTHER THAN PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION USE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use.

(ii) CONDITION FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve a conversion only if the Secretary finds it to be in accordance with the then-existing comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan and only on such conditions as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.

(iii) WETLAND AREAS AND INTERESTS THEREIN.—Wetland areas and interests therein as identified in the wetlands provisions of the comprehensive plan and proposed to be acquired as suitable replacement property within the same State that is otherwise acceptable to the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall be deemed to be of reasonably equivalent usefulness with the property proposed for conversion.

(c) REVIEW AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an initial screening and technical review of applications received;

(2) evaluate and score all qualifying applications; and

(3) provide culturally and linguistically appropriate information to eligible entities (including low-income communities and eligible entities serving low-income communities) on—

(A) the opportunity to apply for grants under this section;

(B) the application procedures by which eligible entities may apply for grants under this section; and

(C) eligible uses for grants under this section.

(d) REPORTING.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each report period, each State-lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall annually submit to the Secretary performance and financial reports that—

(A) summarize project activities conducted during the report period; and

(B) provide the status of the project.

(2) FINAL REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the earlier of the date of expiration of a project period or the completion of a project, each State-lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a final report containing such information as the Secretary may require.

SEC. 157. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 308101 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 308101. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

''(2) BATTLEFIELD REPORTS.—The term 'Battlefield Reports' means, collectively—

''(A) the document entitled 'Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993; and

''(B) the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.''.

(b) PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 308102(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Federal'' and all that follows through ''organizations'' and inserting ''Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations''.

(c) BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 308103 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ELIGIBLE SITE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible site'—

''(1) means a site that—

''(A) is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

''(B) is identified in the Battlefield Reports as a battlefield; and

''(2) excludes sites identified in the Battlefield Reports as associated historic sites.'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''State and local governments'' and inserting

''States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations'';

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''State or local government'' and inserting ''State, Tribe, or local government''; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''under this section'' and inserting ''under this section, including by States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations,''.

(d) BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 308105 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a battlefield restoration grant program (referred to in this section as the 'program') under which the Secretary may provide grants to States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations for projects that restore day-of-battle conditions on—

''(1) land preserved and protected under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

''(2) battlefield land that is—

''(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

''(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) ELIGIBLE SITES.—The Secretary may make grants under this section for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites—

''(1) eligible for assistance under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

''(2) on battlefield land that is—

''(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

''(B) referred to in battlefield reports.''.

(e) UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS.—Chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports

''Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Reports to reflect—

''(1) preservation activities carried out at the battlefields in the period since the publication of the most recent Battlefield Reports update;

''(2) changes in the condition, including core and study areas, of the battlefields during that period; and

''(3) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.''.

(f) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) By amending the item relating to section 308101 to read as follows: ''308101. Definitions.''.

(2) By adding at the end the following: ''308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports.''.

TITLE II—ACCESS AMERICA

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ACCESSIBLE TRAIL.—The term ''accessible trail'' means a trail that meets the requirements for a trail under the Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines.

(2) ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES.—The term ''Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines'' means the accessibility guidelines set forth in appendices C and D to part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(3) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''assistive technology'' means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities, particularly with participating in outdoor recreation activities.

(4) GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''Gold Star Family member'' means an individual described in section 3.3 of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36.

(5) OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTED FEATURE.—The term ''outdoor constructed feature'' has the meaning given such term in appendix C to part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(6) VETERANS ORGANIZATION.—The term ''veterans organization'' means a service provider with outdoor recreation experience that serves members of the Armed Forces, veterans, or Gold Star Family members.

Subtitle A—Access for People With Disabilities

SEC. 211. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION INVENTORY.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) carry out a comprehensive assessment of outdoor recreation facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned to determine the accessibility of such outdoor recreation facilities, consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), including—

(A) camp shelters, camping facilities, and camping units;

(B) boat launch ramps;

(C) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery ranges or locations;

(D) outdoor constructed features;

(E) picnic facilities and picnic units; and

(F) any other outdoor recreation facilities, as determined by the Secretary concerned; and

(2) make information about such opportunities available (including through the use of prominently displayed links) on public websites of—

(A) each of the Federal land management agencies; and

(B) each relevant unit and subunit of the Federal land management agencies.

(b) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—As part of the comprehensive assessment required under subsection (a)(1), to the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned may rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of the enactment of this title.

(c) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall identify opportunities to create, update, or replace signage and other publicly available information, including web page information, related to accessibility and consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at outdoor recreation facilities covered by the assessment required under subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 212. TRAIL INVENTORY.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) conduct a comprehensive assessment of high-priority trails, in accordance with subsection (b), on Federal recreational lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned, including measuring each trail's—

(A) average and minimum tread width;

(B) average and maximum running slope;

(C) average and maximum cross slope;

(D) tread type; and

(E) length; and

(2) make information about such high-priority trails available (including through the use of prominently displayed links) on public websites of—

(A) each of the Federal land management agencies; and

(B) each relevant unit and subunit of the Federal land management agencies.

(b) SELECTION.—The Secretary concerned shall select high-priority trails to be assessed under subsection (a)(1)—

(1) in consultation with stakeholders, including veterans organizations and organizations with expertise or experience providing outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities;

(2) in a geographically equitable manner; and

(3) in no fewer than 15 units or subunits managed by the Secretary concerned.

(c) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—As part of the assessment required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary concerned may, to the extent practicable, rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of the enactment of this title.

(d) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall identify opportunities to replace signage and other publicly available information, including web page information, related to such high-priority trails and consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at high-priority trails covered by the assessment required under subsection (a)(1).

(2) TREAD OBSTACLES.—As part of the assessment required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may, to the extent practicable, include photographs or descriptions of tread obstacles and barriers.

(e) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATION.—In publishing information about each trail under this subsection, the Secretary concerned shall make public information about trails that do not meet the Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines but could otherwise provide outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities through the use of certain assistive technology.

SEC. 213. TRAIL PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall carry out a pilot program to enter into partnerships with eligible entities to—

(1) measure high-priority trails as part of the assessment required under section 212;

(2) develop accessible trails under section 214; and

(3) make minor modifications to existing trails to enhance recreational experiences for individuals with disabilities using assistive technology—

(A) in compliance with all applicable land use and management plans of the Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible trail is located; and

(B) in consultation with stakeholders, including veterans organizations and organizations with expertise or experience providing outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

(b) LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall select no fewer than 5 units or subunits under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned to carry out the pilot program established under subsection (a).

(2) SPECIAL RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—In selecting the locations of the pilot program, the Secretary shall ensure that the pilot program is

carried out in at least one unit managed by the—

(A) National Park Service;

(B) Bureau of Land Management; and

(C) United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(c) SUNSET.—The pilot program established under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title.

SEC. 214. ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall select a location or locations to develop at least 3 new accessible trails—

(1) on National Forest System lands in each region of the Forest Service;

(2) on land managed by the National Park Service in each region of the National Park Service;

(3) on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in each region of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(4) on land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in each region of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible trail under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned—

(1) may—

(A) create a new accessible trail;

(B) modify an existing trail into an accessible trail; or

(C) create an accessible trail from a combination of new and existing trails; and

(2) shall—

(A) consult with stakeholders with respect to the feasibility and resources necessary for completing the accessible trail;

(B) ensure the accessible trail complies with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(C) to the extent practicable, ensure that outdoor constructed features supporting the accessible trail, including trail bridges, parking spaces, and restroom facilities, meet the requirements of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

(c) COMPLETION.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders described under subsection (b)(2), shall complete each accessible trail developed under subsection (a).

(d) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—For each accessible trail developed under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) publish and distribute maps and install signage, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 accessibility guidelines and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

(2) coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any non-Federal resources necessary for the development, stewardship, completion, or promotion of the accessible trail.

(e) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In developing each accessible trail under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the accessible trail—

(1) minimizes conflict with—

(A) the uses in effect before the date of the enactment of this title with respect to any trail that is part of that accessible trail;

(B) multiple-use areas where biking, hiking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle recreation, or use by pack and saddle stock are existing uses on the date of the enactment of this title; or

(C) the purposes for which any trail is established under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.); and

(2) complies with all applicable land use and management plans of the Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible trail is located.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and other interested organizations, shall prepare and publish an interim report that lists the accessible trails developed under this section during the previous 3 years.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and other interested organizations, shall prepare and publish a final report that lists the accessible trails developed under this section.

SEC. 215. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall select a location to develop at least 2 new accessible recreation opportunities—

(1) on National Forest System lands in each region of the Forest Service;

(2) on land managed by the National Park Service in each region of the National Park Service;

(3) on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in each region of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(4) on land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in each region of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible recreation opportunity under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned—

(1) may—

(A) create a new accessible recreation opportunity; or

(B) modify an existing recreation opportunity into an accessible recreation opportunity; and

(2) shall—

(A) consult with stakeholders with respect to the feasibility and resources necessary for completing the accessible recreation opportunity;

(B) ensure the accessible recreation opportunity complies with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(C) to the extent practicable, ensure that outdoor constructed features supporting the accessible recreation opportunity, including trail bridges, parking spaces and restroom facilities, meet the requirements of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

(c) ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.—The accessible recreation opportunities developed under subsection (a) may include improving accessibility or access to—

(1) camp shelters, camping facilities, and camping units;

(2) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery ranges or locations;

(3) snow activities, including skiing and snowboarding;

(4) water activities, including kayaking, paddling, canoeing, and boat launch ramps;

(5) rock climbing;

(6) biking;

(7) off-highway vehicle recreation;

(8) picnic facilities and picnic units;

(9) outdoor constructed features; and

(10) any other new or existing recreation opportunities identified in consultation with stakeholders under subsection (b)(2) and consistent with the applicable land management plan.

(d) COMPLETION.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders consulted with under subsection (b)(2), shall complete each accessible recreation opportunity developed under subsection (a).

(e) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—For each accessible recreation opportunity developed under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) publish and distribute maps and install signage, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

(2) coordinate with stakeholders to leverage any non-Federal resources necessary for the development, stewardship, completion, or promotion of the accessible trail.

(f) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In developing each accessible recreation opportunity under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the accessible recreation opportunity—

(1) minimizes conflict with—

(A) the uses in effect before the date of the enactment of this title with respect to any Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible recreation opportunity is located; or

(B) multiple-use areas in existence on the date of the enactment of this title; and

(2) complies with all applicable land use and management plans of the Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible recreational opportunity is located.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and other interested organizations, shall prepare and publish an interim report that lists the accessible recreation opportunities developed under this section during the previous 3 years.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and other interested organizations, shall prepare and publish a final report that lists the accessible recreation opportunities developed under this section.

SEC. 216. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

In carrying out this subtitle, the Secretary concerned may enter into partnerships, contracts, or agreements with other Federal, State, Tribal, local, or private entities, including existing outfitting and guiding services, to make assistive technology available on Federal recreational lands and waters.

SEC. 217. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in the subtitle shall be construed to create any conflicting standards with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

Subtitle B—Military and Veterans in Parks

SEC. 221. PROMOTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop educational and public awareness materials to disseminate to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including through preseparation counseling of the Transition Assistance Program under chapter 1142 of title 10, United States Code, on—

(1) opportunities for members of the Armed Forces and veterans to access Federal recreational lands and waters free of charge under section 805 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804);

(2) the availability and location of accessible trails, including new accessible trails developed and completed under section 214;

(3) the availability and location of accessible recreation opportunities, including new accessible recreation opportunities developed and completed under section 215;

(4) access to, and assistance with, assistive technology;

(5) outdoor-related volunteer and wellness programs;

(6) the benefits of outdoor recreation for physical and mental health;

(7) resources to access guided outdoor trips and other outdoor programs connected to the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture; and

(8) programs and jobs focused on continuing national service such as Public Land Corps, AmeriCorps, and conservation corps programs.

SEC. 222. MILITARY VETERANS OUTDOOR RECREATION LIAISONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall each establish within their Departments the position of Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaison.

(b) DUTIES.—The Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaison shall—

(1) coordinate the implementation of this subtitle;

(2) implement recommendations identified by the Task Force on Outdoor Recreation for Veterans established under section 203 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–214), including recommendations related to—

(A) identifying new opportunities to formalize coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, and partner organizations regarding the use of Federal recreational lands and waters for facilitating health and wellness for veterans;

(B) addressing identified barriers that exist to providing veterans with opportunities to augment the delivery of services for health and wellness through the use of outdoor recreation on Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(C) facilitating the use of Federal recreational lands and waters for promoting wellness and facilitating the delivery of health care and therapeutic interventions for veterans;

(3) coordinate with Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaisons at other Federal agencies and veterans organizations; and

(4) promote outdoor recreation experiences for veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters through new and innovative approaches.

SEC. 223. PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE MILITARY AND VETERAN RECREATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall seek to enter into partnerships or agreements with State, Tribal, local, or private entities with expertise in outdoor recreation, volunteer, accessibility, and health and wellness programs for members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—As part of a partnership or agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may host events on Federal recreational lands and waters designed to promote outdoor recreation among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(c) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Under a partnership or agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may provide financial or technical assistance to the entity with which the respective Secretary concerned has entered into the partnership or agreement to assist with—

(1) the planning, development, and execution of events, activities, or programs designed to promote outdoor recreation for members of the Armed Forces or veterans; or

(2) the acquisition of assistive technology to facilitate improved outdoor recreation opportunities for members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

SEC. 224. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN RECREATION.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation established under section 113 shall develop and make public a strategy to increase visits to Federal recreational lands and waters by members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A strategy developed under subsection (a)—

(1) shall—

(A) establish objectives and quantifiable targets for increasing visits to Federal recreational lands and waters by members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members;

(B) include an opportunity for public notice and comment;

(C) emphasize increased recreation opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members; and

(D) provide the anticipated costs to achieve the objectives and meet the targets established under subparagraph (A); and

(2) shall not establish any preference between similar recreation facilitated by noncommercial or commercial entities.

(c) UPDATE TO STRATEGY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the publication of the strategy required under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation shall update the strategy and make public the update.

SEC. 225. RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 804(d) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6803(d)), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking ''11'' and inserting ''12''; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(D)(ii)—

(A) by striking ''Three'' and inserting ''Four''; and

(B) after subclause (III), by inserting the following:

''(IV) Veterans organizations, as such term is defined in section 201 of the EXPLORE Act.''; and

(3) in paragraph (8) by striking ''Eight'' and inserting ''Six''.

SEC. 226. CAREER AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS.

(a) VETERAN HIRING.—The Secretaries are strongly encouraged to hire veterans in all positions related to the management of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a pilot program under which veterans are employed by the Federal Government in positions that relate to the conservation and resource management activities of the Department of the Interior.

(2) POSITIONS.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify vacant positions in the Department of the Interior that are appropriate to fill using the pilot program; and

(B) to the extent practicable, fill such positions using the pilot program.

(3) APPLICATION OF CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—A veteran employed under the pilot program shall be treated as an employee as defined by section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) BRIEFINGS AND REPORT.—

(A) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training shall jointly provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the pilot program under this subsection, which shall include—

(i) a description of how the pilot program will be carried out in a manner to reduce the unemployment of veterans; and

(ii) any recommendations for legislative actions to improve the pilot program.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) commences, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training shall jointly provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the implementation of the pilot program.

(C) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) terminates under paragraph (5), the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the pilot program that includes the following:

(i) The number of veterans who applied to participate in the pilot program.

(ii) The number of such veterans employed under the pilot program.

(iii) The number of veterans identified in clause (ii) who transitioned to full-time positions with the Federal Government after participating in the pilot program.

(iv) Any other information the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training determine appropriate with respect to measuring the effectiveness of the pilot program.

(5) DURATION.—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the pilot program commences.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(d) OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM ATTENDANCE.—Each Secretary of a military department is encouraged to allow members of the Armed Forces on active duty status to participate in programs related to environmental stewardship or guided outdoor recreation.

Subtitle C—Youth Access

SEC. 231. INCREASING YOUTH RECREATION VISITS TO FEDERAL LAND.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries, acting jointly, shall develop and make public a strategy to increase the number of youth recreation visits to Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A strategy developed under subsection (a)—

(1) shall—

(A) emphasize increased recreation opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters for underserved youth;

(B) establish objectives and quantifiable targets for increasing youth recreation visits; and

(C) provide the anticipated costs to achieve the objectives and meet the targets established under subparagraph (B); and

(2) shall not establish any preference between similar recreation facilitated by noncommercial or commercial entities.

(c) UPDATE TO STRATEGY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the publication of the strategy required under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretaries shall update the strategy and make public the update.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretaries may enter into contracts or cost-share agreements (including contracts or agreements for the acquisition of vehicles) to carry out this section.

SEC. 232. EVERY KID OUTDOORS ACT EXTENSION.

Section 9001(b) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''during the period beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31 of the following year'' and inserting ''for a 12-month period that begins on a date determined by the Secretaries''; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''September 30, 2031''.

TITLE III—SIMPLIFYING OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR RECREATION

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term ''commercial use authorization'' means a commercial use authorization to provide services to visitors to units of the National Park System under subchapter II of chapter 1019 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TRIP.—The term ''multijurisdictional trip'' means a trip that—

(A) uses 2 or more units of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(B) is under the jurisdiction of 2 or more Federal land management agencies.

(3) RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ''recreation service provider'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by section 311).

(4) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT.—The term ''special recreation permit'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by section 311).

(5) VISITOR-USE DAY.—The term ''visitor-use day'' means a visitor-use day, user day, launch, or other metric used by the Secretary concerned for purposes of authorizing use under a special recreation permit.

Subtitle A—Modernizing Recreation Permitting

SEC. 311. SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT AND FEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''section 3(f)'' and inserting ''section 803(f)'';

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 3(g)'' and inserting ''section 803(g)'';

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking ''section 5'' and inserting ''section 805'';

(5) in paragraph (9), by striking ''section 5'' and inserting ''section 805'';

(6) in paragraph (12), by striking ''section 7'' and inserting ''section 807'';

(7) in paragraph (13), by striking ''section 3(h)'' and inserting ''section 803(h)(2)'';

(8) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (13) as paragraphs (15), (1), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (11), (10), and (14), respectively, and arranging the paragraphs (as so redesignated) to appear in numerical order;

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

''(9) RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'recreation service provider' means a person that provides recreational services to the public under a special recreation permit under clause (iii) or (iv) of paragraph (13)(A).'';

(10) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

''(13) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'special recreation permit' means a permit issued by a Federal land management agency for the use of Federal recreational lands and waters—

''(i) for a specialized recreational use not described in clause (ii), (iii), or (iv), such as—

''(I) an organizational camp;

''(II) a single event that does not require an entry or participation fee that is not strictly a sharing of expenses for the purposes of the event; and

''(III) participation by the public in a recreation activity or recreation use of a specific area of Federal recreational lands and waters in which use by the public is allocated;

''(ii) for a large-group activity or event of 75 participants or more;

''(iii) for—

''(I) at the discretion of the Secretary, a single organized group recreation activity or event (including an activity or event in which motorized recreational vehicles are used or in which outfitting and guiding services are used) that—

''(aa) is a structured or scheduled event or activity;

''(bb) is not competitive and is for fewer than 75 participants;

''(cc) may charge an entry or participation fee;

''(dd) involves fewer than 200 visitor-use days; and

''(ee) is undertaken or provided by the recreation service provider at the same site not more frequently than 3 times a year;

''(II) a single competitive event; or

''(III) at the discretion of the Secretary, a recurring organized group recreation activity (including an outfitting and guiding activity) that—

''(aa) is a structured or scheduled activity;

''(bb) is not competitive;

''(cc) may charge a participation fee;

''(dd) occurs in a group size of fewer than 7 participants;

''(ee) involves fewer than 40 visitor-use days; and

''(ff) is undertaken or provided by the recreation service provider for a term of not more than 180 days; or

''(iv) for—

''(I) a recurring outfitting, guiding, or, at the discretion of the Secretary, other recreation service, the authorization for which is for a term of not more than 10 years; or

''(II) a recurring outfitting, guiding, or, at the discretion of the Secretary, other recreation service, that occurs under a temporary special recreation permit authorized under section 316 of the EXPLORE Act.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'special recreation permit' does not include—

''(i) a concession contract for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services;

''(ii) a commercial use authorization issued under section 101925 of title 54, United States Code; or

''(iii) any other type of permit, including a special use permit administered by the National Park Service.''; and

(11) by inserting at the end the following:

''(16) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.''.

(b) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS AND FEES.—Section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) is amended—

(1) by striking ''this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in subsection (b)(5), by striking ''section 4(d)'' and inserting ''section 804(d)''; and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

''(h) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS AND FEES.—

''(1) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS.—

''(A) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary—

''(i) may develop and make available to the public an application to obtain a special recreation permit described in clause (i) of section 802(13)(A); and

''(ii) shall develop and make available to the public an application to obtain a special recreation permit described in each of clauses (ii) through (iv) of section 802(13)(A).

''(B) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.—On review of a completed application developed under subparagraph (A), as applicable, and a determination by the Secretary that the applicant is eligible for the special recreation permit, the Secretary may issue to the applicant a special recreation permit, subject to any terms and conditions that are determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

''(C) INCIDENTAL SALES.—A special recreation permit issued under this paragraph may include an authorization for sales that are incidental in nature to the permitted use of the Federal recreational lands and waters, except where otherwise prohibited by law.

''(2) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may charge a special recreation permit fee for the issuance of a special recreation permit in accordance with this paragraph.

''(B) PREDETERMINED SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraphs (D) and (E) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall establish and may charge a predetermined fee, described in clause (ii) of this subparagraph, for a special recreation permit described in clause (iii) or (iv) of section 802(13)(A) for a specific type of use on a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, consistent with the criteria set forth in clause (iii) of this subparagraph.

''(ii) TYPE OF FEE.—A predetermined fee described in clause (i) shall be—

''(I) a fixed fee that is assessed per special recreation permit, including a fee with an associated size limitation or other criteria as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary; or

''(II) an amount assessed per visitor-use day.

''(iii) CRITERIA.—A predetermined fee under clause (i) shall—

''(I) have been established before the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act;

''(II) be established after the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act, in accordance with subsection (b);

''(III)(aa) be established after the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act; and

''(bb) be comparable to an amount described in subparagraph (D)(ii) or (E)(ii), as applicable; or

''(IV) beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act, be $6 per visitor-use day in instances in which the Secretary has not established a predetermined fee under subclause (I), (II), or (III).

''(C) CALCULATION OF FEES FOR SPECIALIZED RECREATIONAL USES AND LARGE-GROUP ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS.—The Secretary may, at the

discretion of the Secretary, establish and charge a fee for a special recreation permit described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 802(13)(A).

''(D) CALCULATION OF FEES FOR SINGLE ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS, COMPETITIVE EVENTS, AND CERTAIN RECURRING ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITIES.—If the Secretary elects to charge a fee for a special recreation permit described in section 802(13)(A)(iii), the Secretary shall charge the recreation service provider, based on the election of the recreation service provider—

''(i) the applicable predetermined fee established under subparagraph (B); or

''(ii) an amount equal to a percentage of, to be determined by the Secretary, but to not to exceed 5 percent of, adjusted gross receipts calculated under subparagraph (F).

''(E) CALCULATION OF FEES FOR TEMPORARY PERMITS AND LONG-TERM PERMITS.—Subject to subparagraph (G), if the Secretary elects to charge a fee for a special recreation permit described in section 802(13)(A)(iv), the Secretary shall charge the recreation service provider, based on the election of the recreation service provider—

''(i) the applicable predetermined fee established under subparagraph (B); or

''(ii) an amount equal to a percentage of, to be determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed 3 percent of, adjusted gross receipts calculated under subparagraph (F).

''(F) ADJUSTED GROSS RECEIPTS.—For the purposes of subparagraphs (D)(ii) and (E)(ii), the Secretary shall calculate the adjusted gross receipts collected for each trip or event authorized under a special recreation permit, using either of the following calculations, based on the election of the recreation service provider:

''(i) The sum of—

''(I) the product obtained by multiplying—

''(aa) the general amount paid by participants of the trip or event to the recreation service provider for the applicable trip or event (excluding amounts related to goods, souvenirs, merchandise, gear, and additional food provided or sold by the recreation service provider); and

''(bb) the quotient obtained by dividing—

''(AA) the number of days of the trip or event that occurred on Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit, rounded to the nearest whole day; by

''(BB) the total number of days of the trip or event; and

''(II) the amount of any additional revenue received by the recreation service provider for an add-on activity or an optional excursion that occurred on the Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit.

''(ii) The difference between—

''(I) the total cost paid by the participants of the trip or event for the trip or event to the recreation service provider, including any additional revenue received by the recreation service provider for an add-on activity or an optional excursion that occurred on the Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit; and

''(II) the sum of—

''(aa) the amount of any revenues from goods, souvenirs, merchandise, gear, and additional food provided or sold by the recreation service provider to the participants of the applicable trip or event;

''(bb) the amount of any costs or revenues from services and activities provided or sold by the recreation service provider to the participants of the trip or event that occurred in a location other than the Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit (including costs for travel and lodging outside the Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit); and

''(cc) the amount of any revenues from any service provided by a recreation service provider for an activity on Federal recreational lands and waters that is not covered by the special recreation permit.

''(G) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (E), the Secretary may charge a recreation service provider a minimum annual fee for a special recreation permit described in section 802(13)(A)(iv).

''(H) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

''(i) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph affects any fee for—

''(I) a concession contract administered by the National Park Service or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services; or

''(II) a commercial use authorization or special use permit for use of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the National Park Service.

''(ii) COST RECOVERY.—Nothing in this paragraph affects the ability of the Secretary to recover any administrative costs under section 320 of the EXPLORE Act.

''(iii) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEES AND OTHER RECREATION FEES.—The collection of a special recreation permit fee under this paragraph shall not affect the authority of the Secretary to collect an entrance fee, a standard amenity recreation fee, or an expanded amenity recreation fee authorized under subsections (e), (f), and (g).

''(i) DISCLOSURE OF RECREATION FEES AND USE OF RECREATION FEES.—

''(1) NOTICE OF ENTRANCE FEES, STANDARD AMENITY RECREATION FEES, EXPANDED AMENITY RECREATION FEES, AND AVAILABLE RECREATION PASSES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall post clear notice of any entrance fee, standard amenity recreation fee, expanded amenity recreation fee, and available recreation passes—

''(i) at appropriate locations in each unit or area of Federal recreational land and waters at which an entrance fee, standard amenity recreation fee, or expanded amenity recreation fee is charged; and

''(ii) on the appropriate website for such unit or area.

''(B) PUBLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall include in publications distributed at a unit or area or described in subparagraph (A) the notice described in that subparagraph.

''(2) NOTICE OF USES OF RECREATION FEES.—Beginning on January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall annually post, at the location at which a recreation fee described in paragraph (1)(A) is collected, clear notice of—

''(A) the total recreation fees collected during each of the 2 preceding fiscal years at the respective unit or area of the Federal land management agency; and

''(B) each use during the preceding fiscal year of the applicable recreation fee or recreation pass revenues collected under this section.

''(3) NOTICE OF RECREATION FEE PROJECTS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall post clear notice at the location at which work is performed using recreation fee and recreation pass revenues collected under this section.

''(4) CENTRALIZED REPORTING ON AGENCY WEBSITES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2025, and not later than 60 days after the beginning of each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall post on the website of the applicable Federal land management agency a searchable list of each use during the preceding fiscal year of the recreation fee or recreation pass revenues collected under this section.

''(B) LIST COMPONENTS.—The list required under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to each use described in that subparagraph—

''(i) a title and description of the overall project;

''(ii) a title and description for each component of the project;

''(iii) the location of the project; and

''(iv) the amount obligated for the project.

''(5) NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS.—A recreation service provider may inform a customer of the recreation service provider of any fee charged by the Secretary under this section.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 804 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6803) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(d) USE OF SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT REVENUE.—Section 808 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6807) is amended—

(1) by striking ''this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''6(a) or a visitor reservation service.'' and inserting ''806(a) or a visitor reservation service;''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) the processing of special recreation permit applications and administration of special recreation permits; and

''(H) the improvement of the operation of the special recreation permit program under section 803(h).''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''section 5(a)(7)'' and inserting ''section 805(a)(7)''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 5(d)'' and inserting ''section 805(d)''.

(e) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 312. PERMITTING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To simplify the process of the issuance and or reissuance of special recreation permits and reduce the cost of administering special recreation permits under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title), the Secretaries shall each—

(1) during the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on January 1, 2025—

(A) evaluate the process for issuing special recreation permits; and

(B) based on the evaluation under subparagraph (A), identify opportunities to—

(i) eliminate duplicative processes with respect to issuing special recreation permits;

(ii) reduce costs for the issuance of special recreation permits;

(iii) decrease processing times for special recreation permits; and

(iv) issue simplified special recreation permits, including special recreation permits for an organized group recreation activity or event under subsection (e); and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretaries complete their respective evaluation and identification processes under paragraph (1), revise, as necessary, relevant agency regulations and guidance documents, including regulations and guidance documents relating to the environmental review process, for special recreation permits to implement the improvements identified under paragraph (1)(B).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall, to the maximum extent practicable, utilize available tools, including tiering to

existing programmatic reviews, as appropriate, to facilitate an effective and efficient environmental review process for activities undertaken by the Secretary concerned relating to the issuance of special recreation permits.

(2) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) evaluate whether existing categorical exclusions available to the Secretary concerned on the date of the enactment of this title are consistent with the provisions of this title;

(B) evaluate whether a modification of an existing categorical exclusion or the establishment of 1 or more new categorical exclusions developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) is necessary to undertake an activity described in paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the authorities and requirements in this title; and

(C) revise relevant agency regulations and policy statements and guidance documents, as necessary, to modify existing categorical exclusions or incorporate new categorical exclusions based on evaluations conducted under this paragraph.

(c) NEEDS ASSESSMENTS.—Except as required under subsection (c) or (d) of section 4 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133), the Secretary concerned shall not conduct a needs assessment as a condition of issuing a special recreation permit under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title).

(d) ONLINE APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall make the application for a special recreation permit under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title), including a reissuance of a special recreation permit under that section, available for completion and submission—

(1) online;

(2) by mail or electronic mail; and

(3) in person at the field office for the applicable Federal recreational lands and waters.

(e) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR AN ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITY OR EVENT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FOR AN ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITY OR EVENT.—The term ''special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event'' means a special recreation permit described in subclause (I) or (III) of paragraph (13)(A)(iii) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title).

(B) YOUTH GROUP.—The term ''youth group'' means a recreation service provider that predominantly serves individuals not older than 25 years of age.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN ALLOCATIONS OF USE.—If the Secretary concerned allocates visitor-use days available for an area or activity on Federal recreational lands and waters among recreation service providers that hold a permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event shall not be subject to that allocation of visitor-use days.

(3) ISSUANCE.—In accordance with paragraphs (5) and (6), if use by the general public is not subject to a limited entry permit system and if capacity is available for the times or days in which the proposed activity or event would be undertaken, on request of a recreation service provider (including a youth group) to conduct an organized group recreation activity or event described in subclause (I) or (III) of paragraph (13)(A)(iii) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), the Secretary concerned—

(A) shall make a nominal effects determination to determine whether the proposed activity or event would have more than nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(B)(i) shall not require a recreation service provider (including a youth group) to obtain a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken would have only nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event is not necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs;

(ii) in the case of an organized group recreation activity or event described in section 802(13)(A)(iii)(I) of that Act, may issue to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, subject to any terms and conditions as are determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken would have only nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event is necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs;

(iii) in the case of an organized group recreation activity or event described in section 802(13)(A)(iii)(III) of that Act, shall issue to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, subject to such terms and conditions determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken would have only nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event is necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(iv) may issue to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, subject to any terms and conditions determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken may have more than nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event would be necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs.

(4) FEES.—The Secretary concerned may elect not to charge a fee to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) for a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event.

(5) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection prevents the Secretary concerned from limiting or abating the allowance of a proposed activity or event under paragraph (3)(B)(i) or the issuance of a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, based on resource conditions, administrative burdens, or safety issues.

(6) QUALIFICATIONS.—A special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event issued under paragraph (3) shall be subject to the health and safety standards required by the Secretary concerned for a permit issued under paragraph (13)(A)(iv) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title).

SEC. 313. PERMIT FLEXIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall establish guidelines to allow a holder of a special recreation permit under subsection (h) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title), to engage in another recreational activity under the special recreation permit that is substantially similar to the specific activity authorized under the special recreation permit.

(b) CRITERIA.—For the purposes of this section, a recreational activity shall be considered to be a substantially similar recreational activity if the recreational activity—

(1) is comparable in type, nature, scope, and ecological setting to the specific activity authorized under the special recreation permit;

(2) does not result in a greater impact on natural and cultural resources than the impact of the authorized activity;

(3) does not adversely affect—

(A) any other holder of a special recreation permit or other permit; or

(B) any other authorized use of the Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(4) is consistent with—

(A) any applicable laws (including regulations); and

(B) the land management plan, resource management plan, or equivalent plan applicable to the Federal recreational lands and waters.

(c) SURRENDER OF UNUSED VISITOR-USE DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A recreation service provider holding a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title) may—

(A) notify the Secretary concerned of an inability to use visitor-use days annually allocated to the recreation service provider under the special recreation permit; and

(B) surrender to the Secretary concerned the unused visitor-use days for the applicable year for temporary reassignment under section 318(b).

(2) DETERMINATION.—To ensure a recreation service provider described in paragraph (1) is able to make an informed decision before surrendering any unused visitor-use day under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary concerned shall, on the request of the applicable recreation service provider, determine and notify the recreation service provider whether the unused visitor-use day meets the requirement described in section 317(b)(3)(B) before the recreation service provider surrenders the unused visitor-use day.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects any authority of, regulation issued by, or decision of the Secretary concerned relating to the use of electric bicycles on Federal recreational lands and waters under any other Federal law.

SEC. 314. PERMIT ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PERMIT AVAILABILITY.—

(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF PERMIT AVAILABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in an area of Federal recreational lands and waters in which use by recreation service providers is allocated, if the Secretary concerned determines that visitor-use days are available for allocation to recreation service providers or holders of a commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding, the Secretary concerned shall publish that information on the website of the agency that administers the applicable area of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph—

(i) applies to—

(I) the reissuance of an existing special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding; or

(II) the issuance of a new special recreation permit or new commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding issued to the purchaser of—

(aa) a recreation service provider that is the holder of an existing special recreation permit; or

(bb) a holder of an existing commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding; or

(ii) creates a prerequisite to the issuance of a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding or otherwise limits the authority of the Secretary concerned—

(I) to issue a new special recreation permit or new commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding; or

(II) to add a new or additional use to an existing special recreation permit or an existing commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary concerned shall ensure that information published on the website under this subsection is consistently updated to provide current and correct information to the public.

(3) ELECTRONIC MAIL NOTIFICATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall establish a system by which potential applicants for special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations for outfitting and guiding may subscribe to receive notification by electronic mail of the availability of special recreation permits under section 803(h)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title) or commercial use authorizations for outfitting and guiding.

(b) PERMIT APPLICATION OR PROPOSAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary concerned receives a completed application or a complete proposal for a special recreation permit under section 803(h)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) provide to the applicant notice acknowledging receipt of the application or proposal; and

(2)(A) issue a final decision with respect to the application or proposal; or

(B) provide to the applicant notice of a projected date for a final decision on the application or proposal.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section applies to a concession contract issued by the National Park Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services.

SEC. 315. SERVICE FIRST INITIATIVE; PERMITS FOR MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TRIPS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (43 U.S.C. 1703), is repealed.

(b) COOPERATIVE ACTION AND SHARING OF RESOURCES BY THE SECRETARIES OF THE INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretaries may carry out an initiative, to be known as the ''Service First Initiative'', under which the Secretaries, or Federal land management agencies within their departments, may—

(A) establish programs to conduct projects, planning, permitting, leasing, contracting, and other activities, either jointly or on behalf of one another;

(B) co-locate in Federal offices and facilities leased by an agency of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture; and

(C) issue rules to test the feasibility of issuing unified permits, applications, and leases, subject to the limitations in this section.

(2) DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretaries may make reciprocal delegations of the respective authorities, duties, and responsibilities of the Secretaries in support of the Service First Initiative agency-wide to promote customer service and efficiency.

(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section alters, expands, or limits the applicability of any law (including regulations) to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service or matters under the jurisdiction of any other bureaus or offices of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable.

(4) TRANSFERS OF FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and to facilitate the sharing of resources under the Service First Initiative, the Secretaries are authorized to mutually transfer funds between, or reimburse amounts expended from, appropriate accounts of either Department on an annual basis, including transfers and reimbursements for multiyear projects, except that this authority may not be used in a manner that circumvents requirements or limitations imposed on the use of any of the funds so transferred or reimbursed.

(5) REPORT.—The Secretaries shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate describing the activities undertaken as part of the Service First Initiative in the prior year.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TRIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall establish a pilot program to offer to a person seeking an authorization for a multijurisdictional trip a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations that authorizes the use of each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters on which the multijurisdictional trip occurs, subject to the authorities that apply to the applicable unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(2) MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERMITS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall issue not fewer than 10 sets of separate special recreation permits described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title) or commercial use authorizations under the pilot program established under paragraph (1).

(3) LEAD AGENCIES.—In carrying out the pilot program established under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall—

(A) designate a lead agency for issuing and administering a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations; and

(B) select not fewer than 4 offices at which a person shall be able to apply for a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations, of which—

(i) not fewer than 2 offices are managed by the Secretary; and

(ii) not fewer than 2 offices are managed by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(4) RETENTION OF AUTHORITY BY THE APPLICABLE SECRETARY.—Each of the Secretaries shall retain the authority to enforce the terms, stipulations, conditions, and agreements in a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations issued under the pilot program established under paragraph (1) that apply specifically to the use occurring on the Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the applicable Secretary, under the authorities that apply to the applicable Federal recreational lands and waters.

(5) OPTION TO APPLY FOR SEPARATE SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS OR COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—A person seeking the appropriate permits or authorizations for a multijurisdictional trip may apply for—

(A) a separate special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for the use of each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters on which the multijurisdictional trip occurs; or

(B) a set of separate special recreational permits or commercial use authorizations made available under the pilot program established under paragraph (1).

(6) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection applies to a concession contract issued by the National Park Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services.

SEC. 316. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TEMPORARY SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR OUTFITTING AND GUIDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall establish and implement a program to authorize the issuance of temporary special recreation permits for new or additional recreational uses of Federal recreational land and water managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) TERM OF TEMPORARY PERMITS.—A temporary special recreation permit issued under paragraph (1) shall be issued for a period of not more than 2 years.

(c) CONVERSION TO LONG-TERM PERMIT.—If the Secretary concerned determines that a permittee under paragraph (1) has completed 2 years of satisfactory operation under the permit proposed to be converted, the Secretary may provide for the conversion of a temporary special recreation permit issued under paragraph (1) to a long-term special recreation permit.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection alters or affects the authority of the Secretary to issue a special recreation permit under subsection (h)(1) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title).

SEC. 317. REVIEWS FOR LONG-TERM PERMITS.

(a) MONITORING.—The Secretary concerned shall monitor each recreation service provider issued a special recreation permit for compliance with the terms of the permit—

(1) not less than annually or as frequently as needed (as determined by the Secretary concerned), in the case of a temporary special recreation permit for outfitting and guiding issued under section 316; and

(2) not less than once every 2 years or as frequently as needed (as determined by the Secretary concerned), in the case of a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title) that is issued for a term of not more than 10 years.

(b) USE-OF-ALLOCATION REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, or the Secretary, as applicable, allocates visitor-use days among special recreation permits for outfitting and guiding, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall, and the Secretary may, review the use by the recreation service provider of the visitor-use days allocated under a long-term special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), once every 5 years.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVIEW.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall determine—

(A) the number of visitor-use days that the recreation service provider used each year under the special recreation permit, in accordance with paragraph (3); and

(B) the year in which the recreation service provider used the most visitor-use days under the special recreation permit.

(3) CONSIDERATION OF SURRENDERED, UNUSED VISITOR-USE DAYS.—For the purposes of determining the number of visitor-use days a recreation service provider used in a specified year under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary, as applicable, shall consider an unused visitor-use day that has been surrendered under section 313(c)(1)(B) as—

(A) 1/2 of a visitor-use day used; or

(B) 1 visitor-use day used, if the Secretary concerned determines the use of the allocated visitor-use day had been or will be prevented by a circumstance beyond the control of the recreation service provider.

SEC. 318. ADJUSTMENT OF ALLOCATED VISITOR-USE DAYS.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING USE OF ALLOCATION REVIEWS.—On the completion of a use-of-allocation review conducted under section 317(b) for a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, or the Secretary, as applicable, shall adjust the number of visitor-use days allocated to a recreation service provider under the special recreation permit as follows:

(1) If the Secretary concerned determines that the performance of the recreation service provider was satisfactory during the most recent review conducted under subsection (a) of section 317, the annual number of visitor-use days allocated for each remaining year of the permit shall be equal to 125 percent of the number of visitor-use days used, as determined under subsection (b)(2)(A) of that section, during the year identified under subsection (b)(2)(B) of that section, not to exceed the level allocated to the recreation service provider on the date on which the special recreation permit was issued.

(2) If the Secretary concerned determines the performance of the recreation service provider is less than satisfactory during the most recent performance review conducted under subsection (a) of section 317, the annual number of visitor-use days allocated for each remaining year of the special recreation permit shall be equal to not more than 100 percent of the number of visitor-use days used, as determined under subsection (b)(2)(A) of that section during the year identified under subsection (b)(2)(B) of that section.

(b) TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT OF UNUSED VISITOR-USE DAYS.—The Secretary concerned may temporarily assign unused visitor-use days, made available under section 313(c)(1)(B), to—

(1) any other existing or potential recreation service provider, notwithstanding the number of visitor-use days allocated to the special recreation permit holder under the special recreation permit held or to be held by the recreation service provider; or

(2) any existing or potential holder of a special recreation permit described in clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (13)(A) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), including the public.

(c) ADDITIONAL CAPACITY.—If unallocated visitor-use days are available, the Secretary concerned may, at any time, amend a special recreation permit to allocate additional visitor-use days to a qualified recreation service provider.

SEC. 319. LIABILITY.

(a) INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), as a condition of issuing a special recreation permit under subsection (h)(1)(B) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title) or a commercial use authorization, the Secretary concerned may require the holder of the special recreation permit or commercial use authorization to have a commercial general liability insurance policy that—

(A) is commensurate with the level of risk of the activities to be conducted under the special recreation permit or commercial use authorization; and

(B) includes the United States as an additional insured in an endorsement to the applicable policy.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary concerned shall not require a holder of a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for low-risk activities, as determined by the Secretary concerned, including commemorative ceremonies and participation by the public in a recreation activity or recreation use of a specific area of Federal recreational lands and waters in which use by the public is allocated, to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1).

(b) INDEMNIFICATION BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—The Secretary concerned shall not require a State, State agency, State institution, or political subdivision of a State to indemnify the United States for tort liability as a condition for issuing a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization to the extent the State, State agency, State institution, or political subdivision of a State is precluded by State law from providing indemnification to the United States for tort liability, if the State, State agency, State institution, or political subdivision of the State maintains the minimum amount of liability insurance coverage required by the Federal land management agency for the activities conducted under the special recreation permit or commercial use authorization in the form of—

(1) a commercial general liability insurance policy, which includes the United States as an additional insured in an endorsement to the policy, if the State is authorized to obtain commercial general liability insurance by State law;

(2) self-insurance, which covers the United States as an additional insured, if authorized by State law; or

(3) a combination of the coverage described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) EXCULPATORY AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a Federal land management agency shall not implement, administer, or enforce any regulation, guidance, or policy prohibiting the use of an exculpatory agreement between a recreation service provider or a holder of a commercial use authorization and a customer relating to services provided under a special recreation permit or a commercial use authorization.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any exculpatory agreement used by a recreation service provider or holder of a commercial use authorization for an activity authorized under a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization—

(A) shall shield the United States from any liability, if otherwise allowable under Federal law; and

(B) shall not waive any liability of the recreation service provider or holder of the commercial use authorization that may not be waived under the laws (including common law) of the applicable State or for gross negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct.

(3) CONSISTENCY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall—

(A) review the policies of the Secretaries pertaining to the use of exculpatory agreements by recreation service providers and holders of commercial use authorizations; and

(B) revise any policy described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to make the policies of the Secretaries pertaining to the use of exculpatory agreements by recreation service providers and holders of commercial use authorizations consistent with this subsection and across all Federal recreational lands and waters.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section applies to a concession contract issued by the National Park Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services.

SEC. 320. COST RECOVERY REFORM.

(a) COST RECOVERY FOR SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS.—In addition to a fee collected under section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) or any other authorized fee collected by the Secretary concerned, the Secretary concerned may assess and collect a reasonable fee from an applicant for, or holder of, a special recreation permit to recover administrative costs incurred by the Secretary concerned for—

(1) processing a proposal or application for the special recreation permit;

(2) issuing the special recreation permit; and

(3) monitoring the special recreation permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the special recreation permit.

(b) DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION FROM COST RECOVERY.—If the administrative costs described in subsection (a) are assessed on an hourly basis, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) establish an hourly de minimis threshold that exempts a specified number of hours from the assessment and collection of administrative costs described in subsection (a); and

(2) charge an applicant only for any hours that exceed the de minimis threshold.

(c) MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS.—If the Secretary concerned collectively processes multiple applications for special recreation permits for the same or similar services in the same unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, the Secretary concerned shall, to the extent practicable—

(1) assess from the applicants the fee described in subsection (a) on a prorated basis; and

(2) apply the exemption described in subsection (b) to each applicant on an individual basis.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary concerned shall not assess or collect administrative costs under this section for a programmatic environmental review.

(e) COST REDUCTION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the agency processing an application for a special recreation permit shall use existing studies and analysis to reduce the quantity of work and costs necessary to process the application.

SEC. 321. AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RECREATION PASSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act is amended by inserting after section 805 (16 U.S.C. 6804) the following:

''SEC. 805A. AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RECREATION PASSES.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To improve the availability of Federal, State, and local outdoor recreation passes, the Secretaries are encouraged to coordinate with States and counties regarding the availability of Federal, State, and local recreation passes to allow a purchaser to buy a Federal recreation pass, State recreation pass, and local recreation pass in a single transaction.

''(2) INCLUDED PASSES.—Passes covered by the program established under paragraph (1) include—

''(A) an America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass under section 805; and

''(B) any pass covering any fees charged by participating States and counties for entrance and recreational use of parks and public land in the participating States.

''(b) AGREEMENTS WITH STATES AND COUNTIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, after consultation with the States and counties, may enter into agreements with States and counties to coordinate the availability of passes as described in subsection (a).

''(2) REVENUE FROM PASS SALES.—Agreements between the Secretaries, States, and counties entered into pursuant to this section shall ensure that—

''(A) funds from the sale of State or local passes are transferred to the appropriate State agency or county government;

''(B) funds from the sale of Federal passes are transferred to the appropriate Federal agency; and

''(C) fund transfers are completed by the end of a fiscal year for all pass sales occurring during the fiscal year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 805 the following:

''Sec. 805A. Availability of Federal, State, and local recreation passes.''.

SEC. 322. ONLINE PURCHASES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL VERSION OF AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES.

(a) ONLINE PURCHASES OF AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL–THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS.—Section 805(a)(6) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)(6)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall sell or otherwise make available the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass—

''(i) at all Federal recreational lands and waters at which—

''(I) an entrance fee or a standard amenity recreation fee is charged; and

''(II) such sales or distribution of the Pass is feasible;

''(ii) at such other locations as the Secretaries consider appropriate and feasible; and

''(iii) through a prominent link to a centralized pass sale system on the website of each of the Federal land management agencies and the websites of the relevant units and subunits of those agencies, which shall include information about where and when a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass may be used.''.

(b) DIGITAL VERSION OF THE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATION LANDS PASS.—Section 805(a) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) DIGITAL RECREATION PASSES.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretaries shall—

''(A) establish a digital version of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass that is able to be stored on a mobile device, including with respect to free and discounted passes; and

''(B) upon completion of a transaction for a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, make immediately available to the passholder a digital version of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass established under subparagraph (A).''.

(c) ENTRANCE PASS AND AMENITY FEES.—Section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) ONLINE PAYMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to providing onsite payment methods, the Secretaries may collect payment online for—

''(A) entrance fees under subsection (e);

''(B) standard amenity recreation fees under subsection (f);

''(C) expanded amenity recreation fees under subsection (g); and

''(D) special recreation permit fees.

''(2) DISTRIBUTION OF ONLINE PAYMENTS.—An online payment collected under paragraph (1) that is associated with a specific unit or area of a Federal land management agency shall be distributed in accordance with section 805(c).''.

SEC. 323. SAVINGS PROVISION.

Nothing in this subtitle, or in any amendment made by this subtitle, shall be construed as affecting the authority or responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior to award concessions contracts for the provision of accommodations, facilities, and services, or commercial use authorizations to provide services, to visitors to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges or units of the National Park System pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 1019 of title 54, United States Code (formerly known as the ''National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998''), except that sections 314(a), 315, 319(a), 319(b), and 319(c) of this subtitle shall also apply to commercial use authorizations under that Act.

Subtitle B—Making Recreation a Priority

SEC. 331. EXTENSION OF SEASONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF SEASONAL CLOSURE.—In this section, the term ''seasonal closure'' means any period during which—

(1) a unit, or portion of a unit, of Federal recreational lands and waters is closed to the public for a continuous period of 30 days or more, excluding temporary closures relating to wildlife conservation or public safety; and

(2) permitted or allowable recreational activities, which provide an economic benefit, including off-season or winter-season tourism, do not take place at the unit, or portion of a unit, of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall consult and coordinate with outdoor recreation-related businesses operating on, or adjacent to, a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, State offices of outdoor recreation, local destination marketing organizations, applicable trade organizations, nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education—

(A) to better understand—

(i) trends with respect to visitors to the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(ii) the effect of seasonal closures on areas of, or infrastructure on, units of Federal recreational lands and waters on outdoor recreation opportunities, adjacent businesses, and local tax revenue; and

(iii) opportunities to extend the period of time during which areas of, or infrastructure on, units of Federal recreational lands and waters are open to the public to increase outdoor recreation opportunities and associated revenues for businesses and local governments; and

(B) to solicit input from, and provide information for, outdoor recreation marketing campaigns.

(2) LOCAL COORDINATION.—As part of the consultation and coordination required under subparagraph (1), the Secretaries shall encourage relevant unit managers of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service to consult and coordinate with local governments, Indian Tribes, outdoor recreation-related businesses, and other local stakeholders operating on or adjacent to the relevant unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(d) EXTENSIONS BEYOND SEASONAL CLOSURES.—

(1) EXTENSION OF RECREATIONAL SEASON.—In the case of a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, or the National Park Service in which recreational use is highly seasonal, the Secretary concerned, acting through the relevant unit manager, may—

(A) as appropriate, extend the recreation season or increase recreation use in a sustainable manner during the offseason; and

(B) make information about extended season schedules and related recreational opportunities available to the public and local communities.

(2) DETERMINATION.—In determining whether to extend the recreation season under this subsection, the Secretary concerned, acting through the relevant unit manager, shall consider the benefits of extending the recreation season—

(A) for the duration of income to gateway communities; and

(B) to provide more opportunities to visit resources on units of Federal recreational lands and waters to reduce crowding during peak visitation.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary concerned, acting through the relevant unit manager, from providing for additional recreational opportunities and uses at times other than those described in this subsection.

(4) INCLUSIONS.—An extension of a recreation season or an increase in recreation use during the offseason under paragraph (1) may include—

(A) the addition of facilities that would increase recreation use during the offseason; and

(B) improvement of access to the relevant unit to extend the recreation season.

(5) REQUIREMENT.—An extension of a recreation season or increase in recreation use during the offseason under paragraph (1) shall be done in compliance with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies, including land use plans.

(6) AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may enter into agreements with businesses, local governments, or other entities to share the cost of additional expenses necessary to extend the period of time during which an area of, or infrastructure on, a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters is made open to the public.

(B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary concerned may accept in-kind contributions of goods and services provided by businesses, local governments, or other entities for purposes of paragraph (1).

Subtitle C—Maintenance of Public Land

SEC. 341. VOLUNTEERS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT.

The Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

''SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

''This Act may be cited as the 'Volunteers in the National Forests and Public Lands Act'.

''SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

''The purpose of this Act is to leverage volunteer engagement to supplement projects that are carried out by the Secretaries to fulfill the missions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and are accomplished with appropriated funds.

''SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF SECRETARIES.

''In this Act, the term 'Secretaries' means each of—

''(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

''(2) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

''SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.

''The Secretaries are authorized to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service and classification laws, rules, or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of recreation access, trail construction or maintenance, facility construction or maintenance, educational uses (including outdoor classroom construction or maintenance), interpretive functions, visitor services, conservation measures and development, or other activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretaries. In carrying out this section, the Secretaries shall consider referrals of prospective volunteers made by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

''SEC. 5. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

''The Secretaries are authorized to provide for incidental expenses, such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, training, equipment, and subsistence.

''SEC. 6. CONSIDERATION AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEE.

''(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a volunteer shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relating to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

''(b) For the purpose of the tort claim provisions of title 28, United States Code, a volunteer under this Act shall be considered a Federal employee.

''(c) For the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries, volunteers under this Act shall be deemed civil employees of the United States within the meaning of the term 'employee' as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply.

''(d) For the purposes of claims relating to damage to, or loss of, personal property of a volunteer incident to volunteer service, a volunteer under this Act shall be considered a Federal employee, and the provisions of section 3721 of title 31, United States Code, shall apply.

''(e) For the purposes of subsections (b), (c), and (d), the term 'volunteer' includes a person providing volunteer services to either of the Secretaries who—

''(1) is recruited, trained, and supported by a cooperator under a mutual benefit agreement or cooperative agreement with either of the Secretaries; and

''(2) performs such volunteer services under the supervision of the cooperator as directed by either of the Secretaries in the mutual benefit agreement or cooperative agreement in the mutual benefit agreement, including direction that specifies—

''(A) the volunteer services, including the geographic boundaries of the work to be performed by the volunteers, and the supervision to be provided by the cooperator;

''(B) the applicable project safety standards and protocols to be adhered to by the volunteers and enforced by the cooperator;

''(C) the on-site visits to be made by either of the Secretaries, if feasible and only if necessary to verify that volunteers are performing the volunteer services and the cooperator is providing the supervision agreed upon;

''(D) the equipment the volunteers are authorized to use;

''(E) the training the volunteers are required to complete;

''(F) the actions the volunteers are authorized to take; and

''(G) any other terms and conditions that are determined to be necessary by the applicable Secretary.

''SEC. 7. PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.

''The Secretaries shall promote volunteer opportunities in areas administered by the Secretaries.

''SEC. 8. LIABILITY INSURANCE.

''The Secretaries shall not require a cooperator or volunteer (as those terms are used in section 6) to have liability insurance to provide the volunteer services authorized under this Act.''.

SEC. 342. REFERENCE.

Any reference to the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Volunteers in the National Forests and Public Land Act.

Subtitle D—Recreation Not Red Tape

SEC. 351. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR RECREATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED RECREATION SERVICES.—The term ''authorized recreation services'' means similar and complementary recreation enhancement or improvement services carried out—

(A) on Federal land, non-Federal land, or land owned by an Indian Tribe; and

(B) by either the Secretary or a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county, as applicable, pursuant to a good neighbor agreement.

(2) COUNTY.—The term ''county'' means—

(A) the appropriate executive official of an affected county; or

(B) in any case in which multiple counties are affected, the appropriate executive official of a compact of the affected counties.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means land that is—

(A) owned and administered by the United States as a part of—

(i) the National Forest System; or

(ii) the National Park System; or

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

(4) RECREATION ENHANCEMENT OR IMPROVEMENT SERVICES.—The term ''recreation enhancement or improvement services'' means—

(A) establishing, repairing, restoring, improving, relocating, constructing, or reconstructing new or existing—

(i) trails or trailheads;

(ii) campgrounds and camping areas;

(iii) cabins;

(iv) picnic areas or other day use areas;

(v) shooting ranges;

(vi) restroom or shower facilities;

(vii) paved or permanent roads or parking areas that serve existing recreation facilities or areas;

(viii) fishing piers, wildlife viewing platforms, docks, or other constructed features at a recreation site;

(ix) boat landings;

(x) hunting or fishing sites;

(xi) infrastructure within ski areas; or

(xii) visitor centers or other interpretative sites; and

(B) activities that create, improve, or restore access to existing recreation facilities or areas.

(5) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT.—The term ''good neighbor agreement'' means a cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source contract) entered into between the Secretary and a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county, as applicable, to carry out authorized recreation services under this title.

(6) GOVERNOR.—The term ''Governor'' means the Governor or any other appropriate executive official of an affected State or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(7) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to National Park System land and public lands.

(b) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS FOR RECREATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may enter into a good neighbor agreement with a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county to carry out authorized recreation services in accordance with this title.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each good neighbor agreement available to the public.

(3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may provide financial or technical assistance to a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county carrying out authorized recreation services.

(B) ADDITIONAL TREATMENTS OF REVENUE.—Section 8206(b)(2)(C) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(b)(2)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received from the sale of timber by a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county under a good neighbor agreement shall be retained and used by the Governor, Indian Tribe, or county, as applicable—

''(I) to carry out authorized restoration services on under the good neighbor agreement; and

''(II) if there are funds remaining after carrying out clause (i), to carry out—

''(aa) authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements; or

''(bb) authorized recreation services under the Good Neighbor Authority for Recreation Act.

''(ii) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided under this subparagraph terminates effective October 1, 2028.''.

(4) RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.—Any decision required to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any authorized recreation services to be provided

under this section on Federal land shall not be delegated to a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county.

SEC. 352. PERMIT RELIEF FOR PICNIC AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary concerned does not require the public to obtain a permit or reservation to access a picnic area on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary concerned shall not require a covered person to obtain a permit solely to access the picnic area.

(b) COVERED PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered person'' means a person (including an educational group) that provides outfitting and guiding services to fewer than 40 customers per year at a picnic area described in subsection (a).

SEC. 353. INTERAGENCY REPORT ON SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

(a) COVERED COMMUNITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered community'' means a rural or urban community, including an Indian Tribe, that is—

(1) low-income or underserved; and

(2) has been underrepresented in outdoor recreation opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries, acting jointly, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the estimated use of special recreation permits serving covered communities;

(2) examples of special recreation permits, partnerships, cooperative agreements, or other arrangements providing access to Federal recreational lands and waters for covered communities;

(3) other ways covered communities are engaging on Federal recreational lands and waters, including through stewardship and conservation projects or activities;

(4) any barriers for existing or prospective recreation service providers and holders of commercial use authorizations operating within or serving a covered community; and

(5) any recommendations to facilitate and increase permitted access to Federal recreational lands and waters for covered communities.

SEC. 354. MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LAND ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (16 U.S.C. 6851 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(1) (16 U.S.C. 6852(1)), by striking ''public outdoor recreational use'' and inserting ''recreation sites'';

(2) in section 5(a)(4) (16 U.S.C. 6854(a)(4)), by striking ''permanently restricted or prohibited'' and inserting ''regulated or closed''; and

(3) in section 6(b) (16 U.S.C. 6855(b))—

(A) by striking ''may'' and inserting ''shall''; and

(B) by striking ''the Secretary of the Interior'' and inserting ''the Secretaries''.

SEC. 355. SAVINGS PROVISION.

No additional Federal funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the activities authorized by this Act are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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. 6492, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act, or EXPLORE Act.

This legislation is a bipartisan effort, cosponsored by Ranking Member GRIJALVA of the Committee on Natural Resources.

I want to take a moment to thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA for his commitment to this bill and, most importantly, to wish him well in his fight against cancer. Last week, we were saddened to hear of his recent diagnosis. I know what a fighter Ranking Member GRIJALVA is, and I have confidence that he will be back in D.C. very soon. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Mr. Speaker, today is the first time in the history of the House that we will be considering a comprehensive outdoor recreation package aimed at getting more Americans outdoors and supporting the $1.1 trillion and growing outdoor recreation economy.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill is the culmination of more than a year's worth of hearings and markups in the House, and it builds off years of work in both the House and the Senate.

This legislation is cosponsored by more than 50 of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It is also supported by over 100 organizations representing outdoor recreation, small businesses, conservation groups, and sportsmen and -women from across the country.

I grew up and still spend as much time as I can recreating on and around Arkansas' beautiful public lands, which, in my humble opinion, are the best the country has to offer. Arkansas is known as the Natural State because of our plentiful and well-managed forests, rugged mountains, pristine lakes and rivers, and abundant wildlife. Arkansas offers truly unmatched places to recreate, hunt, fish, spend time with loved ones, and simply enjoy God's wonderful creation. We are known for our world-class mountain biking, duck hunting, trout fishing, and rock climbing. Outdoor recreation is a part of our heritage and a tradition we pass on from generation to generation.

That is why I am proud to offer the EXPLORE Act. It includes great ideas from my colleagues from around the country, ideas which will improve access and opportunities for outdoor recreation across all of our public lands and waters. This will ensure that more Americans can enjoy our great outdoors in the present while leaving them in better condition for generations to come.

Specifically, the EXPLORE Act will create new long-distance bike trails, ensure rock climbing continues in wilderness areas, and reduce the bureaucratic burdens on small business. The bill also helps encourage the next generation of sportsmen and -women by creating new target shooting ranges, cutting red tape for filming on public lands, and addressing invasive species that harm recreational fishing opportunities.

The EXPLORE Act recognizes that outdoor recreation extends beyond our public lands and into nearby communities that host millions of visitors annually. In Arkansas, visits to public lands support an average of $362 million in economic output. The legislation addresses the challenges gateway communities face by alleviating overcrowding at national parks, addressing housing shortages, and modernizing technology to improve visitor experiences.

I am especially proud that the EXPLORE Act also includes provisions to tackle many of the barriers that prevent members of our military, wounded warriors, people with disabilities, and young folks from fully accessing our public lands. The legislation does this by building new, accessible trails, directing land managers to prioritize recreational visits among our military servicemembers, and reauthorizing the successful Every Kid Outdoors program.

I also highlight the important benefits this legislation provides for Arkansans. Importantly, this legislation directs the U.S. Forest Service to reopen closed campgrounds at the popular Albert Pike Recreation Area in the Ouachita National Forest.

The legislation also creates public-private partnerships to improve parking opportunities and the availability and cleanliness of restrooms on public lands, two of the top concerns that I hear from my constituents.

Finally, this legislation encourages the creation of new off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities and updates maps for OHV users so they know what trails are open.

I acknowledge Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders and First Gentleman Brian Sanders for their work on the Natural State Initiative, which is aimed at promoting the beauty and recreation opportunities found in Arkansas. I also thank Katherine Andrews, the director of the Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation, who testified in support of this legislation last year. Their work has been instrumental in supporting the formulation of this legislation and growing Arkansas' outdoor recreation economy.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize just a few of the Arkansas organizations that have lent their support to this bill, including the Arkansas Climbers Coalition, the Arkansas Canoe Club, and the

Arkansas chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 6492, the ''Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act'' or the ''EXPLORE Act''. Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 6492 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN ''GT'' THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2024.

Hon. GLENN ''GT'' THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 6492, the ''Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act'' or the ''EXPLORE Act,'' which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on January 17, 2024.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of this bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 6492 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 6492, as amended, the ''Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act'' or ''EXPLORE Act.'' As you know, there are provisions in the legislation that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this legislation, I am willing to waive this committee's consideration of the legislation. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 6492, as amended, and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOST,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2024.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 6492, the ''Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act'' or the ''EXPLORE Act,'' which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on January 17, 2024.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of this bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will not formally consider H.R. 6492 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the legislative report for H.R. 6492 and the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6492, the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act, or EXPLORE Act, introduced by the Natural Resources Committee chair, BRUCE WESTERMAN, and my esteemed ranking member colleague, RAÚL GRIJALVA.

□ 1630

I am thankful for the dedication of this bipartisan duo to this legislation and the years of hard work which the chairman described in getting us to this point—the hearings, the input, the compromises, the openness to the ideas that were coming through this long process.

I am also very pleased to be an original cosponsor of the bill as well.

When I thought about the EXPLORE Act, I remembered a quote from President Jimmy Carter who noted: ''Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.''

Ada Limon, our 24th poet laureate just published the anthology, ''You Are Here,'' poems which place each of us in nature. These poems will be placed throughout our national parks. We are inspired by our parks because as she notes in her introduction: ''Because nature is not a place to visit. Nature is who we are.''

Nature needs our help sometimes, too, and that is where this bill comes in.

Our national parks and public lands are treasures that belong to each and every American. These national treasures inspire awe in those who visit. They transform lives and perspectives, but they also are an incredible economic engine for local economies.

New Mexico's beautiful Third District offers boundless opportunities to explore beautiful places from skiing the powdered slopes in Taos and Santa Fe to hiking through the otherworldly landscape of Bisti Badlands to white water rafting down the Rio Grande.

The outdoor economy in New Mexico is expanding. Last year, the outdoor economy saw job growth of 7 percent, employing over 28,000 New Mexicans similar to the amazing work that we heard about in Arkansas.

In fact, the story can be repeated in almost every State where our public lands draw so many and are such an impressive economic engine.

Nationwide, our 400 national parks reported a total of 325.5 million recreation visits in 2023, an increase of 13 million, or 4 percent over 2022.

In addition to the continued growth in overall numbers, NPS data shows that visitation is increasing in the more traditional off seasons at many parks with more visits in the spring and fall than seen in years past. Mr. Speaker, 20 parks—many of them less well known—broke visitation records in 2023.

The EXPLORE Act will improve and modernize outdoor recreation opportunities across our national parks and public lands, increasing even more public access, improving agency coordination, supporting gateway communities, and advancing equitable access to the outdoors.

This bill is a significant bipartisan effort to advance and foster outdoor recreation activities nationwide, and I thank the majority for their consideration and inclusion of several Democratic priorities.

Specifically, the EXPLORE Act includes versions of bills sponsored by Representatives BARRAGÁN, LEVIN, NEGUSE, PORTER, and STANSBURY, to name just a few.

Taken together, these provisions promote accessibility for disabled communities, increase job opportunities for veterans, facilitate a diverse range of recreation opportunities, and close the nature gap for underserved urban communities.

Public support for public lands and access to outdoor recreation continues to grow each year, and the EXPLORE Act will help advance the idea that the outdoors really are for everyone.

Outdoor recreation is also a growing part of the national economy, and new opportunities for access consistently support economic boosts in gateway communities and job creation across the country.

Indeed, the next time you go to a national park, listen to the many languages that will be spoken there because they are coming to us from across the globe.

The EXPLORE Act will be a significant catalyst for both goals, and I am excited to see it move forward.

However, it is vital that we ensure that outdoor recreation is safe, reliable, and accessible for everyone and that it serves to help preserve and protect our natural world.

It is also important to remember that public land conservation, stewardship, and restoration are the backbone of outdoor recreation and that recreation and land conservation go hand in hand.

We must harness the momentum of this effort to ensure durable support for place-based conservation and sustainable funding that ensures that Federal land management agencies are readily equipped to balance the directives of this bill with all the other critical components of their missions.

Thanks to the leadership of Chair WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, the amended bill before us today adds some meaningful and impactful provisions to the Senate version of this bill.

There is more work to be done, and we look forward to working with our Senate colleagues as they process the new pieces added by the House—the very good pieces added by the House, which we want the Senate to adopt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the EXPLORE Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico for her passion which is evident on this bill, and I thank the minority for working with us to come up with a bill about something that truly is nonpartisan—and it is our public lands and our enjoyment of the outdoors and the wonderful opportunities that we have in this country.

As I mentioned earlier, I get to put my name on this bill as the chairman of the committee, but this isn't all my idea. There are ideas that came from both sides of the aisle. As was mentioned, Senators are working on this legislation, and I do encourage them to take up our legislation and pass it.

One of the very important provisions in the bill is the Military and Veterans in Parks component that is in it.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) who authored the language in this section of the bill and is a veteran herself.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of the EXPLORE Act today. It has been a privilege to work on this legislation with the chairman as a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

I am particularly proud that it includes my Military and Veterans in Parks Act, nicknamed the MVP Act after the invaluable role our former servicemembers have played in protecting our great Nation.

As a wife of a veteran, the mother of future veterans, and a former Navy helicopter pilot myself, I have a unique understanding of the challenges facing those who have served.

As a geriatric nurse practitioner who spent years caring for our Greatest Generation, I have also seen the effects of all types of injuries sustained on the battlefield, including post-traumatic stress disorder and countless other invisible wounds.

Unfortunately, almost two-thirds of all post-9/11 veterans are experiencing mental health issues, while 27 percent of all veterans have a service-related disability.

We should be going above and beyond to give those heroes every opportunity to reintegrate into civil society and lead happy and healthy lives.

That is why it is incredibly frustrating to me that accessibility remains a significant obstacle for disabled veterans in our national parks and other outdoor recreation sites.

Steep trails, inaccessible facilities, and inadequate accommodations limit the ability of veterans with disabilities to fully enjoy all of the fantastic recreation opportunities our Federal lands have to offer.

Between the beach and the bay, southeast Virginia is home to some of the most beautiful natural resources in the country. Residents and visitors alike enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, kayaking, camping, and countless other forms of outdoor recreation often in one of our many national wildlife refuges as well as Park Service-managed lands.

The MVP Act ensures these outdoor activities are available to all of our veterans by directing the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service to each develop adaptive trails and campgrounds in the regions they manage, as well as accessible hunting, fishing, and kayaking opportunities.

As a primary care provider, I know the connection between outdoor recreation and improved mental health outcomes cannot be denied.

Research consistently demonstrates that spending time in nature can reduce stress, alleviate symptoms of anxiety and depression, and enhance overall psychological well-being. For our veterans who suffer from both the physical and the invisible wounds of war, these benefits are particularly critical.

Though I have not been in Congress long, I have made it my mission since day one to advocate for the mental health of our servicemembers and veterans. It is a mission that guides everything I do here in Washington.

That is why it is my great honor to be standing here today in support of the EXPLORE Act.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his continued support for the MVP Act and for implementing it within the EXPLORE Act. I know this legislation will help improve the lives of our Nation's heroes.

These brave men and women have selflessly served our country, defended our freedoms, and protected our way of life. It is our duty to ensure that they receive the support and opportunities they deserve even after their service has concluded.

I hope my colleagues recognize the great need for the EXPLORE Act, and I urge them to vote ''yes.''

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I completely agree that it is important that those who have fought to preserve our country deserve to have full access to our public lands.

It is not enough to say thank you for your service. We must always turn that gratitude into concrete action, and the sections in this bill are actually turning that gratitude into accessible trails, they are turning that gratitude into health meadows and specifically directing our agencies to make sure that our veterans have access to the public lands for which they have fought for preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), my ''hermana,'' ''sister,'' whose legislation is included in the EXPLORE Act.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I start by thanking the gentlewoman from New Mexico, my sister from the north, for yielding me the time, and say that I rise today to both celebrate and urge passage of the EXPLORE Act which we are here debating today on the House floor.

This bipartisan bill will not only improve access and opportunities for recreation across our public lands and waters across New Mexico and the United States, it will help to protect and promote opportunities for all people to access our lands and waters.

I am especially proud that this package includes my Promoting Accessibility on Federal Lands Act, which is a bill I was deeply proud to have joined forces across the aisle with Representative CISCOMANI from Tucson to make the great outdoors accessible to everyone regardless of physical limitations.

This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture through all of the parks and public lands and waters that they manage to conduct a comprehensive assessment of accessibility options for our trails, our campsites, and our recreational facilities so that every single person can enjoy the great outdoors.

Almost half of New Mexico's lands are publicly managed. I ran for Congress as a native New Mexican largely because of my passion and love for protecting the precious lands and waters that make us who we are and to ensure

that every single New Mexican has access to the great outdoors—especially our veterans, which is part of why this bill is so important.

In New Mexico, we have one of the largest proportions of veterans and Active-Duty military in the United States—nearly 140,000 veterans in New Mexico alone.

As Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, my sister from the north said, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we are maintaining access and ensuring that all of our veterans, our elders, people living with disabilities, and everyone in our communities can access the great outdoors. It is a place of restorative, resilient opportunity for everyone to be whole and to reconnect.

That is why I am proud to have had Vet Voice Foundation testify in support of this legislation who share a strong connection with the outdoors and believe that protecting our national public lands is not only an opportunity for recreation but truly a patriotic duty.

Mr. Speaker, America's public lands are for everyone regardless of culture, age, gender, or differing abilities, and this legislation will help to address disparities in accessibility and take critical steps to ensure that our lands and waters are accessible to everyone.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I, again, want to show my appreciation to the other gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) for her work on this bill and for the great bipartisan support that we have had. I know every speaker that comes up will talk about the beautiful recreation opportunities in their particular area, but one thing I know is from sea to shining sea, America has beautiful areas for outdoor recreation.

The next gentleman represents the district that includes his hometown of Mobile and some excellent offshore fishing as well as inshore fishing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL).

□ 1645

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, isn't it nice that we can come on the floor and agree on something? It is such a pleasure. I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) for sponsoring this legislation, and I appreciate working on this bill.

Today, I stand strong in support of the EXPLORE Act introduced by Chairman WESTERMAN, a bill that significantly improves our outdoor recreation experiences and bolsters the $1.1 trillion outdoor recreation economy crucial to our Nation.

This legislation is about more than just enjoyable activities like biking, target shooting, and fishing. It is about deepening our connection with nature, a fundamental part of what it means to be an American.

From personal experiences, I have learned invaluable lessons during outdoor activity, whether it is fishing in the Gulf or hunting in Alabama in our unlimited woodlands.

I have introduced my children to the same experiences, and now those experiences are being passed on to their children. So it is a generational thing that we do get to pass on to our children. It is something special.

A key highlight of this bill is it focuses on ensuring access for everyone, including individuals with disabilities, veterans, and children. Recreation should be open to all, regardless of background or ability.

The EXPLORE Act emphasizes conservation efforts, ensures that our outdoor spaces remain accessible and pristine for the future generations. Balancing conservation with recreational opportunities is critical to protecting our natural heritage and promoting economic growth.

I am honored to cosponsor this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this vital initiative.

Together, we can ensure that the benefits of our public lands and waters are enjoyed by all now and in the future.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, indeed, it is marvelous when we come together on these bipartisan bills. I would recognize the work of Ranking Member GRIJALVA and Chairman WESTERMAN in bringing these kind of bipartisan bills that we have had all day long today, and the enthusiasm for the EXPLORE Act.

I like the fact that the last speaker talked about families. I need to tell you that when Latinos see the vision of a hiker who is on top of the mountain, they always ask how come he is up there alone.

Where is his family? We know that Latino families love to get out in nature and they love doing it as family.

So many of these outdoor recreation activities are often passed on from father to daughter, from mother to son, from grandfather to grandchildren, and grandmother to their children.

I think that is the other key thing about this, this is including everybody, recognizing that this is, indeed, a great American tradition to go and explore our outdoors.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I had an opportunity to go to northern Minnesota and actually drive a vehicle out onto a lake and fish through a little hole on the ice when it was minus 22 degrees. There are all kinds of unique outdoor recreation opportunities across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6492, the EXPLORE Act, which I am proud to cosponsor.

You know, Minnesotans are fishermen and -women. We hunt, we hike, we snowmobile, we ski, we ATV—you name it. Simply put, Minnesotans know how to recreate. More importantly, Minnesotans are some of the greatest conservationists in the world.

Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District is blessed to be home to the Chippewa in Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, and the Grand Portage National Monument.

Minnesotans not only want to enjoy these treasures themselves, but they want their children and their children's children to enjoy everything God has offered our great State.

Maintaining our public lands is just a part of our way of life in northern Minnesota, and I am proud to support legislation that will ensure our public lands remain accessible wonders for everyone, including the rest of the world.

The EXPLORE Act will, in short, ensure all Americans can reap the benefits of the great outdoors. It does so by requiring our Federal land managers to ensure our vehicular use trails are properly maintained, providing safe, quality shooting range access on our National Forest and BLM lands, and expanding and enabling access for our Nation's Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, this is really good legislation that serves the American people.

I thank my good friends, Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and other Members on the Committee on Natural Resources for their work on this bill.

This is a good, bipartisan piece of legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to hear from the different speakers about their amazing public lands, I honor our Ranking Member GRIJALVA, who has done so much important work on this bill. I honor the fact that, indeed, in his Arizona, he has under his jurisdiction and representing and listening to the cactuses.

Ranking Member GRIJALVA has the Saguaro National Park, the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, the Coronado National Memorial, and the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

Indeed, these are places we think about when we go from Minnesota, the land of many lakes where you can fish, to the places that are the most arid in our country. It is this diversity of public land which makes America so beautiful and which attracts so many. Those who have many lakes want to go see what it is like when you have the deserts and saguaros. Those who live in the arid deserts want to go and marvel at the lakes and go fishing in Minnesota or in Arkansas, where they have their beautiful hot springs.

I think New Mexico is absolutely the best, but I love it when I get to explore other public lands across our country. This act will continue to allow Americans to do that into the future.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, when you think of the great State of Montana, we think of Yellowstone and Glacier and all the beautiful places

there. I also think of the gentleman from Montana, who was not only the Secretary of the Interior, but also represents the great State of Montana and knows a thing or two about outdoor recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6429, the EXPLORE Act, for a lot of reasons.

One is that while I am from Montana, I don't have cattle or I don't have a ranch or helicopter, but I am John Dutton with a hat.

This legislation, and I am glad to see it is bipartisan because some things should be bipartisan in our country, and our public lands and outdoor experience is that.

I grew up in Montana, but things have changed. When I grew up there, there wasn't any problem with public access. There was plenty of land. There wasn't a lot of people, and you could go where you wanted.

Today, it is a lot different. A lot of people are moving in, and we have new strains on our legacy that we inherited.

I inherited a lot of what Teddy Roosevelt gave us, but it was a different time. Now, there are different strains, and we have to work to manage the next 100 years of what our experience is.

Inscribed on the Roosevelt arch which marks the entrance to Yellowstone National Park is the phrase: ''For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People.'' That is the enabling act of why we have the park system we do, for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

I am proud to add to it the Gateway Communities and Recreation Enhancement Act because in order to meet this goal, there are certain provisions we need a little help with; especially in gateway communities because the gateway communities themselves are challenged in infrastructure and housing.

How do you attend to the millions of visitors when you are a small town and you rise and fall in population so dramatically?

What this bill does, it makes sure that issues such as housing, infrastructure, and park access are managed and that local communities have a say.

Sometimes Washington forgets that there are local communities outside the Beltway, and when you are in Montana or a long ways away from Washington, on issues that involve the park and involve the communities, local communities should have that say.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my all my colleagues to support this act that is bipartisan and in the best interest of this country. This should be unanimous or near unanimous. I might also add, this has been well-managed by my friend from Arkansas and the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I stand, once again, in support of this bipartisan act, which reflects so much hard work, compromise, understanding, and listening to the many voices who shared with us what they wanted to see in a bill that would increase conservation, that would increase access, and that would increase the ability of Americans to celebrate our public lands, to celebrate America's best ideas, which are our national parks. But also, to celebrate something like the 100-year anniversary of the Gila Wilderness, which I will be celebrating in a few weeks in New Mexico, where we had our first wilderness.

Indeed, even in that wilderness, we could use some help making sure that the gateway community has access to the kinds of resources we need to make sure that people who might not be able to clamor up to the cliff dwellings can access and learn about those cliff dwellings.

It is this recognition of the many hardships but beautiful opportunities that present themselves in our public lands that the EXPLORE Act addresses.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, I stand in support of this bipartisan legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' in favor of this legislation.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we talk a lot about access. There is access for people with limited mobility. There is access for older folks who can't get around as well. But when we think about access in the form of public access to public lands, it is about all Americans being able to enjoy the great lands that we have, the great ideas that our founders had to set this land aside for the enjoyment of all Americans.

It is not something we should just stand back and look at. We should actually get out into our public lands and enjoy them.

I know firsthand the importance of access to our public lands and waters, both for Americans who enjoy them and the communities that surround them.

From camping and mountain biking to rock climbing and fishing, the EXPLORE Act has something for everybody who enjoys outdoor activities. The EXPLORE Act would not have been possible without the tireless work and contributions of the many stakeholder organizations that have advocated for comprehensive outdoor recreation policy.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter dated April 8, 2024, signed by more than 30 of these organizations, which states: ''This transformative legislation is a win-win-win for businesses, our cherished lands and waters, and Democrats and Republicans alike, all while supporting rural economies, communities, and our American quality of life.''

OUTDOOR RECREATION ROUNDTABLE,
April 8, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.
Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR WESTERMAN AND RANKING MEMBER GRIJALVA:

On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association (ORR), the over 30 national outdoor recreation trade associations, and all who benefit from time outside, we appreciate your strong support for the recreation economy and stand with you in urging the passage of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act. This legislation has strong bipartisan and bicameral support and has been endorsed by virtually every outdoor recreation industry organization, hundreds of outdoor businesses, and conservation groups.

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable is the nation's leading coalition of outdoor recreation associations representing the more than 110,000 outdoor businesses in the recreation economy and the full spectrum of outdoor-related activities. The most recent data from the U.S. Department of Commerce shows that outdoor recreation generated $1.1 trillion and 5 million American jobs in 2022, comprising 2.2% of the nation's economy and 3.2% of all employees in the country.

The EXPLORE Act will create more access to outdoor recreation, provide a better experience for visitors to public lands and waters, modernize the permitting process for guides and outfitters, create new accessible trails for veterans and the disability community, expand the Every Kids Outdoors Act, codify the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP), identify new potential long distance bike trails, create more health and wellness opportunities including for mental health, and a better business environment to create more jobs. This transformative legislation is a win-win-win for businesses, our cherished lands and waters, and Democrats and Republicans alike, all while supporting rural economies, communities, and our American quality of life.

The EXPLORE Act would be the first-ever recreation package to pass the House, and one of the most significant outdoor recreation legislative victories we can all be proud of. Aspects of this historic legislation have been worked on by bipartisan congressional champions in the House and Senate and stakeholders for more than a decade. Passage of these critical and timely policies will provide long-term benefits to local economies in rural and urban areas, every sector of the broader outdoor recreation industry, and every person who will now be able to experience more time outside.

We thank you again for your leadership and stronly encourage your colleagues to pass this legislation today. We look forward to working with you and your staff over the coming weeks to ensure these bipartisan and pragmatic policies get signed into law.

Sincerely,

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, American Horse Council, American Mountain Guides Association, America Outdoors, American Sportfishing Association, Archery Trade Association, Association of Marina Industries, Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education, CHM Government Services, Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association,

International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association, Motorcycle Industry Council, National Forest Recreation Association, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Ski Area Association, New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division.

Outdoor Industry Association, PeopleForBikes, Professional TrailBuilders Association, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, REI Co-op, Rivian, RV Dealers Association, RV Industry Association, Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals, Specialty Equipment Market Association, Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, Sports & Fitness Industry Association, The Corps Network, Trust for Public Land, VF Corporation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in particular, I would recognize Jess Turner from the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Matt Wade from the American Mountain Guides Association, and Aaron Bannon from America Outdoors for their tireless efforts on this bill.

I would also recognize Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman MANCHIN and Ranking Member BARASSO, who are leading the Senate companion legislation to the EXPLORE Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this first-of-its-kind legislation that will unleash the full potential of the outdoor recreation economy and encourage millions of Americans in Arkansas and across our great country to get out and explore the unparalleled recreational opportunities our Federal lands and waters have to offer.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6492, 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.

□ 1700

COMMUNITY RECLAMATION PARTNERSHIPS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6233) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6233

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 ''Community Reclamation Partnerships Act''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).

SEC. 3. STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CERTAIN REMEDIATION.

Section 405 (30 U.S.C. 1235) is amended by inserting after subsection (l) the following:

''(m) STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR REMEDIATION OF MINE DRAINAGE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State with a State program approved under subsection (d) may enter into a memorandum of understanding with relevant Federal or State agencies (or both) to remediate mine drainage on abandoned mine land and water impacted by abandoned mines within the State. The memorandum may be updated as necessary and resubmitted for approval under this subsection.

''(2) MEMORANDA REQUIREMENTS.—Such memorandum shall establish a strategy satisfactory to the State and Federal agencies that are parties to the memorandum, to address water pollution resulting from mine drainage at sites eligible for reclamation and mine drainage abatement expenditures under section 404, including specific procedures for—

''(A) ensuring that activities carried out to address mine drainage will result in improved water quality;

''(B) monitoring, sampling, and the reporting of collected information as necessary to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A);

''(C) operation and maintenance of treatment systems as necessary to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A); and

''(D) other purposes, as considered necessary by the State or Federal agencies, to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A).

''(3) PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Before submitting a memorandum to the Secretary and the Administrator for approval, a State shall—

''(i) invite interested members of the public to comment on the memorandum; and

''(ii) hold at least one public meeting concerning the memorandum in a location or locations reasonably accessible to persons who may be affected by implementation of the memorandum.

''(B) NOTICE OF MEETING.—The State shall publish notice of each meeting not less than 15 days before the date of the meeting, in local newspapers of general circulation, on the Internet, and by any other means considered necessary or desirable by the Secretary and the Administrator.

''(C) RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT.—The memorandum shall include responses to substantive concerns raised by the public in comments and during public meetings if received within 30 days of such meetings and opportunity to comment.

''(4) SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—The State shall submit the memorandum to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The Secretary and the Administrator shall approve or disapprove the memorandum within 120 days after the date of its submission if the Secretary and Administrator find that the memorandum will facilitate additional activities under the State Reclamation Plan under subsection (e) that improve water quality.

''(5) TREATMENT AS PART OF STATE PLAN.—A memorandum of a State that is approved by the Secretary and the Administrator under this subsection shall be considered part of the approved abandoned mine reclamation plan of the State.

''(n) COMMUNITY RECLAIMER PARTNERSHIPS.—

''(1) PROJECT APPROVAL.—Within 120 days after receiving such a submission, the Secretary shall approve a Community Reclaimer project to remediate abandoned mine lands if the Secretary finds that—

''(A) the proposed project will be conducted by a Community Reclaimer as defined in this subsection or approved subcontractors of the Community Reclaimer;

''(B) for any proposed project that remediates mine drainage, the proposed project is consistent with an approved State memorandum of understanding under subsection (m);

''(C) the proposed project will be conducted on a site or sites inventoried under section 403(c);

''(D) the proposed project meets all submission criteria under paragraph (2);

''(E) the relevant State has entered into an agreement with the Community Reclaimer under which the State shall assume all responsibility with respect to the project for any costs or damages resulting from any action or inaction on the part of the Community Reclaimer in carrying out the project, except for costs or damages resulting from gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the Community Reclaimer, on behalf of—

''(i) the Community Reclaimer; and

''(ii) the owner of the proposed project site, if such Community Reclaimer or owner, respectively, did not participate in any way in the creation of site conditions at the proposed project site or activities that caused any lands or waters to become eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under section 404;

''(F) the State has the necessary legal authority to conduct the project and will obtain all legally required authorizations, permits, licenses, and other approvals to ensure completion of the project;

''(G) the State has sufficient financial resources to ensure completion of the project, including any necessary operation and maintenance costs (including costs associated with emergency actions covered by a contingency plan under paragraph (2)(K)); and

''(H) the proposed project is not in a category of projects that would require a permit under title V.

''(2) PROJECT SUBMISSION.—The State shall submit a request for approval to the Secretary that shall include—

''(A) a description of the proposed project, including any engineering plans that must bear the seal of a professional engineer;

''(B) a description of the proposed project site or sites, including, if relevant, the nature and extent of pollution resulting from mine drainage;

''(C) identification of the past and current owners and operators of the proposed project site;

''(D) the agreement or contract between the relevant State and the Community Reclaimer to carry out the project;

''(E) a determination that the project will facilitate the activities of the State reclamation plan under subsection (e);

''(F) sufficient information to determine whether the Community Reclaimer has the technical capability and expertise to successfully conduct the proposed project;

''(G) a cost estimate for the project and evidence that the Community Reclaimer has sufficient financial resources to ensure the successful completion of the proposed project (including any operation or maintenance costs);

''(H) a schedule for completion of the project;

''(I) an agreement between the Community Reclaimer and the current owner of the site governing access to the site;

''(J) sufficient information to ensure that the Community Reclaimer meets the definition under paragraph (3);

''(K) a contingency plan designed to be used in response to unplanned adverse events that includes emergency actions, response, and notifications;

''(L) detailed plans for any proposed recycling or reprocessing of historic mine residue to be conducted by the Community Reclaimer (including a description of how all proposed recycling or reprocessing activities contribute to the remediation of the abandoned mine site); and

''(M) a requirement that the State provide notice to adjacent and downstream landowners and the public and hold a public meeting near the proposed project site before the project is initiated.

''(3) REPROCESSING OF MATERIALS.—A Community Reclaimer may reprocess materials recovered during the implementation of a remediation plan only if—

''(A) the applicable land management agency has signed a decision document approving reprocessing as part of the approved abandoned mine reclamation plan of the State;

''(B) the proceeds from the sale or use of the materials are used—

''(i) to defray the costs of the remediation; and

''(ii) to reimburse the Administrator or the head of a Federal land management agency for the purpose of carrying out this Act; and

''(C) the materials only include historic mine residue.

''(4) COMMUNITY RECLAIMER DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'Community Reclaimer' means any person who—

''(A) seeks to voluntarily assist a State with a reclamation project under this section, which may include companies that currently hold reclamation liability elsewhere from the proposed site or active mine sites that require a performance bond;

''(B) did not participate in any way in the creation of site conditions at the proposed project site or activities that caused any lands or waters at the proposed project site to become eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under section 404; and

''(C) is not subject to outstanding violations listed pursuant to section 510(c).''.

SEC. 4. CLARIFYING STATE LIABILITY FOR MINE DRAINAGE PROJECTS.

Section 413(d) (30 U.S.C. 1242(d)) is amended by inserting ''unless such control or treatment will be conducted in accordance with a State memorandum of understanding approved under section 405(m) of this Act'' after ''under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act''.

SEC. 5. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 405(f) (30 U.S.C. 1235(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking the ''and'' after the semicolon in paragraph (6);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

''(8) a list of projects proposed under subsection (n).''.

SEC. 6. SUNSET PROVISION.

This Act shall be in effect until September 30, 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 6233, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6233, the Community Reclamation Partnerships Act.

H.R. 6233, introduced by Congressman LAHOOD, would allow States to partner with nongovernmental entities to reclaim and restore land and water resources from abandoned mines.

There are still thousands of abandoned mines in the U.S., deserted before modern regulations required mine owners and operators to adhere to strict environmental standards and implement holistic land restoration when operations cease. Many of these sites pose health risks, safety hazards, and environmental concerns for their surrounding communities.

While fees collected from current mining operations combined with Federal dollars fund States' abandoned mine cleanup efforts, third-party nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, have volunteered their resources to assist in abandoned mine restoration.

However, should a site deteriorate in the future after an NGO has implemented restoration efforts, that NGO could be liable for the site. H.R. 6233 aims to shield third-party nongovernmental organizations from frivolous litigation.

The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act will expedite abandoned mine reclamation efforts and improve environmental hazards, all without using taxpayer funds.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 6233, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6233, the Community Reclamation Partnerships Act.

Two centuries of coal mining occurred in the United States before the industry was federally regulated in any meaningful way, including in New Mexico where we have many abandoned wells which litter the countryside.

Before 1977, when the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was passed, coal mining was done with little regard for the environment and absolutely minimal reclamation requirements. This history has left us with a massive number of abandoned coal mines across the country that create environmental and public health hazards.

Fortunately, last Congress, Democrats championed and passed over $11 billion to clean up abandoned coal mines. These funds are already being deployed to clean up hazardous sites and to create good jobs.

Even with this massive investment, however, there is much work ahead of us before we solve the abandoned coal mine problem for good though.

That is where the Community Reclamation Partnerships Act fits in. This bill would provide third-party groups, like environmental or wildlife organizations, with the ability to use their own funds to clean up streams and watersheds affected by abandoned coal mines, without assuming unnecessary liability.

I am very thankful for these organizations. Many of them are recognizing the fact that these streams are essential in order to have pristine fishing conditions and other benefits to their surrounding areas.

Under current law, these third parties are required to take on full liability if they want to engage in cleanup projects. These groups often don't have the funds or technical ability to cover cleanup all the way to full remediation. That shouldn't mean they should be stopped from making partial but substantial improvements to the environment for their communities. We can use all the help we can get.

Therefore, this legislation would create ''Good Samaritan'' protections to allow these third-party groups to enter into memorandums of understanding with the State and EPA, with public feedback, to clean up a site without holding the community reclaimer to full liability.

This community reclamation program is only part of the solution to abandoned coal mine lands, but it is a step in the right direction to clean up this legacy pollution.

I am grateful for the bipartisan work on this legislation, and I am glad to see it on the floor today.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), the author of the legislation,

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge Chairman WESTERMAN for his leadership on the Committee on Natural Resources. I am honored to be here today.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong support of my bill, H.R. 6233, the Community Reclamation Partnerships Act. This legislation, which previously passed the House in the 115th Congress, will help address the complex legal and funding-related challenges for abandoned mines that we have across Illinois and the Nation.

The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act amends the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to enable States to partner with nongovernmental entities to reclaim

abandoned mine sites and facilitate acid mine drainage cleanup across the country.

Nongovernmental entities, such as Trout Unlimited, have recognized the need for reclamation in coal communities and are willing to contribute their resources and expertise to address this problem.

Unfortunately, liability and regulatory concerns have discouraged them from partnering with the States on reclamation projects. This legislation enables NGO participation in State reclamation programs by minimizing undeserved liability and codifying proven practices established by State reclamation agencies.

This legislation also addresses a frequent problem that States experience in addressing water pollution at abandoned mine land sites. States must choose between risking noncompliance under the Clean Water Act or foregoing acid mine drainage abatement projects altogether.

Some States, for instance, like Pennsylvania, have successfully addressed this problem by establishing their own guidelines for the treatment of water pollution at abandoned mine land sites. These State-specific strategies have resulted in successful water treatment projects and a significant reduction in acid mine drainage.

Currently, State reclamation activities have been funded solely by fees levied on the coal industry over the past four decades. These fees have resulted in the reclamation of approximately $4 billion of abandoned mine land liabilities. However, according to the Department of the Interior and EPA, the estimated remediation costs exceeds $15 billion. The cost of reclaiming these sites will continue to strain State resources in the coming decades, and the condition of these sites will only worsen over time.

In short, this bill empowers State and local community leaders who want to assist in abandoned mine cleanup efforts so that future development can occur in these areas. No group should be punished for wanting to help their community in a responsible way.

H.R. 6233 brings more resources to bear on this considerable challenge. I urge adoption of this bill.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

As noted earlier, I stand in support of this legislation and the efforts that will be made under it to have cleanup occur on these coal mines, especially, as noted, Trout Unlimited is so willing to work with local communities. They do great work in New Mexico, and we need to encourage organizations to do that. I thank the sponsor of the bill for working with Trout Unlimited.

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

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

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6233. This commonsense legislation streamlines abandoned mine recovery efforts and provides an alternative pathway to abandoned mine restoration without the use of government funds or the imposition of additional fees on an industry that is operating today with the highest environmental standards.

Further, this bill has bipartisan support and passed unanimously out of the Committee on Natural Resources in December of 2023. As Mr. LAHOOD mentioned, it previously passed out of committee in the 116th and 117th Congress and was passed by the House in the 115th Congress.

I urge my colleagues to come together again today to support smart, efficient legislation that is good for the taxpayers' bottom line, the environment, our States, and our communities.

I thank Congressman LAHOOD for his work to bring H.R. 6233 to the floor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6233.

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.

A STRONGER WORKFORCE FOR AMERICA ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6655) to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6655

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''A Stronger Workforce for America Act''.

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

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION AUTHORITY.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the first date of the first program year (as determined under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)) that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) TRANSITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall have the authority to take such steps as are necessary before the effective date of this Act to provide for the orderly implementation on such date of the amendments to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) made by this Act.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 503 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3343) is repealed (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of contents of such Act).

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—General Provisions

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

(a) FOUNDATIONAL SKILL NEEDS.—Section 3(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) FOUNDATIONAL SKILL NEEDS.—The term 'foundational skill needs' means, with respect to an individual who is a youth or adult, that the individual—

''(A) has English reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th-grade level on a generally accepted standardized test; or

''(B) is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, or does not possess digital literacy skills, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.''.

(b) EMPLOYER-DIRECTED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.—Section 3(14) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(14)) is amended to read as follows:

''(14) EMPLOYER-DIRECTED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.—The term 'employer-directed skills development' means a program—

''(A) that is selected or designed to meet the specific skill demands of an employer (including a group of employers);

''(B) that is conducted pursuant to the terms and conditions established under an employer-directed skills agreement described in section 134(c)(3)(I), including a commitment by the employer to employ an individual upon successful completion of the program; and

''(C) for which the employer pays a portion of the cost of the program, as determined by the local board involved, which shall not be less than—

''(i) 10 percent of the cost, in the case of an employer with 50 or fewer employees;

''(ii) 25 percent of the cost, in the case of an employer with more than 50, but fewer than 100 employees; and

''(iii) 50 percent of the cost, in the case of an employer with 100 or more employees.''.

(c) DISLOCATED WORKER.—Section 3(15)(E)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(15)(E)(ii)) is amended by striking ''who meets the criteria described in paragraph (16)(B)'' and inserting ''who meets the criteria described in subparagraph (B) of the definition of the term 'displaced homemaker' in this section''.

(d) DISPLACED HOMEMAKER.—Section 3(16) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(16)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''family members'' and inserting ''a family member''.

(e) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—Section 3(18) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(18)) is amended by striking ''out-of-school'' and inserting ''opportunity''.

(f) ENGLISH LEARNER.—Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (21)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''LANGUAGE''; and

(B) by striking ''language''; and

(2) in paragraph (24)(I), by striking ''language''.

(g) JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUAL.—Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (24), by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

''(F) Justice-involved individuals.''; and

(2) in paragraph (38)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''OFFENDER'' and inserting ''JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUAL''; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''offender'' and inserting ''justice-involved individual''.

(h) OPPORTUNITY YOUTH.—Section 3(46) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(46)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''OUT-OF-SCHOOL'' and inserting ''OPPORTUNITY''; and

(2) by striking ''out-of-school'' and inserting ''opportunity''.

(i) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—Section 3(47) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(47)) is amended to read as follows:

''(47) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—The term 'pay-for-performance contract strategy' means a specific type of performance-based acquisition that uses pay-for-performance contracts in the provision of services described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 134(c) or activities described in section 129(c)(2), and includes—

''(A) contracts, each of which—

''(i) shall specify a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible service provider (which may include a local or national community-based organization or intermediary, community college, or other provider) based on the achievement of specified levels of performance on the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) for target populations as identified by the local board (including individuals with barriers to employment), within a defined timetable;

''(ii) may not be required by the Secretary to be informed by a feasibility study; and

''(iii) may provide for bonus payments to such service provider to expand capacity to provide effective services and training;

''(B) a strategy for validating the achievement of the performance described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) a description of how the State or local area will reallocate funds not paid to a provider because the achievement of the performance described in subparagraph (A) did not occur, for further activities related to such a procurement strategy, subject to section 189(g)(4).''.

(j) RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITY.—Section 3(51) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(51)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', through a rapid response unit'' after ''designated by a State'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', including individual training accounts for eligible dislocated workers under section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3224a)'';

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F);

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) assistance in identifying employees eligible for assistance, including workers who work a majority of their time off-site or remotely;'';

(6) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) business engagement or layoff aversion strategies and other activities designed to prevent or minimize the duration of unemployment, such as—

''(i) connecting employers to short-term compensation or other programs designed to prevent layoffs;

''(ii) conducting employee skill assessment and matching programs to different occupations;

''(iii) establishing incumbent worker training or other upskilling approaches, including incumbent worker upskilling accounts described in section 134(d)(4)(E);

''(iv) facilitating business support activities, such as connecting employers to programs that offer access to credit, financial support, and business consulting; and

''(v) partnering or contracting with business-focused organizations to assess risks to companies, and to propose, implement, and measure the impact of strategies and services to address such risks.''.

(k) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM.—Section 3(64) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (20 U.S.C. 3102(64)) is amended by striking ''under a provision covered under paragraph (13)(D)'' and inserting ''under a provision covered under subparagraph (D) of the definition of the term 'core program provision' under this section''.

(l) NEW DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102) is further amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

''(72) CO-ENROLLMENT.—The term 'co-enrollment' means simultaneous enrollment in more than one of the programs or activities carried out by a one-stop partner in section 121(b)(1)(B).

''(73) DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS.—The term 'digital literacy skills' has the meaning given the term in section 203.

''(74) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term 'evidence-based', when used with respect to an activity, service, strategy, or intervention, means an activity, service, strategy, or intervention that—

''(A) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving participant outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on—

''(i) strong evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;

''(ii) moderate evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or

''(iii) promising evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or

''(B)(i) demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive

evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and

''(ii) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, service, strategy, or intervention.

''(75) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term 'labor organization' has the meaning given the term in section 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(5)).

''(76) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term 'work-based learning' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).''; and

(2) by reordering paragraphs (1) through (71), as amended by this section, and the paragraphs added by paragraph (1) of this subsection in alphabetical order, and renumbering such paragraphs as so reordered.

SEC. 102. TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 172 as section 174;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 171, the following:

''Sec. 172. Reentry employment opportunities.

''Sec. 173. Strengthening community colleges workforce development grants program.''; and

(3) by striking the item relating to section 190 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 190. State innovation demonstration authority.''.

Subtitle B—System Alignment

CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

SEC. 111. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Section 101(b)(1)(C)(ii)(IV) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3112(b)(1)(C)(ii)(IV)) is amended by striking ''out-of-school youth'' and inserting ''opportunity youth''.

SEC. 112. UNIFIED STATE PLAN.

Section 102 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3112) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (D) through (F), respectively;

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

''(C) a description of—

''(i) how the State will use real-time labor market information to continually assess the economic conditions and workforce trends described in subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

''(ii) how the State will communicate changes in such conditions or trends to the workforce system in the State;'';

(iii) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by inserting ''the extent to which such activities are evidence-based,'' after ''of such activities,'';

(iv) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end;

(v) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) a description of any activities the State is conducting to expand economic opportunity for individuals and reduce barriers to labor market entry by—

''(i) developing, in cooperation with employers, education and training providers, and other stakeholders, statewide skills-based initiatives that promote the use of demonstrated skills and competencies as an alternative to the exclusive use of degree attainment as a requirement for employment or advancement in a career; and

''(ii) evaluating the existing occupational licensing policies in the State and identifying potential changes to recommend to the appropriate State entity to—

''(I) remove or streamline licensing requirements, as appropriate; and

''(II) improve the reciprocity of licensing, including through participating in interstate licensing compacts; and

''(H) an analysis of the opportunity youth population in the State, including the estimated number of opportunity youth and any gaps in services provided to such population by other existing workforce development activities, as identified under subparagraph (D).''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''including a description'' and inserting ''which may include a description'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in clause (ii)(I), by inserting ''utilizing a continuous quality improvement approach,'' after ''year,''

(II) in clause (vi), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(III) in clause (vii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking clause (viii);

(iii) in subparagraph (D)(i)(II), by striking ''any''; and

(iv) in subparagraph (E)—

(I) in clause (viii)(II), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(II) in clause (ix), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(III) by striking clause (x); and

(2) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''shall'' the second place it appears and inserting ''may''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''required''; and

(ii) by inserting '', except that communicating changes in economic conditions and workforce trends to the workforce system in the State as described in subsection (b)(1)(C) shall not be considered modifications subject to approval under this paragraph'' before the period at the end.

CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 115. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

(a) REGIONS.—Section 106(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3121(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) REVIEW.—Before the second full program year after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, in order for a State to receive an allotment under section 127(b) or 132(b) and as part of the process for developing the State plan, a State shall—

''(A) review each region in the State identified under this subsection (as such subsection was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act); and

''(B) after consultation with the local boards and chief elected officials in the local areas and consistent with the considerations described in subsection (b)(1)(B)—

''(i) revise such region and any other region impacted by such revision; or

''(ii) make a determination to maintain such region with no revision.''.

(b) LOCAL AREAS.—Section 106(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3121(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and consistent with paragraphs (2) and (3),''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(except for those local areas described in paragraphs (2) and (3))''; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) through (7), and inserting the following:

''(2) CONTINUATION PERIOD.—Subject to paragraph (5), in order to receive an allotment under section 127(b) or 132(b), the Governor shall maintain the designations of local areas in the State under this subsection (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act) until the end of the third full program year after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

''(3) INITIAL ALIGNMENT REVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the third full program year after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, the Governor shall—

''(i) review the designations of local areas in the State (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act); and

''(ii) based on the considerations described in paragraph (1)(B), issue proposed redesignations of local areas in the State through the process described in paragraph (1)(A), which shall—

''(I) include an explanation of the strategic goals and objectives that the State intends to achieve through such redesignations; and

''(II) be subject to the approval of the local boards in the State in accordance with the process described in subparagraph (C).

''(B) DESIGNATION OF LOCAL AREAS.—A redesignation of local areas in a State that is approved by a majority of the local boards in the State through the process described in subparagraph (C) shall take effect on the first day of the 4th full program year after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

''(C) PROCESS TO REACH MAJORITY APPROVAL.—To approve a designation of local areas in the State, the local boards in the State shall comply with the following:

''(i) INITIAL VOTE.—Not later than 60 days after the Governor issues proposed redesignations under subparagraph (A), the chairperson of each local board shall review the proposed redesignations and submit a vote on behalf of such local board to the Governor either approving or rejecting the proposed redesignations.

''(ii) RESULTS OF INITIAL VOTE.—If a majority of the local boards in the State vote under clause (i)—

''(I) to approve such proposed redesignations, such redesignations shall take effect in accordance with subparagraph (B); or

''(II) to disapprove such proposed redesignations, the chairpersons of the local boards in the State shall comply with the requirements of clause (iii).

''(iii) ALTERNATE REDESIGNATIONS.—In the case of the disapproval described in clause (ii)(II), not later than 60 days after initial votes were submitted under clause (i), the chairpersons of the local boards in the State shall—

''(I) select 2 alternate redesignations of local areas—

''(aa) one of which aligns with the regional economic development areas in the State; and

''(bb) one of which aligns with the regions described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(2); and

''(II) conduct a vote to approve, by majority vote, 1 of the 2 alternate redesignations described in subclause (I).

''(iv) EFFECTIVE DATE OF ALTERNATE DESIGNATIONS.—The alternate redesignations approved pursuant to clause (iii)(II) shall take effect in accordance with subparagraph (B).

''(4) SUBSEQUENT ALIGNMENT REVIEWS.—On the date that is the first day of the 12th full program year after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act,

and every 8 years thereafter, the Governor shall review the designation of local areas based on the considerations described in paragraph (1)(B) and conduct a process in accordance with paragraph (3).

''(5) INTERIM REVISIONS.—

''(A) AUTOMATIC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN REDESIGNATION REQUESTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—At any time, and notwithstanding the requirements of paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), the Governor, upon receipt of a request for a redesignation of a local area described in clause (ii), shall approve such request.

''(ii) REQUESTS.—The following requests shall be approved pursuant to clause (i) upon request:

''(I) A request from multiple local areas to be redesignated as a single local area.

''(II) A request from multiple local areas for a revision to the designations of such local areas, which would not impact the designations of local areas that have not made such request.

''(III) A request for designation as a local area from an area described in section 107(c)(1)(C).

''(B) OTHER REDESIGNATIONS.—Other than the redesignations described in subparagraph (A), the Governor may only redesignate a local area outside of the process described in paragraphs (3) and (4), if the local area that will be subject to such redesignation has not—

''(i) performed successfully;

''(ii) sustained fiscal integrity; or

''(iii) in the case of a local area in a planning region, met the requirements described in subsection (c)(1).

''(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any redesignation of a local area approved by the Governor under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall take effect on the first date of the first full program year after such date of approval.

''(6) APPEALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The local board of a local area that is subject to a redesignation of such local area under paragraph (3), (4), or (5) may submit an appeal to maintain its existing designation to the State board under an appeal process established in the State plan as specified in section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(III).

''(B) STATE BOARD REQUIREMENTS.—The State board shall only grant an appeal to maintain an existing designation of a local area described in subparagraph (A) if the local area can demonstrate that the process for redesignation of such local area under paragraph (3), (4), or (5), as applicable, has not been followed.

''(C) SECRETARIAL REQUIREMENTS.—If a request to maintain an existing designation as a local area is not granted as a result of such appeal, the Secretary, after receiving a request for review from such local area and determining that the local area was not accorded procedural rights under the appeals process referred to in subparagraph (A), shall—

''(i) review the process for the redesignation of the local area under paragraph (3), (4), or (5), as applicable; and

''(ii) upon determining that the applicable process has not been followed, require that the local area's existing designation be maintained.

''(7) REDESIGNATION INCENTIVE.—The State may provide funding from funds made available under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) to provide payments to incentivize—

''(A) groups of local areas to request to be redesignated as a single local area under paragraph (5)(A); or

''(B) multiple local boards in a planning region to develop an agreement to operate as a regional consortium under subsection (c)(3).''.

(c) REGIONAL COORDINATION.—Section 106(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3121(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (G) through (I), respectively; and

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

''(F) the establishment of cost arrangements for services described in subsections (c) and (d) of section 134, including the pooling of funds for such services, as appropriate, for the region;'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', including to assist with establishing administrative costs arrangements or cost arrangements for services under subparagraphs (F) and (G) of such paragraph'' after ''delivery efforts'';

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

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so amended, the following:

''(3) REGIONAL CONSORTIUMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The local boards and chief elected officials in any planning region described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) may develop an agreement to receive funding under section 128(b) and section 133(b) as a single consortium for the planning region.

''(B) FISCAL AGENT.—If the local boards and chief elected officials develop such an agreement—

''(i) one of the chief elected officials in the planning region shall be responsible for designating the fiscal agent for the consortium;

''(ii) the local boards shall develop a memorandum of understanding to jointly administer the activities for the consortium; and

''(iii) the required activities for local areas under this Act, (including the required functions of the local boards described in section 107(d)) shall apply to such a consortium as a whole and may not be applied separately or differently to the local areas or local boards within such consortium.''.

(d) SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREAS.—Section 106(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3121(d)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

''(2) NEW DESIGNATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the process described in subsection (b)(1)(A) and during a review of designations described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (b), the Governor may propose to designate a State as a single State local area for the purposes of this title.

''(B) PROCESS FOR APPROVAL.—If the Governor proposes a single State local area, the chairpersons of the existing local boards shall vote to approve or reject such designation through the process described in subsection (b)(3)(C).

''(C) DESIGNATION AS A SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREA.—If the majority of the chairpersons of the local boards in the State vote to approve such proposed designation, the State shall be designated as a single State local area and the Governor shall identify the State as a local area in the State plan.''.

(e) DEFINITION OF ''PERFORMED SUCCESSFULLY''.—Section 106(e)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3121(e)) is amended by striking ''adjusted levels of performance'' and inserting ''adjusted levels of performance described in section 116(g)(1)''.

SEC. 116. LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

(a) MEMBERSHIP.—Section 107(b)(2)(B)(iv) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122(b)(2)(B)(iv)) is amended by striking ''out-of-school youth'' and inserting ''opportunity youth''.

(b) FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.—Section 107(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', including, to the extent practicable, local representatives of the core programs and the programs described in section 121(b)(1)(B),'' after ''system stakeholders'';

(2) in paragraph (4)(D)—

(A) by striking ''proven'' and inserting ''evidence-based'';

(B) by inserting ''individual'' after ''needs of''; and

(C) by inserting ''from a variety of industries and occupations'' after ''and employers'';

(3) in paragraph (5), by inserting ''and which, to the extent practicable, shall be aligned with career and technical education programs of study (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)) offered within the local area'' before the period at the end;

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''PROVEN'' and inserting ''EVIDENCE-BASED'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''proven'' and inserting ''evidence-based'';

(ii) by inserting ''and covered veterans (as defined in section 4212(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code)'' after ''employment'';

(iii) by inserting '', and give priority to covered persons in accordance with section 4215 of title 38, United States Code'' after ''delivery system''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''proven'' and inserting ''evidence-based'';

(5) in paragraph (10)(C)—

(A) by inserting '', on the State eligible training provider list,'' after ''identify''; and

(B) by inserting ''that operate in or are accessible to individuals'' after ''training services''; and

(6) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking ''activities'' and inserting ''funds allocated to the local area under section 128(b) and section 133(b) for the youth workforce development activities described in section 129 and local employment and training activities described in section 134(b), and the activities''.

SEC. 117. LOCAL PLAN.

Section 108 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''shall prepare'' and inserting ''may prepare''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (E), (F), and (H), respectively;

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

''(D) a description of—

''(i) how the local area will use real-time labor market information to continually assess the economic conditions and workforce trends described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C); and

''(ii) how changes in such conditions or trends will be communicated to jobseekers, education and training providers, and employers in the local area;'';

(iii) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, the following:

''(G) an analysis of the opportunity youth population in the local area, including the estimated number of such youth and any gaps in services for such population from other existing workforce development activities, as identified under paragraph (9), and a description of how the local board will address any such gaps in services identified in such analysis; and'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (iii); and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) carry out any statewide skills-based initiatives identified in the State plan that promote the use of demonstrated skills and competencies as an alternative to the exclusive use of degree attainment as a requirement for employment or advancement in a career; and''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''customized training'' and inserting ''employer-directed skills development'';

(C) in paragraph (6)(B), by inserting '', such as the use of affiliated sites'' after ''means'';

(D) in paragraph (9)—

(i) by striking ''including activities'' and inserting the following: ''including—

''(A) the availability of community based organizations that serve youth primarily during nonschool time hours to carry out activities under section 129; and

''(B) activities''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or evidence-based'' after ''successful''; and

(E) in paragraph (12), by inserting ''including as described in section 134(c)(2),'' after ''system,''.

CHAPTER 3—PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 119. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

(a) STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.—

(1) PRIMARY INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—Section 116(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking ''fourth'' and inserting ''second''; and

(II) by inserting ''and remain in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit from the program'' after ''the program'';

(ii) in subclause (V)—

(I) by striking '', during a program year,'';

(II) by striking ''are in'' and inserting ''enter into''; and

(III) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''within 6 months after the quarter in which the participant enters into the education and training program''; and

(iii) by amending subclause (VI) to read as follows:

''(VI) of the program participants who received training services and who exited the program during a program year, the percentage of such program participants who completed, prior to such exit, on-the-job training, employer-directed skills development, incumbent worker training, or an apprenticeship.'';

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking ''fourth'' and inserting ''second'';

(II) by inserting '', and who remain in such activities or unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit from the program'' after ''the program''; and

(III) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subclause (III)—

(I) by striking ''(VI)'' and inserting ''(V)''; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) of the program participants who exited a program during a program year, the percentage of such program participants who completed, prior to such exit, paid or unpaid work experiences as described in section 129(c)(2)(C).''; and

(C) by striking clause (iv).

(2) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—Section 116(b)(3)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(b)(3)(A)) is amended—

(A) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) IDENTIFICATION IN STATE PLAN.—

''(I) SECRETARIES.—For each State submitting a State plan, the Secretaries of Labor and Education shall, not later than December 1 of the year prior to the year in which such State plan is submitted, for the first 2 program years covered by the State plan, and not later than December 1 of the year prior to the third program year covered by the State plan, for the third and fourth program years covered by the State plan—

''(aa) propose to the State expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding primary indicators of performance for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for such State, which shall—

''(AA) be consistent with the factors listed in clause (v); and

''(BB) be proposed in a manner that ensures sufficient time is provided for the State to evaluate and respond to such proposals; and

''(bb) publish, on a public website of the Department of Labor, the statistical model developed under clause (viii) and the methodology used to develop each such expected level of performance.

''(II) STATES.—Each State shall—

''(aa) evaluate each of the expected levels of performance proposed under subclause (I) with respect to such State;

''(bb) based on such evaluation of each such expected level of performance—

''(AA) accept the expected level of performance as so proposed; or

''(BB) provide a counterproposal for such proposed expected level of performance, including an analysis of how the counterproposal addresses factors or circumstances unique to the State that may not have been accounted for in the expected level of performance; and

''(cc) include in the State plan, with respect to each of the corresponding primary indicators of performance for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for such State—

''(AA) the expected level of performance proposed under subclause (I);

''(BB) the counterproposal for such proposed level, if any; and

''(CC) the expected level of performance that is agreed to under clause (iv).''; and

(B) in clause (v)(II)—

(i) in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking ''based on'' and inserting ''based on each of the following considerations that are found to be predictive of performance on an indicator for a program''; and

(ii) in item (bb), by striking ''ex-offender status'' and inserting ''justice-involved individual status, foster care status, school status, education level, highest grade level completed, low-income status''.

(b) PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—Section 116(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(d)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) TEMPLATE FOR PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall develop, or review and modify, as appropriate, to comply with the requirements of this subsection, the template for performance reports that shall be used by States (including by States on behalf of eligible providers of training services under section 122) and local boards to produce a report on outcomes achieved by the core programs. In developing, or reviewing and modifying, such templates, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall take into account the need to maximize the value of the templates for workers, jobseekers, employers, local elected officials, State officials, Federal policymakers, and other key stakeholders.

''(B) STANDARDIZED REPORTING.—In developing, or reviewing and modifying, the template under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall ensure that performance reports produced by States and local areas for core programs and eligible training providers collect and report, in a comparable and uniform format, common data elements, which use terms that are assigned identical meanings across all such reports.

''(C) ADDITIONAL REPORTING.—The Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education—

''(i) in addition to the common data elements described under subparagraph (B), may require a core program to provide additional information as necessary for effective reporting; and

''(ii) shall periodically review any requirement for additional information to ensure the requirement is necessary and does not impose an undue reporting burden.''.

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (J) through (L) as subparagraphs (K) through (M), respectively and inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

''(J) the median earnings gain of participants who received training services, calculated as the difference between—

''(i) median participant earnings in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after program exit; and

''(ii) median participant earnings in the second quarter prior to entering the program;''.

(B) in subparagraph (L), as so redesignated, by striking clause (ii); and

(C) by striking ''strategies for programs'' and all that follows through ''the performance'', and inserting ''strategies for programs, the performance'';

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

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

''(C) the percentage of a local area's allocation under section 133(b) that the local area spent on services paid for through an individual training account described in section 134(c)(3)(F)(iii) or a training contract described in section 134(c)(3)(G)(ii);

''(D) the percentage of a local area's allocation under section 133(b) that the local area spent on supportive services; and'';

(4) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) CONTENTS OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDERS PERFORMANCE REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The State shall use the information submitted by the eligible providers of training services under section 122 and administrative records, including quarterly wage records, of the participants of the programs offered by the providers to produce

a performance report on the eligible providers of training services in the State, which shall include, subject to paragraph (6)(C)—

''(i) with respect to each program of study (or the equivalent) of such a provider—

''(I) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) with respect to all individuals engaging in the program of study (or the equivalent); and

''(II) the total number of individuals exiting from the program of study (or the equivalent); and

''(ii) with respect to all such providers—

''(I) the total number of participants who received training services through each adult and dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

''(II) the total number of participants who exited from training services, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

''(III) the average cost per participant for the participants who received training services, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years; and

''(IV) the number of individuals with barriers to employment served by each adult and dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age.

''(iii) with respect to each recognized postsecondary credential on the list of credentials awarded by eligible providers in the State described in section 122(d)(2)—

''(I) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) for all participants in the State receiving such credential; and

''(II) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) for participants in the State receiving such credential with respect to individuals with barriers to employment, disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age.''; and

(5) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall annually make available the performance reports for States containing the information described in paragraph (2), which shall include making such reports available—

''(i) digitally using transparent, linked, open, and interoperable data formats that are human readable and machine actionable such that the data from these reports—

''(I) are easily understandable; and

''(II) can be easily included in web-based tools and services supporting search, discovery, comparison, analysis, navigation, and guidance; and

''(ii) in a printable format.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''(including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format,''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: ''The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall include, on the website where the State performance reports required under subparagraph (A) are made available, a link to local area performance reports and the eligible training provider report for each State. Such reports shall be made available in each of the formats described in subparagraph (A).''.

(c) EVALUATION OF STATE PROGRAMS.—Section 116(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act(29 U.S.C. 3141(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''shall conduct ongoing'' and inserting ''shall use data to conduct analyses and ongoing''; and

(B) by striking ''conduct the'' and inserting ''conduct such analyses and''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding ''A State may use other forms of analysis, such as machine learning or other advanced analytics, to improve program operations and outcomes and to identify areas for further evaluation.'' at the end.

(d) SANCTIONS FOR STATE FAILURE TO MEET STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.—Section 116(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(f)) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) SANCTIONS FOR STATE FAILURE TO MEET STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.—

''(1) TARGETED SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State fails to meet 80 percent of the State adjusted level of performance for an indicator described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for a program for any program year, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall provide technical assistance.

''(B) SANCTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the State fails in the manner described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (ii) with respect to a program year, the percentage of each amount that would (in the absence of this subparagraph) be reserved by the Governor under section 128(a)(1) for the immediately succeeding program year shall be reduced by 5 percentage points until such date as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines that the State meets the State adjusted level of performance, in the case of a failure described in clause (ii)(I), or has submitted the reports for the appropriate program years, in the case of a failure described in clause (ii)(II).

''(ii) FAILURES.—A State shall be subject to clause (i)—

''(I) if (except in the case of exceptional circumstances as determined by the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate), such State fails to submit a report under subsection (d) for any program year; or

''(II) for a failure under subparagraph (A) that continues for a second consecutive year.

''(2) COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State fails to meet an average of 90 percent of the State adjusted levels of performance for a program across all performance indicators for any program year, or if a State fails to meet an average of 90 percent of the State adjusted levels of performance for a single performance indicator across all programs for any program year, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall provide technical assistance, as described and authorized under section 168(b), including assistance in the development of a comprehensive performance improvement plan.

''(B) SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR FAILURE.—If such failure under subparagraph (A) continues for a second consecutive year, the percentage of each amount that would (in the absence of this subsection) be reserved by the Governor under section 128(a)(1) for the immediately succeeding program year shall be reduced by 10 percentage points until such date as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines that the State meets such State adjusted levels of performance.

''(3) LIMITATION.—The total reduction under this subsection to the percentage of each amount that would (in the absence of this subsection) be reserved by the Governor under section 128(a)(1) may not exceed 10 percentage points for a program year.

''(4) REALLOTMENT OF REDUCTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts available for reallotment for a program year shall be reallotted to the States that were not subject to a reduction of funds under paragraph (1)(B) or paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection for such program year (in this paragraph referred to individually as an 'eligible State').

''(B) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR REALLOTMENT.—In this paragraph, the amounts available for reallotment for a program year means the amounts available under section 127(b)(1)(C) and paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of section 132(b) for such program year which would (in the absence of paragraph (1)(B) or paragraph (2)(B) of this subsection) have otherwise been reserved under section 128(a)(1) by a Governor of a State for such program year.

''(C) REALLOTMENT AMOUNTS.—In making reallotments under subparagraph (A) for a program year to eligible States, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible State—

''(i) in the case of amounts available under section 127(b)(1)(C), an amount based on the relative amount of the allotment made (before the allotments under this clause are made) to such eligible State under section 127(b)(1)(C) for such program year, compared to the total allotments made (before the allotments under this clause are made) to all eligible States under section 127(b)(1)(C) for such program year; and

''(ii) in the case of amounts available under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of section 132(b), an amount based on the relative amount of the allotment made (before the allotments under this clause are made) to such eligible State under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of section 132(b) for such program year, compared to the total allotments made (before the allotments under this clause are made) to all eligible States under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of section 132(b) for such program year.''.

(e) SANCTIONS FOR LOCAL AREA FAILURE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.—Section 116(g) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting ''80 percent of the'' before ''local performance''; and

(B) by striking ''accountability measures'' and inserting ''accountability levels of performance on an indicator of performance, an average of 90 percent of the local levels of performance across indicators for a single program, or an average of 90 percent for a single performance indicator across all programs''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues, the Governor shall take corrective actions, which shall include—

''(i) in the case of a failure, for a second consecutive year, on any individual indicator, across indicators for a single program, or on a single indicator across programs, a 5-percent reduction in the amount that would have otherwise been allocated (in the absence of this clause) to the local area for the immediately succeeding program year under

chapter 2 or 3 of subtitle B for the program subject to the performance failure;

''(ii) in the case of a failure, as described in paragraph (1), for a third consecutive year, the development of a reorganization plan through which the Governor shall—

''(I) require the appointment and certification of a new local board, consistent with the criteria established under section 107(b);

''(II) prohibit the use of one-stop partners identified as achieving a poor level of performance; and

''(III) revise or redesignate a local area, which may include merging a local area with another local area if the Governor determines that the likely cause of such continued performance failure of a local area is due to such local area's designation being granted without the appropriate consideration of parameters described under section 106(b)(1)(B); or

''(iii) other significant actions determined appropriate by the Governor.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting ''(ii)'' after ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) REALLOCATION OF REDUCTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any amounts available under section 128(b), paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), and section 133(b)(2)(B) to a Governor for a program year which would (in the absence of subparagraph (A)(i)) have otherwise been allocated by such Governor to a local area for such program year—

''(I) not more than 10 percent of the amounts available under each such section may be reserved by the Governor to provide technical assistance to local areas within the State that were subject to a reduction of allocation amounts pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) for such program year; and

''(II) the amounts remaining after the reservations under subclause (I) shall be reallocated by the Governor to the local areas within the State that were not subject to a reduction of allocation amounts pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) for such program year (in this subparagraph referred to individually as an 'eligible local area').

''(ii) REALLOCATION AMOUNTS.—In making reallocations under clause (i)(II) for a program year to eligible local areas within a State, the Governor of the State shall allocate to each such eligible local area—

''(I) in the case of amounts remaining under section 128(b), an amount based on the relative amount of the allocation made (before the allocations under this subclause are made) to such eligible local area under section 128(b) for such program year, compared to the total allocations made (before the allocations under this subclause are made) to all eligible local areas within the State under section 128(b) for such program year;

''(II) in the case of amounts remaining under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), an amount based on the relative amount of the allocation made (before the allocations under this subclause are made) to such eligible local area under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), as appropriate, for such program year, compared to the total allocations made (before the allocations under this subclause are made) under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), as appropriate, to all eligible local areas within the State for such program year; and

''(III) in the case of amounts remaining under section 133(b)(2)(B), an amount based on the relative amount of the allocation made (before the allocations under this subclause are made) to such eligible local area under section 133(b)(2)(B) for such program year, compared to the total allocations made (before the allocations under this subclause are made) under section 133(b)(2)(B) to all eligible local areas within the State for such program year.''.

(f) ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY INCENTIVES.—Section 116(h) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(h)) is amended by striking ''non-Federal funds'' and inserting ''the funds reserved under section 128(a)(1)''.

(g) FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS.—Section 116(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141(i)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (2), by inserting '', and may use information provided from the National Directory of New Hires in accordance with section 453(j)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(j)(8))'' after ''State law'';

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

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

''(3) DESIGNATED ENTITY.—The Governor shall designate a State agency (or appropriate State entity) to assist in carrying out the performance reporting requirements for core programs and eligible training providers. The designated State agency (or appropriate State entity) shall be responsible for—

''(A) facilitating data matches using quarterly wage record information, including wage record information made available by other States, to measure employment and earnings outcomes;

''(B) data validation and reliability, as described in subsection (d)(5); and

''(C) protection against disaggregation that would violate applicable privacy standards, as described in subsection (d)(6)(C).''.

Subtitle C—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDERS

SEC. 121. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

(a) ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Section 121(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) in clause (xi), by inserting ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by striking clause (xii);

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''With'' and inserting ''At the direction of the Governor or with''; and

(3) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) in clause (vi), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) workforce and economic development programs carried out by the Economic Development Administration; and''.

(b) ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—Section 121(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting after ''education'' the following: ''or an area career and technical education school'';

(B) in clause (v), by striking ''and'';

(C) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause (viii);

(D) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) a public library;

''(vii) a local board that meets the requirements of paragraph (4); and'';

(E) in clause (viii), as so redesignated, by inserting after ''labor organization'' the following: ''joint labor-management organization''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

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

''(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In operating a one-stop system referred to in subsection (e), a one-stop operator—

''(i) shall—

''(I) manage the physical and virtual infrastructure and operations of the one-stop system in the local area; and

''(II) facilitate coordination among the partners in such one-stop system; and

''(ii) may, subject to the requirements under subparagraph (B), directly provide services to job seekers and employers.

''(B) INTERNAL CONTROLS.—In a case in which a one-stop operator seeks to operate as a service provider pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii), the local board shall establish internal controls (which shall include written policies and procedures)—

''(i) with respect to the competition in which the one-stop operator will compete to be selected as such service provider, and the subsequent oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of the performance of such one-stop operator as such service provider; and

''(ii) which—

''(I) require compliance with—

''(aa) relevant Office of Management and Budget circulars relating to conflicts of interest; and

''(bb) any applicable State conflict of interest policy; and

''(II) prohibit a one-stop operator from developing, managing, or conducting the competition in which the operator intends to compete to be selected as a service provider.

''(4) LOCAL BOARDS AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—Subject to approval from the chief elected official and Governor and in accordance with any other eligibility criteria established by the State, a local board may serve as a one-stop operator, if the local board—

''(A) enters into a written agreement with the chief elected official that clarifies how the local board will carry out the functions and responsibilities as a one-stop operator in a manner that complies with the appropriate internal controls to prevent any conflicts of interest, which shall include how the local board, while serving as a one-stop operator, will—

''(i) comply with the relevant Office of Management and Budget circulars relating to conflicts of interest; and

''(ii) any applicable State conflict of interest policy; and

''(B) complies with the other applicable requirements of this subsection.''.

(c) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—Section 121(e)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), to read as follows:

''(A) shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

''(i) to individuals through electronic means, in a single, virtually accessible location, and in a manner that improves efficiency, coordination, and quality, as determined by the State, in the delivery of such programs, services, and activities; or

''(ii) at not less than 1 physical center in each local area of the State; and'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting after ''affiliated sites'' the following: ''(such as any of the entities described in subsection (d)(2)(B))'';

(3) in subparagraph (C), by inserting after ''centers'' the following: ''(which may be virtual or physical centers)'';

(4) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking ''as applicable and practicable, shall'' and inserting ''in the case of a one-stop delivery system that is making each of the programs, services, and activities

described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than 1 physical center, as described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the one-stop delivery system shall, as applicable and practicable,''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

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

''(E) in the case of a one-stop delivery system that is making each of the programs, services, and activities accessible through electronic means, as described in subparagraph (A)(i), the one-stop delivery system shall have not less than two affiliated sites with a physical location where individuals can access, virtually, each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) that are virtually accessible.''.

(d) CERTIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA.—Section 121(g)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended by striking ''under subsections (h)(1)'' and inserting ''under subsections (h)(1)(C)''.

(e) FUNDING OF ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE.—Section 121(h) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated—

(A) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (D), the covered portions of funding for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor from the programs described in subsection (b)(1) to pay the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in local areas of the State.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking ''for funding pursuant to clause (i)(II) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) by each partner,''; and

(II) by striking the third sentence; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''under a provision covered by section 3(13)(D)'' and inserting ''under a provision covered by subparagraph (D) of the definition of the term 'core program provision' in section 3'';

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''For local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), the'' and inserting ''The'';

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking ''WIA'' in the header and inserting ''WIOA''; and

(bb) by striking ''3 percent'' and inserting ''5 percent''; and

(II) by striking subclause (III); and

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking ''For local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), an'' and inserting ''An'';

(4) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''purposes of assisting in'' and inserting ''purpose of''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''not funding costs of infrastructure under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I)''; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by inserting after ''local area,'' the following: ''the intensity of services provided by such centers,'';

(5) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) SUPPLEMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—For any fiscal year in which the allocation received by a local area under paragraph (2) is insufficient to cover the total costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in such local area, the local board, the chief elected official, and the one-stop partners that have entered into the local memorandum of understanding with the local board under subsection (c) may agree to fund any such remaining costs using a method described in such memorandum.''; and

(6) in paragraph (4), by inserting after ''operation of the one-stop center'' the following: ''(whether for in-person or virtual service delivery)''.

SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS AND PROGRAMS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 122(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (i), the Governor, after consultation with the State board and considering the State's adjusted levels of performance described in section 116(b)(3)(A)(iv), shall establish—

''(A) procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of training services by programs with standard eligibility or conditional eligibility under this section (in this section referred to as 'eligible programs') in local areas in the State; and

''(B) the minimum levels of performance on the criteria for a program to receive such standard or conditional eligibility.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''(other than an institution of higher education described in subparagraph (C))'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

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

''(C) an institution of higher education that offers a program that—

''(i) is of at least 150 clock hours of instruction, but less than 600 clock hours of instruction, or an equivalent number of credit hours;

''(ii) is offered during a minimum of 8 weeks, but less than 15 weeks; and

''(iii) is an eligible program for purposes of the Federal Pell Grant program; or''; and

(E) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''(including providers of such a program that is conducted (in whole or in part) online)'' before '', which may''; and

(ii) by inserting ''providers of entrepreneurial skills development programs, industry or sector partnerships, groups of employers, trade or professional associations,'' after ''organizations,''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''(C)'' and inserting ''(D)'';

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''paragraph (2)(B)'' the first place it appears and inserting ''subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (2)''; and

(C) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''or remains eligible for the Federal Pell Grant program as described in paragraph (2)(C)''.

(b) CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 122(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) GENERAL CRITERIA FOR PROGRAMS.—Each provider shall demonstrate that the program for which the provider is seeking eligibility under this section—

''(i) prepares participants to meet the hiring requirements of potential employers in the State or a local area within the State for employment that—

''(I) is high skill and high wage; or

''(II) is in in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

''(ii) leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

''(iii) has been offered by the provider for not less than 1 year; and

''(iv)(I) meets the performance requirements for standard eligibility described in paragraph (2); or

''(II) has received conditional eligibility described in paragraph (3).

''(B) PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY ELECTION.—Any provider may elect to seek standard eligibility under paragraph (2) or conditional eligibility under paragraph (3).

''(2) PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR STANDARD ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governor shall—

''(i) establish and publicize minimum levels of performance for each of the criteria listed in subparagraph (B) that a program offered by a provider of training services shall achieve to receive and maintain standard eligibility under this section; and

''(ii) verify the performance achieved by such a program with respect to each such criteria to determine whether the program meets the corresponding minimum level of performance established under clause (i)—

''(I) in the case of the criteria described in (ii) through (iv) of subparagraph (B), using State administrative data (such as quarterly wage records); and

''(II) in the case of the criteria described in subparagraph (B)(i), using any applicable method for such verification; and

''(iii) in verifying the performance achievement of a program, verify that such program included a sufficient number of program participants to protect participant personally identifiable information, and to be a reliable indicator of performance achievement.

''(B) PERFORMANCE CRITERIA.—The performance criteria to receive and maintain standard eligibility for a program under this section are as follows:

''(i) The credential attainment rate of program participants calculated as the percentage of program participants who obtain the recognized postsecondary credential for which the program prepares participants to earn within 6 months of exit from the program.

''(ii) The job placement rate of program participants calculated as the percentage of program participants in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program.

''(iii) The median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program.

''(iv) The ratio of median earnings increase to the total cost of program, calculated as follows:

''(I) The median value of the difference between—

''(aa) participant wages from unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after program exit; and

''(bb) participant wages during the quarter prior to entering the program, to

''(II) The total cost of the program (as described in paragraph (5)(B)(iii)).

''(C) LOCAL CRITERIA.—With respect to any program receiving standard eligibility under this section from a Governor, a local board in the State may require higher levels of performance than the minimum performance levels established by the Governor under this paragraph, but may not—

''(i) require any information or application from the provider that is not required for such standard eligibility; or

''(ii) establish a performance requirement with respect to any criteria not listed in subparagraph (B).

''(3) CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Governor shall establish procedures and criteria for conditional eligibility for a program of a provider of training services that does not meet the requirements under subparagraph (2).

''(ii) PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA.—In establishing the procedures and criteria under this subparagraph for conditional eligibility under this paragraph, the Governor—

''(I) shall establish the maximum period, not to exceed a 4-year period, that a program may receive and maintain such conditional eligibility;

''(II) with respect to a program that has received conditional eligibility for the maximum period established under subclause (I) and that is seeking approval for an additional period of conditional eligibility, may not consider such program for such conditional eligibility during the 3-year period that begins on the day after the end of most recent period for which the program received conditional eligibility; and

''(III) may establish other requirements related to program performance, including setting separate minimum levels of performance on the criteria described in paragraph (2) for a program to maintain such conditional eligibility.

''(B) PAYMENTS.—Payments under this Act for the provision of training services by a program with conditional eligibility shall be made to the provider of such program, on the basis of the achievement of successful outcomes by a participant of such training services, in accordance with the following:

''(i) Upon participant enrollment, the provider shall receive not less than 25 percent of the total funds to be provided under section 133(b) for the provision of training services by such program to such participant.

''(ii) Upon participant completion and credential attainment, the provider shall receive not less than 25 percent of such total funds.

''(iii) Upon verification of the participant's employment during the second quarter after program completion, the provider shall receive not less than 25 percent of such total funds.

''(iv) The remainder of such total funds may be awarded at any of the intervals described in clauses (i) through (iii) as determined by the Governor in accordance with the procedures established under subparagraph (A).

''(C) LIMITATION ON BILLING PARTICIPANTS.—With respect to a program participant for whom a provider expects to be paid pursuant to subparagraph (B), the provider may not—

''(i) charge such participant tuition and refund such charges after receiving such payments; or

''(ii) if such program participant does not achieve the outcomes necessary for the provider to receive the provider's full payment pursuant to subparagraph (B) for such participant, bill a participant for any of the amounts described in subparagraph (B).

''(4) EMPLOYER-SPONSORED OR INDUSTRY OR SECTORAL PARTNERSHIP DESIGNATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governor shall establish procedures and criteria for providers to apply for an employer-sponsored designation for a program that has received standard or conditional eligibility under this paragraph, which shall include a commitment from an employer or an industry or sectoral partnership to—

''(i) pay to the provider, on behalf of each participant enrolled in such program under this Act, not less than 25 percent of the cost of the program (as described in paragraph (5)(B)(iii)), which shall be provided in lieu of 25 percent of the amount that the provider would have otherwise received under section 133(b) for the provision of training services by such program to such participant; and

''(ii) guarantee an interview and consideration for a job with the employer, or in the case of an industry or sectoral partnership, an employer within such partnership, for each such participant that successfully completes the program.

''(B) RESTRICTION ON FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT.—A provider receiving an employer-sponsored designation under this paragraph may not—

''(i) have an ownership stake in the employer or industry or sectoral partnership making a commitment described in subparagraph (A); or

''(ii) enter into an arrangement to reimburse an employer or partnership for the costs of a participant paid by such employer or partnership.

''(5) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible provider shall submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the Governor, to enable the Governor to carry out subsection (d), with respect to all participants of each eligible program (including participants for whom the provider receives payments under this title) offered by the provider, which shall—

''(A) be made available by the State in a common, linked, open, and interoperable data format;

''(B) include information on—

''(i) the performance of the program with respect to the performance accountability measures described in section 116 for such participants;

''(ii) the recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants, including, in relation to each such credential, the issuing entity, any third-party endorsements, the occupations for which the credential prepares individuals, the competencies achieved, the level of mastery of such competencies (including how mastery is assessed), and any transfer value or stackability;

''(iii) the total cost of the program, including the costs of the published tuition and fees, supplies, books, and any other costs required by the provider for participants in the program;

''(iv) the percentage of such participants that complete the program within the expected time to completion; and

''(v) in the case of a provider offering programs seeking or maintaining standard eligibility, the criteria described in paragraph (2) and not otherwise included in clause (i) of this subparagraph; and

''(C) with respect to employment and earnings measures described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) for such participants—

''(i) the necessary information for the State to develop program performance data using State administrative data (such as wage records); and

''(ii) the necessary information to determine the percentage of such participants who entered unsubsidized employment in an occupation related to the program, to the extent practicable.''.

(c) PROCEDURES.—Section 122(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(c)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (1), by inserting '', which shall be implemented in a manner that minimizes the financial and administrative burden on the provider and shall not require the submission of information in excess of the information required to determine a program's eligibility under subsection (b)'' after ''provision of training services'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3), and inserting the following after paragraph (1):

''(2) APPROVAL.—A Governor shall make an eligibility determination with respect to a provider of training services and the program for which the provider is seeking eligibility under this section not later than 30 days after receipt of an application submitted by such provider consistent with the procedures in paragraph (1).'';

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''biennial'' and inserting ''annual''; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''that continue to meet the requirements under subsection (b)''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: ''Any program with standard or conditional eligibility that, upon such review, does not meet the eligibility criteria established under subsection (b) for standard or conditional eligibility, respectively, shall, except as otherwise provided in subsection (g)(1)(E), no longer be an eligible program and shall be removed from the list described in subsection (d).''; and

(4) by inserting at the end the following:

''(4) MULTISTATE PROVIDERS.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall specify the process for any provider of training services offering a program in multiple States to establish eligibility in such States, which shall, to the extent practicable, minimize financial and administrative burdens on any such provider by authorizing the provider to submit the same application materials and information to the Governor of each State in which such program will be providing services, as long as the program meets the applicable State requirements established under subsection (b) for each such State.

''(5) ONLINE PROVIDERS.—If a participant chooses a provider that delivers training services exclusively online and is not located in the State of the local area that approved such training services for the participant in accordance with section 133(c)(3)(A)(i), such provider shall be ineligible to receive payment for such participant from funds allocated to such State unless such provider is on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d) for such State.''.

(d) LIST AND INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—Section 122(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(d)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (6), respectively;

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

''(2) CREDENTIAL NAVIGATION FEATURE.—In order to enhance the ability of participants and employers to understand and compare the value of the recognized postsecondary credentials awarded by eligible programs offered by providers of training services in a State, the Governor shall establish (or develop in partnership with other States), a credential navigation feature that allows participants and the public to search a list of such recognized postsecondary credentials, and the providers and programs awarding such a credential, which shall include, with respect to each such credential (aggregated for all participants in the State that have received such credential)—

''(A) the information required under subsection (b)(5)(B)(ii); and

''(B) the employment and earnings outcomes described in subclause (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(i).'';

(3) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A), by striking ''(C) of subsection (a)(2)'' and inserting ''(D) of subsection (a)(2)'';

(B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) with respect to a program described in subsection (b)(3) that is offered by a provider, consist of information designating the program as having conditional eligibility;''; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) with respect to a program described in subsection (b)(4) that is offered by a provider, consist of the information promoting the program as having an employer-sponsored designation and identifying the employer or partnership sponsoring the program.''.

(4) by amending paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

''(4) AVAILABILITY.—The list (including the credential navigation feature described in paragraph (2)), and the accompanying information shall be made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State—

''(A) on a publicly accessible website that—

''(i) is consumer-tested; and

''(ii) is searchable, easily understandable, and navigable, and allows for the comparison of eligible programs through the use of common, linked, open-data descriptive language; and

''(B) in a manner that does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual participant.''; and

(5) by inserting before paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), the following:

''(5) WEBSITE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) upon request, provide technical assistance to a State on establishing a website that meets the requirements of paragraph (4); and

''(B) disseminate to each State effective practices or resources from States and private sector entities related to establishing a website that is consumer-tested to ensure that the website is easily understood, searchable, and navigable.''.

(e) PROVIDER PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.—Section 122 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152), as amended by this section, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by striking ''information requirements,'' in each place it appears;

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i) as subsection (g) through (j), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (e), as so amended, the following:

''(f) PROVIDER PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor or a local board may establish a system of performance incentive payments to be awarded to providers in addition to the amount paid under section 133(b) to such providers for the provision of training services to participants of eligible programs. Such system of performance incentives may be established to award eligible programs that—

''(A) achieve performance levels above the minimum levels established by the Governor under subsection (b)(2);

''(B) serve a significantly higher number of individuals with barriers to employment compared to training providers offering similar training services; or

''(C) achieve other performance successes, including those related to jobs that provide economic stability and upward mobility (such as leading to jobs with high wages and family sustainable benefits) as determined by the State or the local board.

''(2) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—Incentive payments to providers established under paragraph (1) shall be awarded to providers from the following allotments:

''(A) In the case of a system of performance incentive payments established by the Governor, from funds reserved by the Governor under section 128(a).

''(B) In the case of a system of performance incentive payments established by a local board, from the allocations made to the local area for youth under section 128(b), for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), or for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), as appropriate.'';

(f) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 122(g)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (as redesignated by subsection (e)(2)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED INFORMATION.—With respect to a provider of training services that is eligible under this section for a program year with respect to an eligible program, but that does not provide the information described in subsection (b)(5) with respect to such program for such program year (including information on performance necessary to determine if the program meets the minimum levels on the criteria to maintain eligibility), the provider shall be ineligible under this section with respect to such program for the program year after the program year for which the provider fails to provide such information.

''(E) FAILURE TO MEET PERFORMANCE CRITERIA.—

''(i) FIRST YEAR.—An eligible program that has received standard eligibility under subsection (c)(2) for a program year but fails to meet the minimum levels of performance on the criteria described in subsection (b)(2) during the most recent program year for which performance data on such criteria are available shall be notified of such failure by the Governor.

''(ii) SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR.—A program that fails to meet the minimum levels of performance for a second consecutive program year shall lose standard eligibility for such program for at least the program year following such second consecutive program year.

''(iii) REAPPLICATION.—

''(I) STANDARD ELIGIBILITY.—A provider may reapply to receive standard eligibility for the program according to the criteria described in subsection (c) if the program performance for the most recent program year for which performance data is available meets the minimum levels of performance required to receive such standard eligibility.

''(II) CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—A program that loses standard eligibility may apply to receive conditional eligibility under the process and criteria established by the Governor under subsection (b)(3).''.

(g) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, EMPLOYER-DIRECTED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING, AND OTHER TRAINING EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (i) (as redesignated by subsection (e)(2)) of section 122 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''customized training'' and inserting ''employer-directed skills development''; and

(B) by striking ''subsections (a) through (f)'' and inserting ''subsections (a) through (g)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by amending the first sentence to read as follows: ''A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect the minimum amount of information from providers of on-the-job training, employer-directed skills development, incumbent worker training, internships, paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, and transitional employment as necessary to enable the use of State administrative data to generate such performance information as the Governor may require.''.

(h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 122 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Governor may apply to the Secretary for technical assistance, as described in section 168(c), for purposes of carrying out the requirements of subsection (c)(4), or paragraph (2) or (5) of subsection (d), or any other amendments made by the A Stronger Workforce for America Act to this section, and the Secretary shall provide such technical assistance in a timely manner.''.

(i) TRANSITION.—A Governor and local boards shall implement the requirements of section 122 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152), as amended by this Act, not later than the first day of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act. In order to facilitate early implementation of this section, the Governor may establish transition procedures under which providers eligible to provide training services under chapter 1 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3151 et seq.), as such chapter was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, may continue to be eligible to provide such services until December 31, 2024, or until such earlier date as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

CHAPTER 2—YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 131. RESERVATIONS; REALLOCATION.

(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—Section 128(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3173(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''reserved amounts'' in each place and inserting ''reserved amounts under paragraph (1)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) STATEWIDE CRITICAL INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND.—

''(A) AUTHORIZED RESERVATION.—In addition to the reservations required under paragraph (1) and section 133(a)(2), and subject to subparagraph (B), the Governor may reserve not more than 10 percent of each of the amounts allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) and paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 132(b) for a fiscal year to establish and administer a critical industry skills fund described in section 134(a)(4).

''(B) MATCHING FUNDS.—

''(i) REQUIREMENT.—The amount of funds reserved by a Governor under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year may not exceed the amount of funds that such Governor commits to using from any of the funds listed in clause (ii) for such fiscal year for the purposes of establishing and administering the critical industry skills fund for which funds are reserved under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) SOURCES OF MATCHING FUNDS.—The funds listed in this clause are as follows:

''(I) Funds reserved by the Governor under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

''(II) Other Federal funds not described in subclause (I).

''(III) State funds.''.

(b) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—Section 128(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3173(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting the following before the period at the end: ''as performance-based incentive payments''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''that does not'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(A) does not'';

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) has met or exceeded an average of 100 percent of the local level of performance described in section 116(c)(1)(B) for the local area across all indicators for the youth program authorized under this chapter for the most recent program year for which performance data is available; and

''(C) was not subject to corrective action by the Governor under section 184(a)(5)(A) for a determination of non-compliance with the uniform administrative requirements described in section 184(a)(3) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.''.

SEC. 132. USE OF FUNDS FOR YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) OPPORTUNITY YOUTH.—Section 129 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164) is amended by striking ''out-of-school'' each place it appears and inserting ''opportunity''.

(b) YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.—

(A) ELIGIBILITY.—Subparagraph (A) of section 129(a)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in activities carried out under this chapter during any program year, an individual shall, at the time the eligibility determination is made, be an opportunity youth or an in-school youth.

''(ii) ENROLLMENT.—If a one-stop operator or eligible provider of youth workforce activities carrying out activities under this chapter reasonably believes that an individual is eligible to participate in such activities, the operator or provider may allow such individual to participate in such activities for not more than a 30-day period during which the operator or provider shall obtain the necessary information to make an eligibility determination with respect to such individual (which may involve working with such individual, other entities in the local area, and available sources of administrative data to obtain the necessary information).

''(iii) DETERMINATION OF INELIGIBILITY.—With respect to an individual who is determined to be ineligible for activities under this chapter by a one-stop operator or a service provider during the period described in clause (ii) and who does not qualify for an exception under paragraph (3)(A)(ii) applicable to the local area involved, such operator or service provider—

''(I) may—

''(aa) continue serving such individual using non-Federal funds; or

''(bb) end the participation of such individual in activities under this chapter and refer the individual to other services that may be available in the local area for which the individual may be eligible; and

''(II) shall be paid for any services provided to such individual under this chapter during the period described in clause (ii) by the local area involved using funds allocated to such area under section 128(b).

''(iv) DETERMINATION PROCESS FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH.—In determining whether an individual is eligible to participate in activities carried out under this chapter on the basis of being an individual who is a homeless child or youth, or a youth in foster care, as described in subparagraph (B)(iii)(V), the one-stop operator or service provider involved shall—

''(I) if determining whether the individual is a homeless child or youth, use a process that is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (a) of section 479D of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section 702(l) of the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law 116–260), for financial aid administrators; and

''(II) if determining whether the individual is a youth in foster care, use a process that is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of section 479D of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section 702(l) of the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law 116–260), for financial aid administrators.''.

(B) DEFINITION OF OPPORTUNITY YOUTH.—Subparagraph (B) of section 129(a)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1) is amended—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''OUT-OF-SCHOOL'' and inserting ''OPPORTUNITY'';

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting '', except that an individual described in subparagraph (IV) or (V) of clause (iii) may be attending school'' after ''(as defined under State law)'';

(iii) in clause (ii), by inserting before the semicolon at the end, the following : '', except that an individual described in subparagraph (IV) or (V) of clause (iii) may be not younger than age 14 or older than age 24''; and

(iv) in clause (iii)(III)—

(I) in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking ''and is'' and inserting ''and'';

(II) in item (aa), by striking ''basic skills deficient;'' and inserting ''has foundational skills needs;''; and

(III) in item (bb), by striking ''an English language learner'' and inserting ''is an English learner''.

(C) DEFINITION OF IN-SCHOOL YOUTH.—Subparagraph (C)(iv) of section 129(a)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)) is amended—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking ''Basic skills deficient.'' and inserting ''An individual who has foundational skills needs.'';

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking ''language'';

(iii) by striking subclauses (III) and (IV); and

(iv) by redesignating subclauses (V), (VI), and (VII) as subclauses (III), (IV), and (V), respectively.

(2) EXCEPTION AND LIMITATION.—Section 129(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''5'' and inserting ''10''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''5'' inserting ''10''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (1)(C)(iv)(VII)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)(C)(iv)(V)''.

(3) OPPORTUNITY YOUTH PRIORITY.—Section 129(a)(4) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''OUT-OF-SCHOOL'' and inserting ''OPPORTUNITY'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''75'' each place it appears and inserting ''65'';

(ii) by inserting ''the total amount of'' before ''funds available''; and

(iii) by inserting ''in the State'' after ''subsection (c)'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''75'' and inserting ''65'';

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (B), as so amended, as subparagraph (C); and

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

''(B) LOCAL AREA TARGETS.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on the minimum amount of funds provided to a local area under subsection (c) that shall be used to provide youth workforce investment activities for opportunity youth based on the needs of youth in the local area, as necessary for the State to meet the percentage described in subparagraph (A).''.

(c) REQUIRED STATEWIDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.— Section 129(b)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(b)(1))—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''sections 128(a)'' and inserting ''sections 128(a)(1)''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''through a website that is consumer-tested to ensure that the website is easily understood, searchable, and navigable and allows for comparison of eligible providers based on the program elements offered by such providers and the performance of such providers on the primary indicators of performance for the youth program as described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)'' after ''under section 123''.

(d) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Section 129(b)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''sections 128(a)'' and inserting ''sections 128(a)(1)'';

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', which may include providing guidance on career options in in-demand industry sectors or occupations'' after ''in the State'';

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) supporting the ability to understand relevant tax information and obligations;'';

(4) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) establishing, supporting, and expanding work-based learning opportunities, including transitional jobs, that are aligned with career pathways;

''(G) raising public awareness (including through public service announcements, such as social media campaigns and elementary and secondary school showcases and school visits) about career and technical education programs and community-based and youth services organizations, and other endeavors focused on programs that prepare students for in-demand industry sectors or occupations; and

''(H) developing partnerships between educational institutions (including area career and technical schools and institutions of higher education) and employers to create or improve workforce development programs to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in the regions or local areas of the State, as determined based on the most recent analysis conducted under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 102(b)(1).''.

(e) LOCAL ELEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Section 129(c)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''(which, in the case of a participant 18 years or older, may include co-enrollment in any employment or training activity provided under section 134 for adults)'' after ''services for the participant'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)(v), by inserting ''high-skill, high-wage, or'' after ''small employers, in''; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by striking ''10'' and inserting ''40''; and

(ii) by inserting before the period the following: '', except that after 2 consecutive

years of the local board implementing such a pay-for-performance contract strategy, the local board may reserve and use not more than 60 percent of such total funds allocated to the local area for such strategy if—

''(i) the local board demonstrates to the Governor that such strategy resulted in performance improvements; and

''(ii) the Governor approves a request to use such percentage of total funds''.

(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 129(c)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking ''other'' and inserting ''year-round''; and

(II) by inserting ''that meet the requirements of paragraph (10)'' after ''school year'';

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking ''and job shadowing; and'' and inserting the following: ''that, to the extent practicable, are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the State or local area and for which participants shall be paid (by the entity providing the internship, through funds allocated to the local area pursuant to paragraph (1) for the program, or by another entity) if such internships are longer than—

''(I) 4 weeks in the summer or 8 weeks during the school year for in-school youth and opportunity youth who are enrolled in school; or

''(II) 8 weeks for opportunity youth who are not enrolled in school;'';

(iii) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(iv) by inserting after clause (iii), as so amended, the following:

''(iv) job shadowing; and'';

(B) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''adult mentoring'' and inserting ''coaching and adult mentoring services'';

(C) in subparagraph (M)—

(i) by inserting ''high-skill, high-wage, or'' before ''in-demand industry''; and

(ii) by striking the ''and'' at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (N), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(O) activities to develop fundamental workforce readiness, which may include creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, digital literacy, persistence, and other relevant skills.''.

(3) PRIORITY.—Section 129(c)(4) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(2)) is amended, by striking ''20'' and inserting ''40''.

(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 129(c)(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(2)) is amended by inserting ''or local area'' after ''youth services''.

(5) INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS.—Section 129(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(2)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS.—Funds allocated pursuant to paragraph (1) to a local area may be used to pay, through an individual training account, an eligible provider of training services described in section 122(d) for training services described in section 134(c)(3) provided to in-school youth who are not younger than age 16 and not older than age 21 and opportunity youth, in the same manner that an individual training account is used to pay an eligible provider of training services under section 134(c)(3)(F)(iii) for training services provided to an adult or dislocated worker.''.

(6) SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES REQUIREMENTS.—Section 129(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3164(c)(2)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) SUMMER AND YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A summer employment opportunity or a year-round employment opportunity referred to in paragraph (2)(C)(i) shall be a program that matches eligible youth participating in such program with an appropriate employer (based on factors including the needs of the employer and the age, skill, and informed aspirations of the eligible youth) that—

''(i) shall include—

''(I) a component of occupational skills education; and

''(II) not less than 2 of the activities described in subparagraphs (G), (H), (I), (K), (M), and (O) of paragraph (2);

''(ii) may not use funds allocated under this chapter to subsidize more than 50 percent of the wages of each eligible youth participant in such program;

''(iii) in the case of a summer employment opportunity, complies with the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

''(iv) in the case of a year-round employment opportunity, complies with the requirements of subparagraph (C).

''(B) SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.—In addition to the applicable requirements described in subparagraph (A), a summer employment opportunity—

''(i) may not be less than 4 weeks; and

''(ii) may not pay less than the greater of the applicable Federal, State, or local minimum wage.

''(C) YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.—In addition to the applicable requirements described in subparagraph (B), a year-round employment opportunity—

''(i) may not be shorter than 180 days or longer than 1 year;

''(ii) may not pay less than the greater of the applicable Federal, State, or local minimum wage; and

''(iii) may not employ the eligible youth for less than 20 hours per week, except in instances when the eligible youth are under the age of 18 or enrolled in school.

''(D) PRIORITY.—In selecting summer employment opportunities or year-round employment opportunities for purposes of paragraph (2)(C)(i), a local area shall give priority to programs that meet the requirements of this paragraph, which are in existing or emerging high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations.''.

CHAPTER 3—ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

SEC. 141. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 132(a)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3172(a)(2)(A)) is amended by—

(1) striking '', 169(c) (relating to dislocated worker projects),''; and

(2) by inserting '', and under subsections (c) (related to dislocated worker projects) and (d) (related to workforce data quality initiatives) of section 169'' before ''; and''

SEC. 142. RESERVATIONS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES; WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS; REALLOCATION.

(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES.—Section 133(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3173(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''section 128(a)'' and inserting ''section 128(a)(1)'';

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) STATEWIDE CRITICAL INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND.—In addition to the reservations required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, the Governor may make the reservation authorized under section 128(a)(3).''.

(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—Section 133(b)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3173(b)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (a)(1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a)''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a)''.

(c) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—Section 133(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3173(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end, the following: ''as performance-based incentive payments'';

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''that does not'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(i) does not'';

(ii) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) has met or exceeded an average of 100 percent of the local level of performance described in section 116(c)(1)(B) for the local area across all indicators for the adult program authorized under this chapter for the most recent program year for which performance data is available; and

''(iii) was not subject to corrective action by the Governor under section 184(a)(5)(A) for a determination of non-compliance with the uniform administrative requirements described in section 184(a)(3) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''that does not'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(i) does not'';

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) has met or exceeded an average of 100 percent of the local level of performance described in section 116(c)(1)(B) for the local area across all indicators for the dislocated worker program authorized under this chapter for the most recent program year for which performance data is available; and

''(iii) was not subject to corrective action by the Governor under section 184(a)(5)(A) for a determination of non-compliance with the uniform administrative requirements described in section 184(a)(3) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) USE OF INCENTIVE FUNDS.—Any amounts provided to a local area as a performance incentive payment under this subsection shall not be subject to the requirements described in section 134(c)(1)(B).''.

SEC. 143. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

(a) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 134(a)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)(1))—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''128(a)'' and inserting ''128(a)(1)''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking the comma at the end and inserting ''or to establish and administer a critical industry skills fund under paragraph (4); and'' ; and

(C) by inserting before the flush left text at the end the following:

''(C) as described in section 128(a)(3), shall be used to establish and administer a critical industry skills fund described in paragraph (4).''.

(2) REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(A) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—Section 134(a)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking ''working'' and inserting ''as a rapid response unit working''; and

(bb) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in subclause (II), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) provision of additional assistance to a local area that has excess demand for individual training accounts for dislocated workers in such local area and requests such assistance under paragraph (5) of section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3224a(5)), upon a determination by the State that, in using funds allocated to such local area pursuant to paragraph (1) of such section 414(c) and subsection (c)(1)(B) of this section for the purpose described in paragraph (2)(A) of such section 414(c), the local area was in compliance with the requirements of such section 414(c).''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) INSUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET EXCESS DEMAND.—If a State determines that a local area with excess demand as described in clause (i)(III) met the compliance requirements described in such clause, but the State does not have sufficient funds reserved under section 133(a)(2) to meet such excess demand, the State—

''(I) shall notify the Secretary of such excess demand; and

''(II) if eligible, may apply for a national dislocated worker grant under section 170 of this Act.''.

(B) STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Section 134(a)(2)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)(2)(B) is amended—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (III), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(II) in subclause (IV)—

(aa) by inserting ''the development and education of staff to increase expertise in providing opportunities for covered veterans (as defined in section 4212(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code) to enter in-demand industry sectors or occupations and nontraditional occupations),'' after ''exemplary program activities,''; and

(bb) by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(V) local boards and eligible training providers in carrying out the performance reporting required under section 116(d), including facilitating data matches for program participants using quarterly wage record information (including the wage records made available by any other State and information provided from the National Directory of New Hires in accordance with section 453(j)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(j)(8))) and other sources of information, as necessary to measure the performance of programs and activities conducted under chapter 2 or chapter 3 of this subtitle;'';

(ii) in clause (v)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking ''customized training'' and inserting ''employer-directed skills development''; and

(II) in subclause (VI), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) coordinating (which may be done in partnership with other States) with industry organizations, employers (including small and mid-sized employers), industry or sector partnerships, training providers, local boards, and institutions of higher education to identify or develop competency-based assessments that are a valid and reliable method of collecting information with respect to, and measuring, the prior knowledge, skills, and abilities of individuals who are adults or dislocated workers for the purpose of—

''(I) awarding, based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities of such an individual validated by such assessments—

''(aa) a recognized postsecondary credential that is used by employers in the State for recruitment, hiring, retention, or advancement purposes;

''(bb) postsecondary credit toward a recognized postsecondary credential aligned with in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the State for the purpose of accelerating attainment of such credential; and

''(cc) postsecondary credit for progress along a career pathway developed by the State or a local area within the State;

''(II) developing individual employment plans under subsection (c)(2)(B)(vii)(II) that incorporate the knowledge, skills, and abilities of such an individual to identify—

''(aa) in-demand industry sectors or occupations that require similar knowledge, skills, and abilities; and

''(bb) any upskilling needed for the individual to secure employment in such a sector or occupation; and

''(III) helping such an individual communicate such knowledge, skills, and abilities to prospective employers through a skills-based resume, profile, or portfolio; and

''(viii) disseminating to local areas and employers information relating to the competency-based assessments identified or developed pursuant to clause (vii), including—

''(I) any credential or credit awarded pursuant to items (aa) through (cc) of clause (vii)(I);

''(II) the industry organizations, employers, training providers, and institutions of higher education located within the State that recognize the knowledge, skills, and abilities of an individual validated by such assessments;

''(III) how such assessments may be provided to, and accessed by, individuals through the one-stop delivery system; and

''(IV) information on the extent to which such assessments are being used by employers and local areas in the State.''.

(3) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Section 134(a)(3)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)(3)(A))—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by inserting ''or evidence-based'' after ''innovative''; and

(ii) by striking ''customized training'' and inserting ''employer-directed skills development'';

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting '', or bringing evidence-based strategies to scale,'' after ''strategies'';

(C) in clause (iii), by striking '' and prior learning assessment to'' and inserting '', prior learning assessment, or a competency-based assessment identified or developed by the State under paragraph (2)(B)(vii), to'';

(D) in clause (viii)(II)—

(i) in item (dd), by striking ''and literacy'' and inserting '', literacy, and digital literacy'';

(ii) in item (ee), by striking ''ex-offenders in reentering the workforce; and'' and inserting '' justice-involved individuals in reentering the workforce;''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(gg) programs under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) that support employment and economic security; and'';

(E) in clause (xiii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(F) in clause (xiv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(xv) supporting employers seeking to implement skills-based hiring practices, which may include technical assistance on the use and validation of employment assessments (including competency-based assessments developed or identified by the State pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(vii)), and support in the creation of skills-based job descriptions;

''(xvi) developing partnerships between educational institutions (including area career and technical education schools, local educational agencies, and institutions of higher education) and employers to create or improve workforce development programs to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in regions of the State, as determined by the most recent analysis conducted under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 102(b)(1);

''(xvii) identifying and making available to residents of the State, free or reduced cost access to online skills development programs that are aligned with in-demand industries or occupations in the State and lead to attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential valued by employers in such industries or occupations; and

''(xviii) establishing and administering a critical industry skills fund under paragraph (4).''.

(4) CRITICAL INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND.—Section 134(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) CRITICAL INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND.—

''(A) PERFORMANCE-BASED PAYMENTS.—A State shall use funds reserved under paragraph (3)(A) of section 128(a), and any funds reserved under paragraph (3)(B) of section 128(a), to establish and administer a critical industry skills fund to award performance-based payments on a per-worker basis to eligible entities that provide eligible skills development programs to prospective workers or incumbent workers (which may include youth age 18 through age 24) in industries and occupations identified by the Governor under subparagraph (B) that will result in employment or retention with a participating employer.

''(B) INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Governor (in consultation with the State board)—

''(I) shall identify the industries and occupations for which an eligible skills development program carried out by an eligible entity in the State may receive funds under this paragraph; and

''(II) may select the industries and occupations identified under subclause (I) that will receive priority for funds under this paragraph.

''(ii) HIGH GROWTH AND HIGH WAGE.—In selecting industries or occupations to prioritize pursuant to clause (i)(II), the Governor may consider—

''(I) industries that have, or are expected to have, a high rate of growth and an unmet demand for skilled workers; and

''(II) occupations—

''(aa) with wages that are significantly higher than an occupation of similar level of skill or needed skill development; or

''(bb) that are aligned with career pathways into higher wage occupations.

''(C) SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a payment under the critical industry skills fund established under this paragraph by a State, an eligible entity shall submit a proposal to the Governor in such form and at

such time as the Governor may require (subject to the requirements of clause (ii)), which shall include—

''(I) a description of the industries or occupations in which the participating employer is seeking to fill jobs, the specific skills or credentials necessary for an individual to obtain such a job, and the salary range of such a job;

''(II) the expected number of individuals who will participate in the skills development program to be carried out by the eligible entity;

''(III) a description of the eligible skills development program, including the provider, the length of the program, the skills to be gained, and any recognized postsecondary credentials that will be awarded;

''(IV) the total cost of providing the program;

''(V) for purposes of receiving a payment pursuant to subparagraph (D)(i)(II)(bb), a commitment from the participating employer in the eligible entity to employ each participant of the program for not less than a 6-month period (or a longer period as determined by the State) after successful completion of the program; and

''(VI) an assurance that the entity will—

''(aa) establish the written agreements described in subparagraph (D)(ii)(I);

''(bb) maintain and submit the documentation described in subparagraph (D)(ii)(II); and

''(cc) maintain and submit the necessary documentation for the State to verify participant outcomes and report such outcomes as described in subparagraph (F).

''(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN.—The Governor shall ensure that the form and manner in which a proposal required to be submitted under clause (i) is designed to minimize paperwork and administrative burden for entities.

''(iii) APPROVAL OF SUBSEQUENT PROPOSALS.—With respect to an eligible entity that has had a proposal approved by the Governor under this subparagraph and that submits a subsequent proposal under this subparagraph, the eligible entity may only receive approval from the Governor for the subsequent proposal if—

''(I) with respect to the most recent proposal approved under this subparagraph—

''(aa) the skills development program has ended;

''(bb) for any participants employed by the participating employer in accordance with subparagraph (C)(i)(V), the minimum periods of such employment described in such subparagraph have ended;

''(cc) all the payments under subparagraph (D) owed to the eligible entity have been made; and

''(dd) not fewer than 70 percent of the participants who enrolled in the skills development program—

''(AA) completed such program; and

''(BB) after such completion, were employed by the participating employer for the minimum period described in subparagraph (C)(i)(V); and

''(II) the eligible entity meets any other requirements that the Governor may establish with respect to eligible entities submitting subsequent proposals.

''(D) REIMBURSEMENT FOR APPROVED PROPOSALS.—

''(i) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each eligible entity whose proposal under subparagraph (C) has been approved by the Governor, the Governor shall make payments (in an amount determined by the Governor and subject to the requirements of subclause (II) of this clause, subparagraphs (E) and (G), and any other limitations determined necessary by the State) from the critical industry skills fund established under this paragraph to such eligible entity for each participant of the eligible skills development program described in such proposal and with respect to whom the eligible entity meets the requirements of clause (ii).

''(II) PAYMENTS.—In making payments to an eligible entity under subclause (I) with respect to a participant—

''(aa) 50 percent of the total payment shall be made after the participant completes the eligible skills development program offered by the eligible entity; and

''(bb) the remaining 50 percent of such total payment shall be made after the participant has been employed by the participating employer for the minimum period described in subparagraph (C)(i)(V).

''(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive the payments described in clause (i) with respect to a participant, an eligible entity described in such clause shall—

''(I) establish a written agreement with the participant that includes the information described in subclauses (I) and (III) of subparagraph (C)(i); and

''(II) submit documentation as the Governor determines necessary to verify that such participant has completed the skills development program offered by the eligible entity and has been employed by the participating employer for the minimum period described in subparagraph (C)(i)(V).

''(E) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARING.—

''(i) LIMITS ON FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible entity may not receive funds under subparagraph (D) with respect to a participant of the eligible skills development program offered by the eligible entity in excess of the following costs of such program:

''(I) In the case of a participating employer of such eligible entity with 25 or fewer employees, 90 percent of the costs.

''(II) In the case of a participating employer of such eligible entity with more than 25 employees, but fewer than 100 employees, 75 percent of the costs.

''(III) In the case of a participating employer of such eligible entity with 100 or more employees, 50 percent of the costs.

''(ii) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Any costs of the skills development program offered to a participant by such eligible entity that are not covered by the funds received under subparagraph (D) shall be the non-Federal share provided by the eligible entity (in cash or in-kind).

''(II) EMPLOYER COST SHARING.—If the eligible skills development program is being provided on-the-job, the non-Federal share provided by an eligible entity may include the amount of the wages paid by the participating employer of the eligible entity to a participant while such participant is receiving the training.

''(F) PERFORMANCE REPORTING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall use the participant information provided by eligible entities to submit to the Secretary a report, on an annual basis, with respect to the participants of the eligible skills development programs for which the eligible entities received funds under this paragraph for the most recent program year, which shall—

''(I) be made digitally available by the Secretary using linked, open, and interoperable data, which shall include; and

''(II) include—

''(aa) the number of individuals who participated in programs, unless such information would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual); and

''(bb) performance outcomes on the measures listed in clause (ii).

''(ii) MEASURES.—The measures listed below are as follows:

''(I) The percentage of participants who completed the skills development program.

''(II) The percentage of participants who were employed by the participating employer for a 6-month period after program completion.

''(III) The percentage of participants who were employed by the participating employer as described in subclause (II), and who remained employed by the participating employer 1 year after program completion.

''(IV) The median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after program completion.

''(V) The median earnings increase of program participants, measured by comparing the earning of a participant in the second quarter prior to entry into the program to the earnings of such participant in the second quarter following completion of the program.

''(G) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means an employer, a group of employers, an industry or sector partnership, or another entity serving as an intermediary (such as a local board) that is in a partnership with at least one employer in an industry or occupation identified by the Governor under subparagraph (B)(i) (referred to in this paragraph as the 'participating employer').

''(ii) ELIGIBLE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—The term 'eligible skills development program', with respect to which a State may set a maximum and minimum length (in weeks)—

''(I) includes work-based education or related occupational skills instruction that—

''(aa) develops the specific technical skills necessary for successful performance of the occupations in which participants are to be employed upon completion; and

''(bb) may be provided by the eligible entity or by any training provider selected by the eligible entity and that is not required to be on a list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d); and

''(II) may not include employee onboarding, orientation, or professional development generally provided to employees.''.

(5) STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.—Section 134(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of activities authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law, or is not a requirement, process, or criteria that the Governor or State is directed to establish under Federal law, the State or outlying area shall identify to local areas and eligible providers the requirement as being imposed by the State or outlying area.''.

(b) REQUIRED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.—Section 134(c)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking ''to'' and inserting ''to provide business services described in paragraph (4) and'';

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

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A), as so amended, the following:

''(B) MINIMUM AMOUNT FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.—Not less than 50 percent of the funds described in subparagraph (A) shall be used by the local area—

''(i) for the payment of training services—

''(I) provided to adults under paragraph (3)(F)(iii); and

''(II) provided to adults and dislocated workers under paragraph (3)(G)(ii); and

''(ii) for the payment of training services under paragraph (2)(A) of section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3224a(c)) after funds allocated to such local area under paragraph (1) of such section 414(c) have been exhausted.''; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking ''and (ii)'' and inserting '', (ii), and (iv)''.

(2) CAREER SERVICES.—Section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

''(A) BASIC CAREER SERVICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The one-stop delivery system—

''(I) shall coordinate with the Employment Service office colocated with the one-stop delivery system for such Employment Service office to provide, using the funds allotted to the State under section 6 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49e), basic career services, which shall—

''(aa) include, at a minimum, the services listed in clause (ii); and

''(bb) be available to individuals who are adults or dislocated workers in an integrated manner to streamline access to assistance for such individuals, to avoid duplication of services, and to enhance coordination of services; and

''(II) may use funds allocated under paragraph (1)(A), as necessary, to supplement the services that are provided pursuant to subclause (I) to individuals who are adults or dislocated workers.

''(ii) SERVICES.—The basic career services provided pursuant to clause (i) shall include—

''(I) provision of workforce and labor market employment statistics information, including the provision of accurate (and, to the extent practicable, real-time) information relating to local, regional, and national labor market areas, including—

''(aa) job vacancy listings in such labor market areas;

''(bb) information on job skills necessary to obtain the jobs described in item (aa); and

''(cc) information relating to local occupations in demand (which may include entrepreneurship opportunities), and the earnings, skill requirements, and opportunities for advancement for such occupations;

''(II) labor exchange services, including job search and placement assistance and, in appropriate cases, career counseling, including—

''(aa) provision of information on in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

''(bb) provision of information on nontraditional employment; and

''(cc) provision of information on entrepreneurship, as appropriate;

''(III)(aa) provision of information, in formats that are usable by and understandable to one-stop center customers, relating to the availability of supportive services or assistance, including child care, child support, medical or child health assistance under title XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq. and 1397aa et seq.), benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), assistance through the earned income tax credit under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and assistance under a State program for temporary assistance for needy families funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other supportive services and transportation provided through funds made available under such part, available in the local area; and

''(bb) referral to the services or assistance described in item (aa), as appropriate;

''(IV) provision of information and assistance regarding filing claims for unemployment compensation; and

''(V) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for training and education programs that are not funded under this Act.'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated—

(i) in the heading, by striking the heading and inserting ''INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER'';

(ii) by inserting ''individualized'' before ''career services'';

(iii) by inserting ''shall, to the extent practicable, be evidence-based,'' before ''and shall'';

(iv) in clause (iii), by inserting '', and a determination (considering factors including prior work experience, military service, education, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the local area) of whether such an individual would benefit from a competency-based assessment developed or identified by the State pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(B)(vii) to accelerate the time to obtaining employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or career advancement'' before the semi-colon at the end;

(v) by striking clauses (iv), (vi), (ix), (x), and (xi);

(vi) by redesignating clauses (v), (vii), (viii), (xii), and (xiii) as clauses (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), and (viii), respectively;

(vii) in clause (v), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and credential'' after ''by program''; and

(viii) in clause (vii)(I)(aa), as so redesignated, by inserting '', including a competency-based assessment developed or identified by the State pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(B)(vii)'' after ''tools'';

(D) by amending subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(C) USE OF PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS.—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall not be required to conduct a new interview, evaluation, or assessment of a participant under subparagraph (B)(vii) if the one-stop operator or one-stop partner determines that—

''(i) it is appropriate to use a recent interview, evaluation, or assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program; and

''(ii) using such recent interview, evaluation, or assessment will accelerate an eligibility determination.''; and

(E) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''individualized'' before ''career''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting '', libraries, and community-based organizations'' after ''nonprofit service providers''.

(3) TRAINING SERVICES.—Section 134(c)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''clause (ii)'' and inserting ''clause (ii) or (iii)''

(ii) in clause (i)(II)—

(I) by striking ''or in'' and inserting ''in'' and

(II) by inserting '', or that may be performed remotely'' after ''relocate'';

(iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

(iv) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) EMPLOYER REFERRAL.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall not be required to conduct an interview, evaluation, or assessment of an individual under clause (i)(I) if such individual—

''(aa) is referred by an employer to receive on-the-job training or employer-directed skills development in connection with that employer; and

''(bb) has been certified by the employer as being in need of training services to obtain unsubsidized employment with such employer and having the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services.

''(II) PRIORITY.—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall follow the priority described in subparagraph (E) to determine whether an individual that meets the requirements of subclause (I) of this clause is eligible to receive training services.''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—In the case of an individual who is determined to not have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services under clause (i)(I)(cc), the one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall refer such individual to adult education and literacy activities under title II, including for co-enrollment in such activities, as appropriate.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking ''other grant assistance for such services, including'' and inserting ''assistance for such services under''; and

(II) by striking ''under other grant assistance programs, including'' and inserting ''under''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) PARTICIPATION DURING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION.—An individual may participate in a program of training services during the period which such individual's eligibility for training services under clause (i) is being determined, except that the provider of such a program shall only receive reimbursement under this Act for the individual's participation during such period if such individual is determined to be eligible under clause (i).'';

(C) in subparagraph (D)(xi), by striking ''customized training'' and inserting ''employer-directed skills development'';

(D) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking ''are basic skills deficient'' and inserting ''have foundational skill needs''; and

(ii) by striking ''paragraph (2)(A)(xii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(B)(vii)'';

(E) in subparagraph (G)(ii)—

(i) in subclause (II), by striking ''customized training'' and inserting ''employer-directed skills development''; and

(ii) in subclause (IV), by striking ''is a'' and inserting ''is an evidence-based'';

(F) in subparagraph (H)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''reimbursement described in section 3(44)'' and inserting ''reimbursement described in the definition of the term ''on-the-job training'' in section 3''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by inserting '', such as the extent to which participants are individuals with barriers to employment'' after ''participants''; and

(II) in subclause (III), by inserting '', including whether the skills a participant will obtain are transferable to other employers, occupations, or industries in the local area or the State'' after ''opportunities''; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) EMPLOYER-DIRECTED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.—An employer may receive a contract

from a local board to provide employer-directed skills development to a participant or group of participants if the employer submits to the local board an agreement that establishes—

''(i) the provider of the skills development program, which may be the employer;

''(ii) the length of the skills development program;

''(iii) the recognized postsecondary credentials that will be awarded to, or the occupational skills that will be gained by, program participants;

''(iv) the cost of the skills development program;

''(v) the amount of such cost that will be paid by the employer, which shall not be less than the amount specified in subparagraph (C) of the definition of the term 'employer-directed skills development' in section 3; and

''(vi) a commitment by the employer to employ the participating individual or individuals upon successful completion of the program.''.

(c) BUSINESS SERVICES.—Section 134(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)) is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)(iv), by inserting ''provide business services described in paragraph (4) and'' before ''establish''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) BUSINESS SERVICES.—Funds described in paragraph (1) shall be used to provide appropriate recruitment and other business services and strategies on behalf of employers, including small employers, that meet the workforce investment needs of area employers, as determined by the local board and consistent with the local plan under section 108, which services—

''(A) may be provided through effective business intermediaries working in conjunction with the local board, and may also be provided on a fee-for-service basis or through the leveraging of economic development, philanthropic, and other public and private resources in a manner determined appropriate by the local board; and

''(B) may include one or more of the following:

''(i) Developing and implementing industry sector strategies (including strategies involving industry partnerships, regional skills alliances, industry skill panels, and sectoral skills partnerships).

''(ii) Developing and delivering innovative workforce investment services and strategies for area employers, which may include career pathways, skills upgrading, skill standard development and certification for recognized postsecondary credential or other employer use, apprenticeship, and other effective initiatives for meeting the workforce investment needs of area employers and workers.

''(iii) Assistance to area employers in managing reductions in force in coordination with rapid response activities provided under subsection (a)(2)(A) and developing strategies for the aversion of layoffs, which strategies may include early identification of firms at risk of layoffs, use of feasibility studies to assess the needs of and options for at-risk firms, and the delivery of employment and training activities to address risk factors.

''(iv) The marketing of business services offered under this title to appropriate area employers, including small and mid-sized employers.

''(v) Technical assistance or other support to employers seeking to implement skills-based hiring practices, which may include technical assistance on the use and validation of employment assessments, including competency-based assessments developed or identified by the State pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(vii), and support in the creation of skills-based job descriptions.

''(vi) Other services described in this subsection, including providing information and referral to microenterprise services, as appropriate, and specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system.''.

(d) PERMISSIBLE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) ACTIVITIES.—Section 134(d)(1)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) implementation of a pay-for-performance contract strategy for training services, for which the local board may reserve and use not more than 40 percent of the total funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(b), except that after 2 fiscal years of a local board implementing such pay-for-performance contract strategy, the local board may request approval from the Governor to reserve and use not more than 60 percent of the total funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(b) for such strategy for the following fiscal year if the local board can demonstrate to the Governor the performance improvements achieved through the use of such strategy;'';

(B) in clause (vii)—

(i) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subclause (III), by inserting ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) to strengthen, through professional development activities, the knowledge and capacity of staff to use the latest digital technologies, tools, and strategies to deliver high quality services and outcomes for jobseekers, workers, and employers;'';

(C) in clause (ix)(II)—

(i) in item (cc), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in item (dd), by inserting ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ee) technical assistance or other support to employers seeking to implement skills-based hiring practices, which may include technical assistance on the use and validation of employment assessments, including competency-based assessments developed or identified by the State pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(vii), and support in the creation of skills-based job descriptions;'';

(D) in clause (xi), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(E) in clause (xii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

''(xiii) the use of competency-based assessments for individuals upon initial assessment of skills (pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A)(iii)) or completion of training services or other learning experiences; and

''(xiv) the development of partnerships between educational institutions (including area career and technical education schools, local educational agencies, and institutions of higher education) and employers to create or improve workforce development programs to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in a region, as determined based on the most recent analysis conducted by the local board under section 107(d)(2).''.

(2) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 134(d)(4)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(4)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''20'' and inserting ''30'';

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) INCREASE IN RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding clause (i)—

''(I) with respect to a local area that had a rate of unemployment of not more than 3 percent for not less than 6 months during the preceding program year, clause (i) shall be applied by substituting '40 percent' for '30 percent'; or

''(II) with respect to a local area that meets the requirement in subclause (I) and is located in a State that had a labor force participation rate of not less than 68 percent for not less than 6 months during the preceding program year, clause (i) shall be applied by substituting '45 percent' for '30 percent'.''.

(B) INCUMBENT WORKER UPSKILLING ACCOUNTS.—Section 134(d)(4) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(4)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) INCUMBENT WORKER UPSKILLING ACCOUNTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—To establish incumbent worker upskilling accounts through which an eligible provider of training services under section 122 may be paid for the program of training services provided to an incumbent worker, a local board—

''(I) (aa) may use, from the funds reserved by the local area under subparagraph (A)(i), an amount that does not exceed 5 percent of the funds allocated to such local area under section 133(b); or

''(bb) if the local area reserved funds under subparagraph (A)(ii), may use, from the funds reserved by the local area under subparagraph (A)(ii), an amount that does not exceed 10 percent of the funds allocated to such local area under section 133(b); and

''(II) may use funds reserved under section 134(a)(2)(A) for statewide rapid response activities and provided by the State to local area to establish such accounts.

''(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), a local board that seeks to establish incumbent worker upskilling accounts under clause (i) shall establish criteria for determining the eligibility of an incumbent worker to receive such an account, which shall take into account factors of—

''(aa) the wages of the incumbent worker as of the date of determining such worker's eligibility under this clause;

''(bb) the career advancement opportunities for the incumbent worker in the occupation of such worker as of such date; and

''(cc) the ability of the incumbent worker to, upon completion of the program of training services selected by such worker, secure employment in an in-demand industry or occupation in the local area that will lead to economic self-sufficiency and wages higher than the current wages of the incumbent worker.

''(II) LIMITATION.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—An incumbent worker described in item (bb) shall be ineligible to receive an incumbent worker upskilling account under this subparagraph.

''(bb) INELIGIBILITY.—Item (aa) shall apply to an incumbent worker—

''(AA) whose total annual wages for the most recent year are greater than the median household income of the State; or

''(BB) who has earned a baccalaureate or professional degree.

''(iii) COST SHARING FOR CERTAIN INCUMBENT WORKERS.—With respect to an incumbent worker determined to be eligible to receive an incumbent worker upskilling account who is not a low-income individual—

''(I) such incumbent worker shall pay not less than 25 percent of the cost of the program of training services selected by such worker; and

''(II) funds provided through the incumbent worker upskilling account established for such worker shall cover the remaining 75 percent of the cost of the program.''.

CHAPTER 4—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 145. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 136 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3181) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 136. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''(a) YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 127(a) $976,573,900 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(b) ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132(a)(1) $912,218,500 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(c) DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132(a)(2) $1,451,859,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

Subtitle D—Job Corps

SEC. 151. PURPOSES.

Section 141 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3191) is amended by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses''.

SEC. 152. DEFINITIONS.

Section 142 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1), (7), (8), and (10), by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''; and

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking ''CENTER'' in the header and inserting ''CAMPUS''.

SEC. 153. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

Section 144 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''21'' and inserting ''24'';

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) an individual who is age 16 or 17 shall be eligible only upon an individual determination by the director of a Job Corps campus that such individual meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 145(b)(1); and''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''either'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after ''individual'' the following: ''or a resident of a qualified opportunity zone as defined in section 1400Z–1(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) Has foundational skill needs.'';

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting after ''a veteran'' the following: ''or a member of the Armed Forces eligible for preseparation counseling of the Transition Assistance Program under section 1142 of title 10, United States Code''; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH.—In determining whether an individual is eligible to enroll for services under this subtitle on the basis of being an individual who is a homeless child or youth, or a youth in foster care, as described in subsection (a)(3)(C), staff shall—

''(1) if determining whether the individual is a homeless child or youth, use a process that is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (a) of section 479D of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section 702(l) of the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law 116–260), for financial aid administrators; and

''(2) if determining whether the individual is a youth in foster care, use a process that is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of such section 479D of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section 702(l) of the FAFSA Simplification Act (Public Law 116–260), for financial aid administrators.''.

SEC. 154. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

Section 145 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3195) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) prescribe procedures for—

''(i) administering drug tests to enrollees; and

''(ii) informing such enrollees that drug tests will be administered;'';

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'';

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) assist applicable one-stop centers and other entities identified in paragraph (3) in developing joint applications for Job Corps, YouthBuild, and the youth activities described in section 129.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) DRUG TEST PROCEDURES.—The procedures prescribed under paragraph (2)(A)(i) shall require that—

''(A) each enrollee take a drug test not more than 48 hours after such enrollee arrives on campus;

''(B) if the result of the drug test taken by an enrollee pursuant to subparagraph (A) is positive, the enrollee take a subsequent drug test at the earliest appropriate time (considering the substance and potency levels identified in the initial test) to determine if the enrollee has continued to use drugs since arriving on campus, the results of which must be received not later than 50 days after the enrollee arrived on campus; and

''(C) if the result of the subsequent test administered under subparagraph (B) is positive, the enrollee be terminated from the program and referred to a substance use disorder treatment program.''; and

(2) in subsections (b), (c), and (d)—

(A) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''; and

(B) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''.

SEC. 155. JOB CORPS CAMPUSES.

Section 147 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3197) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking ''**CENTERS**'' and inserting ''**CAMPUSES**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after ''area career and technical education school,'' the following: ''an institution of higher education,'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''; and

(II) by inserting after ''United States Code,'' the following: ''and paragraph (2)(C)(iii) of section 159(f),''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''operate a Job Corps center'' and inserting ''operate a Job Corps campus'';

(bb) by striking subclause (IV);

(cc) by redesignating subclauses (I), (II), (III), and (V), as subclauses (III), (IV), (V), and (VI), respectively;

(dd) by inserting before subclause (III), as so redesignated, the following:

''(I) (aa) in the case of an entity that has previously operated a Job Corps campus, a numeric metric of the past achievement on the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii); or

''(bb) in the case of an entity that has not previously operated a Job Corps campus, an alternative numeric metric on the past effectiveness of the entity in successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the labor force, based on such primary indicators of performance for eligible youth;

''(II) in the case of an entity that has previously operated a Job Corps campus, any information regarding the entity included in any report developed by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor;'';

(ee) in subclauses (III) and (IV), as so redesignated, by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(ff) in subclause (V), as so redesignated, by striking ''center is located'' and inserting ''campus is located, including agreements to provide off-campus work-based learning opportunities aligned with the career and technical education provided to enrollees''; and

(gg) by amending subclause (VI), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(VI) the ability of the entity to implement an effective behavior management plan, as described in section 152(a), and maintain a safe and secure learning environment for enrollees.''; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''center'' and inserting ''campus'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting after ''is located'' the following: '', including agreements to provide off-campus work-based learning opportunities aligned with the career and technical education provided to enrollees'';

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), and (K) as subparagraphs (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), and (L), respectively; and

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

''(E) A description of the policies that will be implemented at the campus regarding security and access to campus facilities, including procedures to report on and respond to criminal actions and other emergencies occurring on campus.'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the header, by striking ''CENTERS'' and inserting ''CAMPUSES'';

(B) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(C) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses'';

(D) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''20 percent'' and inserting ''25 percent''; and

(E) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''centers'' and inserting ''campuses''; and

(B) by striking ''20 percent'' and inserting ''30 percent'';

(5) in subsection (d) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses'';

(6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''centers'' and inserting ''campuses'';

(7) in subsection (f), by striking ''2-year period'' and inserting ''3-year period''; and

(8) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (A);

(iii) by amending subparagraph (A), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking ''50 percent'' and inserting ''80 percent''; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (A), as so redesignated and amended, the following:

''(B) failed to achieve an average of 80 percent of the level of enrollment that was agreed to in the agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A).'';

(C) in paragraph (3) by striking ''shall provide'' and inserting ''shall provide, at least 30 days prior to renewing the agreement''; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

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

''(D) has maintained a safe and secure campus environment; and''.

SEC. 156. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Section 148 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3198) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''center'' and inserting ''campus'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and productive activities, such as tutoring or other skills development opportunities, for enrollees to participate in outside of regular class time and work hours in order to increase supervision of enrollees and reduce behavior infractions''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses''; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''the eligible providers'' and inserting ''any eligible provider''; and

(ii) by inserting after ''under section 122'' the following: ''that is aligned with the career and technical education an enrollee has completed''.

SEC. 157. SUPPORT.

Section 150 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3200) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''centers'' and inserting ''campuses''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PERIOD OF TRANSITION.—Notwithstanding the requirements of section 146(b), a Job Corps graduate may remain an enrollee and a resident of a Job Corps campus for not more than one month after graduation as such graduate transitions into independent living and employment if such graduate—

''(1) has not had a behavioral infraction in the 90 days prior to graduation; and

''(2) receives written approval from the director of the Job Corps campus to remain such a resident.''.

SEC. 158. OPERATIONS.

Section 151 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3201) is amended—

(1) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) LOCAL AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitations of the budget approved by the Secretary for a Job Corps campus, the operator of a Job Corps campus shall have the authority, without prior approval from the Secretary, to—

''(A) hire staff and provide staff professional development;

''(B) set terms and enter into agreements with Federal, State, or local educational partners, such as secondary schools, institutions of higher education, child development centers, units of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs established under section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, or employers; and

''(C) engage with and educate stakeholders about Job Corps operations and activities.

''(2) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—In the case of an agreement described in paragraph (1)(B) that does not involve the Job Corps operator providing monetary compensation to the entity involved in such agreement from the funds made available under this subtitle, such agreement shall not be considered a subcontract (as defined in section 8701 of title 41, United States Code).

''(e) PRIOR NOTICE.—Prior to making a change to the agreement described in section 147(a) or an operating plan described in this section, the Secretary shall solicit from the operators of the Job Corps campuses information on any operational costs the operators expect to result from such change.''.

SEC. 159. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

Section 152 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3202) is amended—

(1) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses'';

(2) in subsection (a), by inserting ''As part of the operating plan required under section 151(a), the director of each Job Corps campus shall develop and implement a behavior management plan consistent with the standards of conduct and subject to the approval of the Secretary.'' at the end; and

(3) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking ''or disruptive'';

(4) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) APPEAL PROCESS.—

''(1) ENROLLEE APPEALS.—A disciplinary measure taken by a director under this section shall be subject to expeditious appeal in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

''(2) DIRECTOR APPEALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an appeals process under which the director of a Job Corps campus may submit a request that an enrollee who has engaged in an activity which is a violation of the guidelines established pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(A) remain enrolled in the program, but be subject to other disciplinary actions.

''(B) CONTENTS.—An request under paragraph (A) shall include—

''(i) a signed certification from the director attesting that, to the belief of the director, the continued enrollment of such enrollee would not impact the safety or learning environment of the campus; and

''(ii) the behavioral records of such enrollee.

''(C) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall review such appeal and either approve or deny the appeal within 30 days of receiving such appeal.

''(D) INELIGIBILITY FOR APPEAL.—The Secretary shall reject an appeal made by a director of a Job Corps campus if such campus has been found out of compliance with the requirements under subsection (d) at any time during the previous 5 years.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) INCIDENT REPORTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require that the director of a Job Corps campus report to the appropriate regional office—

''(A) not later than 2 hours after the campus management becomes aware of the occurrence of—

''(i) an enrollee or on-duty staff death;

''(ii) any incident—

''(I) requiring law enforcement involvement;

''(II) involving a missing minor student; or

''(III) where substantial property damage has occurred; or

''(iii) a level 1 infraction;

''(B) in the case of a level 2 infraction, on a quarterly basis, including the number and type of such infractions that occurred during such time period; and

''(C) in the case of a minor infraction, as determined necessary by the Secretary.

''(2) INFRACTIONS DEFINED.—In this subsection:

''(A) LEVEL 1 INFRACTION.—The term 'level 1 infraction' means an activity described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

''(B) LEVEL 2 INFRACTION.—The term 'level 2 infraction' means an activity, other than a level 1 infraction, determined by the Secretary to be a serious infraction.

''(C) MINOR INFRACTION.—The term 'minor infraction' means an activity, other than a level 1 or 2 infraction, determined by the Secretary to be an infraction.

''(3) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.—The director of each Job Corps campus shall enter into an agreement with the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction regarding procedures for the prompt reporting and investigation of potentially illegal activity on Job Corps campuses.''.

SEC. 160. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

Section 153 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3203) is amended—

(1) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(2) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses''; and

(3) in subsection (c), in the heading, by striking ''CENTERS'' and inserting ''CAMPUSES''.

SEC. 161. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

Section 154 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3204) is amended—

(1) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(2) in subsection (d), in the heading, by striking ''NEW CENTERS'' and inserting ''NEW CAMPUSES''.

SEC. 162. ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 155 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3205) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(2) by striking ''centers'' and inserting ''campuses''

(3) by striking ''center'' and inserting ''campus''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO IMPROVE JOB CORPS SAFETY.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to provide recommendations on effective or evidence-based strategies to improve—

''(1) safety, security, and learning conditions on Job Corps campuses; and

''(2) the standards for campus safety established under section 159(c)(4).''.

SEC. 163. EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 156 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3206) is amended—

(1) by striking ''center'' and inserting ''campus'';

(2) by striking ''centers'' and inserting ''campuses'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(4) by inserting the following after subsection (a):

''(b) JOB CORPS SCHOLARS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education to enroll cohorts of Job Corps eligible youth in Job Corps Scholars activities for a 24-month period and pay the tuition and necessary costs for enrollees for such period.

''(2) ACTIVITIES.—Job Corps Scholar activities shall include—

''(A) intensive counseling services and supportive services;

''(B) a 12-month career and technical education component aligned with in-demand industries and occupations in the State where the institution of higher education that is receiving the grant is located; and

''(C) a 12-month employment placement period that follows the component described in subparagraph (B).

''(3) PERFORMANCE DATA.—The Secretary shall collect performance information from institutions of higher education receiving grants under this subsection on the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), the cost per participant and cost per graduate, and other information as necessary to evaluate the success of Job Corps Scholars grantees in improving outcomes for at-risk youth.

''(4) EVALUATION.—At the end of each 2-year period for which the Secretary awards grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for an independent, robust evaluation that compares—

''(A) the outcomes achieved by Job Corps Scholars participants with the outcomes achieved by other participants in the Job Corps program during such 2-year period; and

''(B) the costs of the Job Corps Scholars programs with the costs of other Job Corps programs during such 2-year period.''; and

(5) in subsection (c)(1), as so redesignated, is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C) and by adding at the end the following:

''(D) in the development and implementation of a behavior management plan under section 152(a); and

''(E) maintaining a safe and secure learning environment; and''.

SEC. 164. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

Section 158 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3208) is amended—

(1) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''may accept on behalf of the Job Corps or individual Job Corps centers charitable donations of cash'' and inserting '', on behalf of the Job Corps, or a Job Corps campus operator, on behalf of such campus, may accept grants, charitable donations of cash,''; and

(B) by inserting at the end the following: ''Notwithstanding sections 501(b) and 522 of title 40, United States Code, any property acquired by a Job Corps campus shall be directly transferred, on a nonreimbursable basis, to the Secretary.''.

SEC. 165. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.

(a) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—Section 159 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3209) is amended—

(1) by striking ''center'' each place it appears and inserting ''campus'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''.

(ii) by inserting ''that are ambitious yet achievable and'' after ''program''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—In establishing the expected performance levels under subparagraph (A) for a Job Corps campus, the Secretary shall take into account—

''(i) how the levels involved compare with the recent performance of such campus and the performance of other campuses within the same State or geographic region;

''(ii) the levels of performance set for the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) for the State in which the campus is located;

''(iii) the differences in actual economic conditions (including differences in unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries) between the local area of such campus and other local areas with a campus; and

''(iv) the extent to which the levels involved promote continuous improvement in performance on the primary indicators of performance by such campus and ensure optimal return on the use of Federal funds.

''(C) PERFORMANCE PER CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall ensure the expected levels of performance are established in the relevant contract or agreement.

''(D) REVISIONS BASED ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND INDIVIDUALS SERVED DURING THE PROGRAM YEAR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a significant economic downturn, the Secretary may revise the applicable adjusted levels of performance for each of the campuses for a program year to reflect the actual economic conditions during such program year.

''(ii) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Prior to implementing the revisions described in clause (i), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report explaining the reason for such revisions.

''(E) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—The Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor shall, every 5 years, submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and publish in the Federal Register and on a publicly available website of the Department, a report containing—

''(i) a quadrennial review of the expected levels of performance; and

''(ii) an evaluation of whether—

''(I) the Secretary is establishing such expected levels of performance in good faith; and

''(II) such expected levels have led to continued improvement of the Job Corps program.'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

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

''(4) CAMPUS SAFETY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish campus and student safety standards. A Job Corps campus failing to achieve such standards shall be required to take the performance improvement actions described in subsection (f).

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the campus and student safety standards under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall take into account—

''(i) incidents reported under section 152(d);

''(ii) survey data from enrollees, faculty, staff, and community members; and

''(iii) any other considerations identified by the Secretary after reviewing the recommendations of the advisory group described in section 155(b).'';

(D) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) the number of contracts that were awarded a renewal compared to those eligible for a renewal;

''(D) the number of campuses where the contract was awarded to a new operator; and

''(E) the number of campuses that were required to receive performance improvement, as described under subsection (f)(2), including whether any actions were taken as described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of such subsection.''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) WAGE RECORDS.—The Secretary shall make arrangements with a State or other appropriate entity to facilitate the use of State wage records to evaluate the performance of Job Corps campuses on the employment and earnings indicators described in clause (i)(III) of subparagraph (A) of section 116(b)(2)(A) and subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (ii) of such subparagraph for the purposes of the report required under paragraph (5).'';

(3) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by inserting ''and make available on the website of the Department pertaining to the Job Corps program in a manner that is consumer-tested to ensure it is easily understood, searchable, and navigable,'' after ''subsection (c)(4),'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''gender'' and inserting ''sex'';

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (J) through (O) as subparagraphs (K) through (P), respectively; and

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

''(J) the number of appeals under section 152(c) and a description of each appeal that was approved;''; and

(4) in subsection (g)(2), by striking ''comply'' and inserting ''attest to compliance''.

(b) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 159(f) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3209) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.—

''(1) ASSESSMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps campus on the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), where each indicator shall be given equal weight in determining the overall performance of the campus. Based on the assessment, the Secretary shall take measures to continuously improve the performance of the Job Corps program.

''(2) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.—

''(A) INITIAL FAILURE.—With respect to a Job Corps campus that fails to meet an average of 90 percent on the expected levels of performance across all the primary indicators of performance specified in subsection (c)(1) or is ranked among the lowest 10 percent of Job Corps campuses, the Secretary shall, after each program year of such performance failure, develop and implement a performance improvement plan for such campus. Such a plan shall require action to be taken during a 1-year program year period, which shall include providing technical assistance to the campus.

''(B) REPEAT FAILURE.—With respect to a Job Corps campus that, for two consecutive program years, fails to meet an average of 85 percent on the expected levels of performance across all the primary indicators of performance or is ranked among the lowest 10

percent of Job Corps campuses, the Secretary shall take substantial action to improve the performance of such campus, which shall include—

''(i) changing the management staff of the campus;

''(ii) changing the career and technical education and training offered at the campus;

''(iii) replacing the operator of the campus; or

''(iv) reducing the capacity of the campus.

''(C) CHRONIC FAILURE.—With respect to a Job Corps campus that, for the two consecutive program years immediately following the Secretary taking substantial performance action under subparagraph (B), fails to meet an average of 85 percent on the expected levels of performance across all the primary indicators or is ranked among the lowest 10 percent of Job Corps campuses, the Secretary shall take further substantial action to improve the performance of such campus, which shall include—

''(i) relocating the campus;

''(ii) closing the campus; or

''(iii) awarding funding directly to the State in which the campus is located for operation of the campus, and for which the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with such State for purposes of operating the campus in its current location and may encourage innovation in such memorandum of understanding by waiving any statutory or regulatory requirement of this subtitle except for those related to participant eligibility under section 144, standards of conduct under section 152, and performance reporting and accountability under this section.

''(3) ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.—In addition to the performance improvement plans required under paragraph (2), the Secretary may develop and implement additional performance improvement plans for a Job Corps campus that fails to meet criteria established by the Secretary other than the expected levels of performance described in subsection (c)(1).

''(4) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—With respect to a Civilian Conservation Center that, for 3 consecutive program years, fails to meet an average of 90 percent of the expected levels of performance across all the primary indicators of performance specified in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Labor or, if appropriate, the Secretary of Agriculture shall select, on a competitive basis, an entity to operate part or all of the Civilian Conservation Center in accordance with the requirements of section 147.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 159 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3209) is further amended—

(1) by striking ''centers'' each place it appears and inserting ''campuses''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), in the header, by striking ''CENTER'' and inserting ''CAMPUS''.

SEC. 166. JOB CORPS OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.

Section 161 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3211) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, prepare and submit to the appropriate committees a report regarding the implementation of all outstanding recommendations from the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor or the Government Accountability Office.''.

SEC. 167. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 162 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3212) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 162. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle $1,760,155,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

Subtitle E—National Programs

SEC. 171. NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.

Section 166 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

''(C) are evidence-based, to the extent practicable.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

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

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

''(B) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds provided to an entity under this section may be used for the administrative costs of the activities and services carried out under subparagraph (A).'';

(3) in subsection (h), by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) WAGE RECORDS.—The Secretary shall make arrangements with a State or other appropriate entity to facilitate the use of State wage records to evaluate the performance of entities funded under this section on the employment and earnings indicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) for the purposes of the report required under paragraph (4).

''(4) PERFORMANCE RESULTS.—For each program year, the Secretary shall make available on a publicly accessible website of the Department a report on the performance, during such program year, of entities funded under this section on—

''(A) the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A);

''(B) any additional indicators established under paragraph (1)(A); and

''(C) the adjusted levels of performance for such entities as described in paragraph (2).'';

(4) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''and judicial review.'' and inserting ''judicial review, and performance accountability pertaining to the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A).''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) by striking ''The Council'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Council''; and

(ii) by inserting at the end the following:

''(ii) VACANCIES.—An individual appointed to fill a vacancy on the Council occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of such individual was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. Such an individual may serve on the Council after the expiration of such term until a successor is appointed.''; and

(5) by amending subsection (k)(2) to read as follows:

''(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $542,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

SEC. 172. MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAMS.

Section 167 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) WAGE RECORDS.—The Secretary shall make arrangements with a State or other appropriate entity to facilitate the use of State wage records to evaluate the performance of entities funded under this section on the employment and earnings indicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) for the purposes of the report required under paragraph (4).

''(6) PERFORMANCE RESULTS.—For each program year, the Secretary shall make available on a publicly accessible website of the Department a report on the performance, during such program year, of entities funded under this section on—

''(A) the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A); and

''(B) the adjusted levels of performance for such entities as described in paragraph (3).'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds provided to an entity under this section may be used for the administrative costs of the activities and services carried out under subsection (d).''; and

(4) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(i) FUNDING ALLOCATION; FUNDING OBLIGATION.—

''(1) FUNDING ALLOCATION.—From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent for discretionary purposes, such as providing technical assistance to eligible entities.

''(2) FUNDING OBLIGATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated and made available to carry out this section for any fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the period beginning on April 1 of the calendar year that begins during such fiscal year and ending on June 30 of the following calendar year to be made available to an entity described in subsection (b) for the period described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) OBLIGATED AMOUNT.—Funds made available under this section for a fiscal year to any entity described in subsection (b) may be spent or reserved for spending by such entity during the period beginning on July 1 of the calendar year that begins during such fiscal year, and ending on June 30 of the following calendar year.''.

SEC. 173. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 168(a)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3223(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''appropriate training, technical assistance, staff development'' and inserting ''appropriate education, technical assistance, professional development for staff'';

(2) in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), by striking ''training'' each place it appears and inserting ''professional development'';

(3) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (J) and (K), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) assistance to the one-stop delivery system and the Employment Service established under the Wagner-Peyser Act for the integration of basic career service activities pursuant to section 134(c)(2)(A);

''(I) assistance to States with maintaining, and making accessible to jobseekers and employers, the lists of eligible providers of training services required under section 122;

''(H) assistance to States that apply for such assistance under section 122(k) for the purposes described in such subsection;''.

(b) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 168(b) of the

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3223(b)) is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking ''DISLOCATED WORKER'' and inserting ''PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence—

(A) by inserting '', pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 116(f),'' after ''technical assistance''; and

(B) by striking ''with respect to employment and training activities for dislocated workers'' and inserting ''with respect to the core programs''.

(c) COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY OPIOID USE DISORDERS.—Section 168 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3223) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY OPIOID USE DISORDERS.—The Secretary shall, as part of the activities described in subsection (c)(2), evaluate and disseminate to States and local areas information regarding evidence-based and promising practices for addressing the economic workforce impacts associated with high rates of opioid use disorders, which information shall—

''(1) be updated annually to reflect the most recent and available research; and

''(2) include information—

''(A) shared by States and local areas regarding effective practices for addressing such impacts; and

''(B) on how to apply for any funding that may be available under section 170(b)(1)(E).''.

SEC. 174. EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (G);

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not use the authority described in subparagraph (A) if the evaluations required under paragraph (1) have not been initiated or completed in the time period required.''; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2028''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) STUDIES AND REPORTS.—

''(A) STUDY ON EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with other heads of Federal agencies, as appropriate, may conduct a study examining the nature of participants' unsubsidized employment after exit from programs carried out under this Act, including factors such as availability of paid time off, health and retirement benefits, workplace safety standards, predictable and stable work schedule, stackable credentials, and advancement opportunities.

''(B) STUDY ON IMPROVING WORKFORCE SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may conduct studies that analyze the access to services by individuals with disabilities, including whether an individual who is unable to receive services under title IV due to a wait list for such services is able to receive services under titles I through III.

''(C) STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PAY FOR PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall, not more than 4 years after the date of enactment of A Stronger Workforce for America Act, conduct a study that compares the effectiveness of the pay-for-performance strategies used under sections 129, 134, and 172 after such date of enactment to the awarding of grants and contracts under such sections as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of such Act.

''(D) STUDY ON INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS.—The Secretary shall, not more than 4 years after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, conduct a study that compares the usage of Individual Training Accounts for dislocated workers after such date of enactment to the usage of such accounts prior to such date of enactment, including—

''(i) the types of training services and occupations targeted by dislocated workers when using their Individual Training Accounts; and

''(ii) the effectiveness of such skills development.

''(E) STUDY ON STATEWIDE CRITICAL INDUSTRY SKILLS FUNDS.—The Secretary shall, not more than 4 years after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, conduct a study that will review the usage of statewide critical industry skills funds established by States under section 134(a)(4) and identify, for purposes of measuring the overall effectiveness of the program—

''(i) the industries targeted by such Funds;

''(ii) the occupations workers are being upskilled for;

''(iii) how frequently skills development is provided to prospective workers and incumbent workers, and

''(iv) the reported performance outcomes.

''(F) STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING.—The Secretary shall, not more than 4 years after the date of enactment of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, conduct a study that measures the effectiveness of on-the-job training, employer-directed skills training, apprenticeship, and incumbent worker training under this title in preparing jobseekers and workers, including those with barriers to employment, for unsubsidized employment. Such study shall include the cost per participant and wage and employment outcomes, as compared to other methods of training.

''(G) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and on the publicly available website of the Department, reports containing the results of the studies conducted under this paragraph.''; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EVALUATION OF GRANTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For each grant or contract awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall conduct a rigorous evaluation of the multistate project to determine the impact of the activities supported by the project, including the impact on the employment and earnings of program participants.

''(ii) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and to the public, including through electronic means, reports containing the results of evaluations conducted under this subparagraph.''.

(b) WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY INITIATIVE.—Section 169 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3224) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) WORKFORCE DATA QUALITY INITIATIVE.—

''(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—Of amount made available pursuant to section 132(a)(2)(A) for any program year, the Secretary shall use 5 percent of such amount, and may also use funds authorized for purposes of carrying out this section, to award grants to eligible entities to create workforce longitudinal data systems and associated resources for the purposes of strengthening program quality, building State capacity to produce evidence for decisionmaking, meeting performance reporting requirements, protecting privacy, and improving transparency.

''(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, which shall include—

''(A) a description of the proposed activities that will be conducted by the eligible entity, including a description of the need for such activities and a detailed budget for such activities;

''(B) a description of the expected outcomes and outputs (such as systems or products) that will result from the proposed activities and the proposed uses of such outputs;

''(C) a description of how the proposed activities will support the reporting of performance data, including employment and earnings outcomes, for the performance accountability requirements under section 116, including outcomes for eligible training providers;

''(D) a description of the methods and procedures the eligible entity will use to ensure the security and privacy of the collection, storage, and use of all data involved in the systems and resources supported through the grant, including compliance with State and Federal privacy and confidentiality statutes and regulations; and

''(E) a plan for how the eligible entity will continue the activities or sustain the use of the outputs created with the grant funds after the grant period ends.

''(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to—

''(A) eligible entities that are—

''(i) a State agency of a State that has not previously received a grant from the Secretary for the purposes of this subsection and demonstrates a substantial need to improve its data infrastructure; or

''(ii) a consortium of State agencies that is comprised of State agencies from multiple States and includes at least one State agency described in clause (i) and has the capacity to make significant contributions toward building interoperable, cross-State data infrastructure; and

''(B) eligible entities that will use grant funds to—

''(i) expand the adoption and use of linked, open, and interoperable data on credentials, including through the development of a credential registry or other tools and services designed to help learners and workers make informed decisions, such as the credential navigation feature described in section 122(d)(2);

''(ii) participate in and contribute data to a multistate data collaborative, including data that provide participating States the ability to better understand—

''(I) earnings and employment outcomes of individuals who work out-of-State; and

''(II) cross-State earnings and employment trends;

''(iii) enhance collaboration with private sector workforce and labor market data entities and the end-users of workforce and labor

market data, including individuals, employers, economic development agencies, and workforce development providers; or

''(iv) leverage the use of non-Federal contributions to improve workforce data infrastructure, including staff capacity building.

''(4) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to the activities described in paragraph (3)(B), an eligible entity awarded a grant under this subsection may use funds to carry out any of the following activities:

''(A) Developing or enhancing a State's workforce longitudinal data system, including by participating and contributing data to the State's data system, if applicable, that links with elementary and secondary school and postsecondary data.

''(B) Accelerating the replication and adoption of data systems, projects, products, or practices already in use in one or more States to other States.

''(C) Research and labor market data improvement activities to improve the timeliness, relevance, and accessibility of such data through pilot projects that are developed locally but designed to scale to other regions or States.

''(D) Establishing, enhancing, or connecting to a system of interoperable learning and employment records that provides individuals who choose to participate in such system ownership of a verified and secure record of their skills and achievements and the ability to share such record with employers and education providers.

''(E) Developing policies, guidelines, and security measures for data collection, storing, and sharing to ensure compliance with relevant Federal and State privacy laws and regulations.

''(F) Increasing local board access to and integration with the State's workforce longitudinal data system in a secure manner.

''(G) Creating or participating in a data exchange for collecting and using standards-based jobs and employment data including, at a minimum, job titles or occupation codes.

''(H) Improving State and local staff capacity to understand, use, and analyze data to improve decisionmaking and improve participant outcomes.

''(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(A) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this subsection may be for a period of up to 3 years.

''(B) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds used for development of State data systems.

''(C) REPORT.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall submit a report to the Secretary not later than 180 days after the conclusion of the grant period on the activities supported through the grant and improvements in the use of workforce and labor market information that have resulted from such activities.

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible entity' means a State agency or consortium of State agencies, including a multistate data collaborative, that is or includes the State agencies responsible for—

''(A) State employer wage records used by the State's unemployment insurance programs in labor market information reporting and analysis and for fulfilling the reporting requirements of this Act;

''(B) the production of labor market information; and

''(C) the direct administration of one or more of the core programs.''.

SEC. 175. NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANTS.

Section 170 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3225) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a)(1) to read as follows:

''(1) EMERGENCY OR DISASTER.—The term 'emergency or disaster' means an emergency or a major disaster, as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 (1) and (2)).'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''spouses described in section 3(15)(E)'' and inserting ''spouses described in subparagraph (E) of the definition of the term 'dislocated worker' in section 3''; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) to an entity described in subsection (c)(1)(B) to provide employment and training activities related to the prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders, including addiction treatment, mental health treatment, and pain management, in an area that, as a result of widespread opioid use, addiction, and overdoses, has higher-than-average demand for such activities that exceeds the availability of State and local resources to provide such activities.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PERFORMANCE RESULTS.—The Secretary shall collect the necessary information from each entity receiving a grant under this section to determine the performance of such entity on the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) and make such information available on the publicly accessible website of the Department in a format that does not reveal personally identifiable information.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) by striking ''subsection (b)(1)(A)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (A) or (E) of subsection (b)(1)''; and

(ii) by striking '', in such manner, and containing such information'' and inserting ''and in such manner''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the heading, by striking ''RETRAINING'' and inserting ''RESKILLING''; and

(II) by striking ''retraining'' and inserting ''reskilling'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

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

''(C) OPIOID-RELATED GRANTS.—In order to be eligible to receive employment and training assistance under a national dislocated worker grant awarded pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(E), an individual shall be—

''(i) a dislocated worker;

''(ii) a long-term unemployed individual;

''(iii) an individual who is unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of widespread opioid use in the area; or

''(iv) an individual who is employed or seeking employment in a health care profession involved in the prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders, including such professions that provide addiction treatment, mental health treatment, or pain management.''.

SEC. 176. YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.

Section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3226) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), to read as follows:

''(1) AMOUNT OF GRANTS; RESERVATION.—

''(A) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary is authorized to make grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying out YouthBuild programs approved under this section.

''(B) RESERVATION FOR RURAL AREAS AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In any fiscal year in which the amount appropriated to carry out this section is greater than $90,000,000, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 20 percent of the amount appropriated that is in excess of $90,000,000 and use such reserved amount to make grants to covered applicants (in addition to any other grants that may be awarded under this subsection for such fiscal year to covered applicants) for the purpose of carrying out YouthBuild programs approved under this section.

''(ii) COVERED APPLICANT DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term 'covered applicant' means an applicant that—

''(I) is located in a rural area; or

''(II) is an Indian Tribe or is carrying out a YouthBuild program approved under this section for the benefit of members of an Indian Tribe.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (iv)(II), by striking ''language learners'' and inserting ''learners''; and

(II) in clause (vii), by inserting after ''enable individuals'' the following: '', including those with disabilities,''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) Provision of meals and other food assistance to participants in conjunction with another activity described in this paragraph.'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''such time, in such manner, and containing such information'' and inserting ''such time and in such manner''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the header, by striking ''MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS'' and inserting ''REQUIREMENTS'';

(II) by striking '', at a minimum'';

(III) in clause (xx), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(IV) in clause (xxi) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

''(xxii) a description of the levels of performance the applicant expects to achieve on the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).''; and

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''such selection criteria as the Secretary shall establish under this section, which shall include criteria'' and inserting ''selection criteria'';

(ii) in subparagraph (J)(iii), by adding ''and'' after the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (K), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (L);

(2) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''offender'' and inserting ''who is a justice-involved individual''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''are basic skills deficient'' and inserting ''have foundational skill needs'';

(3) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) USE OF WAGE RECORDS.—The Secretary shall make arrangements with a State or other appropriate entity to facilitate the use of State wage records to evaluate the performance of YouthBuild programs funded under this section on the employment and earnings indicators described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) for the purposes of the report required under paragraph (3).

''(3) PERFORMANCE RESULTS.—For each program year, the Secretary shall make available, on a publicly accessible website of the Department, a report on the performance of YouthBuild programs, during such program year, funded under this section on—

''(A) the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii); and

''(B) the expected levels of performance for such programs as described in paragraph (1).'';

(4) in subsection (g), by inserting at the end the following:

''(4) ANNUAL RELEASE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, announce new funding opportunities for grants under this section during the same time period each year for which such grants are available.''; and

(5) by amending subsection (i) to read as follows:

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $108,150,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

SEC. 178. REENTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 172 as section 174; and

(2) by inserting after section 171 the following:

''SEC. 172. REENTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to improve the employment, earnings, and skill attainment, and reduce recidivism, of adults and youth who have been involved with the justice system;

''(2) to prompt innovation and improvement in the reentry of justice-involved individuals into the workforce so that successful initiatives can be established or continued and replicated; and

''(3) to further develop the evidence on how to improve employment, earnings, and skill attainment, and reduce recidivism, of justice-involved individuals, through rigorous evaluations of specific services provided, including how they affect different populations and how they are best combined and sequenced, and disseminate such evidence to entities supporting the reentry of justice-involved individuals into the workforce.

''(b) REENTRY EMPLOYMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated under section 174(e) and not reserved under subsection (h), the Secretary—

''(A) shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, eligible entities to implement reentry projects that serve eligible adults or eligible youth;

''(B) may use not more than 30 percent of such amounts to award funds under subparagraph (A) to eligible entities to serve as national or regional intermediaries to provide such funds to other eligible entities to—

''(i) implement reentry projects described in subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) monitor and support such entities;

''(C) shall use 30 percent of such amounts to award funds under subparagraph (A) to eligible entities using pay-for-performance contracts—

''(i) that specify a fixed amount that will be paid to the entity based on the achievement of specified levels of performance on the indicators of performance described in subsections (e)(1)(A)(i) and (e)(2)(A) within a defined timetable; and

''(ii) which may provide for bonus payments to such entity to expand capacity to provide effective services; and

''(D) shall ensure grants awarded under this section are awarded to eligible entities from geographically diverse areas, in addition to the priorities described in paragraph (4).

''(2) AWARD PERIODS.—The Secretary shall award funds under this section for an initial period of not more than 4 years.

''(3) ADDITIONAL AWARDS.—The Secretary may award, for a period of not more than 4 years, one or more additional grants to an eligible entity that received a grant under this section if the eligible entity achieved the performance levels agreed upon with the Secretary (as described in subsection (e)(3)) for the most recent award period.

''(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding funds under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities whose applications submitted under subsection (c) demonstrate a commitment to use such funds to implement reentry projects—

''(A) that will serve high-poverty areas;

''(B) that will enroll eligible youth or eligible adults—

''(i) prior to the release of such individuals from incarceration in a correctional institution; or

''(ii) not later than 90 days after such release;

''(C) whose strategy and design are evidence-based;

''(D) that establish partnerships with—

''(i) businesses; or

''(ii) institutions of higher education or providers under section 122 (as determined by the State where services are being provided) to provide project participants with programs of study leading to recognized postsecondary credentials in in-demand occupations; or

''(E) that provide training services, including customized training and on-the-job training, that are designed to meet the specific requirements of an employer (including a group of employers), industry, or sector, and are conducted with a commitment by the employer to employ individuals upon successful completion of the preparation.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) FORM AND PROCEDURE.—To be qualified to receive funds under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an application at such time, and in such manner, as determined by the Secretary, and containing the information described in paragraph (2).

''(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by an eligible entity under paragraph (1) shall contain the following:

''(A) A description of the eligible entity, including the experience of the eligible entity in providing employment and training services for justice-involved individuals.

''(B) A description of the needs that will be addressed by the reentry project supported by the funds received under this section, and the target participant population and the geographic area to be served.

''(C) A description of the proposed employment and training activities and supportive services, if applicable, to be provided under such reentry project, and how such activities and services will prepare participants for employment in in-demand industry sectors and occupations within the geographic area to be served by such reentry project.

''(D) The anticipated schedule for carrying out the activities proposed under the reentry project.

''(E) A description of—

''(i) the partnerships the eligible entity will establish with agencies and entities within the criminal justice system, local boards and one-stops, community-based organizations, and employers (including local businesses) to provide participants of the reentry project with work-based learning, job placement, and recruitment (if applicable); and

''(ii) how the eligible entity will coordinate its activities with other services and benefits available to justice-involved individuals in the geographic area to be served by the reentry project.

''(F) A description of the manner in which individuals will be recruited and selected for participation for the reentry project.

''(G) A detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the reentry project.

''(H) A description of the expected levels of performance to be achieved with respect to the performance measures described in subsection (e).

''(I) A description of the evidence-based practices the eligible entity will use in administration of the reentry project.

''(J) An assurance that the eligible entity will collect, disaggregate by each subpopulation of individuals with barriers to employment, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age, and report to the Secretary the data required with respect to the reentry project carried out by the eligible entity for purposes of determining levels of performance achieved and conducting the evaluation under this section.

''(K) An assurance that the eligible entity will provide matching funds, as described in subsection (d)(4).

''(L) A description of how the eligible entity plans to continue the reentry project after the award period.

''(3) ADDITIONAL CONTENT FOR INTERMEDIARY APPLICANTS.—An application submitted by an eligible entity seeking to serve as a national or regional intermediary as described in subsection (b)(1)(B) shall also contain the following:

''(A) An identification and description of the eligible entities that will be subgrantees of such intermediary and implement the reentry projects, which shall include subgrantees in—

''(i) three or more noncontiguous metropolitan areas or rural areas; and

''(ii) not less than 2 States.

''(B) A description of the services and supports the intermediary will provide to the subgrantees, including administrative and fiscal support to ensure the subgrantees comply with all grant requirements.

''(C) A description of how the intermediary will facilitate the replication of evidence-based practices or other best practices identified by the intermediary across all subgrantees.

''(D) If such intermediary is currently receiving, or has previously received, funds under this section as an intermediary to implement a reentry project, an assurance that none of the subgrantees identified under subparagraph (A) were previous subgrantees of the intermediary for such reentry project and failed to meet the levels of performance established for such reentry project.

''(d) USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that receives funds under this section shall use such funds to implement a reentry project for eligible adults, eligible youth, or both that provides each of the following:

''(A) One or more of the individualized career services listed in subclauses (I) through (IX) of section 134(c)(2)(A)(xii).

''(B) One or more of the training services listed in clauses (i) through (x)(i) in section 134(c)(3)(D), including subsidized employment opportunities through transitional jobs.

''(C) For participants who are eligible youth, one or more of the program elements listed in subparagraphs (A) through (N) of section 129(c)(2).

''(2) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity that receives funds under this section may use such funds to provide to eligible adults or eligible youth the following:

''(A) Followup services after placement in unsubsidized employment as described in section 134(c)(2)(A)(xiii).

''(B) Apprenticeship programs.

''(C) Education in digital literacy skills.

''(D) Mentoring.

''(E) Assistance in obtaining employment, including as a result of the eligible entity—

''(i) establishing and developing relationships and networks with large and small employers; and

''(ii) coordinating with employers to develop customized training programs and on-the-job training.

''(F) Assistance with driver's license reinstatement and fees for driver's licenses and other necessary documents for employment.

''(G) Provision of or referral to evidence-based mental health treatment by licensed practitioners.

''(H) Provision of or referral to substance use disorder treatment services, provided that funds awarded under this section are only used to provide such services to participants who are unable to obtain such services through other programs providing such services.

''(I) Provisions of or referral to supportive services, provided that no more than 5 percent of funds awarded to an eligible entity under this section may be used to provide such services to participants who are able to obtain such services through other programs providing such services.

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—An eligible entity may not use more than 7 percent of the funds received under this section for administrative costs, including for costs related to collecting information, analysis, and coordination for purposes of subsection (e) or (f).

''(4) MATCHING FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal contribution, which may be provided in cash or in-kind, for the costs of the project in an amount that is not less than 25 percent of the total amount of funds awarded to the entity for such period, except that the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement, on a case-by-case basis and for not more than 20 percent of all grants awarded, if the eligible entity demonstrates significant financial hardship.

''(e) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF LEVELS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish expected levels of performance for reentry projects funded under this section for—

''(i) each of the primary indicators of performance for adults and youth described in section 116(b); and

''(ii) an indicator of performance established by the Secretary with respect to participant recidivism.

''(B) UPDATES.—The levels established under subparagraph (A) shall be updated for each 4-year-award period.

''(2) AGREEMENT ON PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—In establishing and updating performance levels under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall reach agreement on such levels with the eligible entities receiving awards under this section that will be subject to such levels, based on, as the Secretary determines relevant for each indicator of performance, the following factors:

''(A) The expected performance levels of each such eligible entity described in the application submitted under subsection (c)(2)(H).

''(B) The local economic conditions of the geographic area to be served by each such eligible entity, including differences in unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries.

''(C) The characteristics of project participants when entering the project involved, including—

''(i) criminal records;

''(ii) indicators of poor work history;

''(iii) lack of work experience;

''(iv) lack of educational or occupational skills attainment;

''(v) low levels of literacy or English proficiency;

''(vi) disability status;

''(vii) homelessness; and

''(viii) receipt of public assistance.

''(3) FAILURE TO MEET PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—In the case of an eligible entity that fails to meet the performance levels established under paragraph (1) and updated to reflect the actual economic conditions and characteristics of participants (as described in paragraph (2)(C)) served by the reentry project involved for any award year, the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to the eligible entity, including the development of a performance improvement plan.

''(f) EVALUATION OF REENTRY PROJECTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the first award of funds under this section is made, the Secretary (acting through the Chief Evaluation Officer) shall meet each of the following requirements:

''(A) DESIGN AND CONDUCT OF EVALUATION.—Design and conduct an evaluation to evaluate the effectiveness of the reentry projects funded under this section, which meets the requirements of paragraph (2), and includes an evaluation of each of the following:

''(i) The effectiveness of such projects in assisting individuals with finding employment and maintaining employment at the second quarter and fourth quarter after unsubsidized employment is obtained.

''(ii) The effectiveness of such projects in assisting individuals with earning recognized postsecondary credentials.

''(iii) The effectiveness of such projects in relation to their cost, including the extent to which the projects improve reentry outcomes, including in employment, compensation (which may include wages earned and benefits), career advancement, measurable skills gains, credentials earned, and recidivism of participants in comparison to comparably situated individuals who did not participate in such projects.

''(iv) The effectiveness of specific services and interventions provided and of the overall project design.

''(v) If applicable, the extent to which such projects effectively serve various demographic groups, including people of different geographic locations, ages, races, national origins, sex, and criminal records, and individuals with disabilities.

''(vi) If applicable, the appropriate sequencing, combination, or concurrent structure, of services for each subpopulation of individuals who are participants of such projects, such as the order, combination, or concurrent structure and services in which transitional jobs and occupational skills development are provided, to ensure that such participants are prepared to fully benefit from employment and training services provided under the project.

''(vii) Limitations or barriers to education and employment as a result of occupational or educational licensing restrictions.

''(B) DATA ACCESSIBILITY.—Make available, on the publicly accessible website of the Department of Labor, data collected during the course of evaluation under this subsection, in an aggregated format that does not disclose personally identifiable information.

''(2) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—An evaluation under this subsection—

''(A) shall—

''(i) be designed by the Secretary (acting through the Chief Evaluation Officer) in conjunction with the eligible entities carrying out the reentry projects being evaluated;

''(ii) include analysis of participant feedback and outcome and process measures; and

''(iii) use designs that employ the most rigorous analytical and statistical methods that are reasonably feasible, such as the use of control groups; and

''(B) may not—

''(i) collect personally identifiable information, except to the extent such information is necessary to conduct the evaluation; or

''(ii) reveal or share personally identifiable information.

''(3) PUBLICATION AND REPORTING OF EVALUATION FINDINGS.—The Secretary (acting through the Chief Evaluation Officer) shall—

''(A) in accordance with the timeline determined to be appropriate by the Chief Evaluation Officer, publish an interim report on such evaluation;

''(B) not later than 90 days after the date on which any evaluation is completed under this subsection, publish and make publicly available such evaluation; and

''(C) not later than 60 days after the completion date described in subparagraph (B), submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on such evaluation.

''(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(1) CONTENTS.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall post, using transparent, linked, open, and interoperable data formats, on its publicly accessible website, an annual report on—

''(A) the number of individuals who participated in projects assisted under this section for the preceding year;

''(B) the percentage of such individuals who successfully completed the requirements of such projects;

''(C) the performance of eligible entities on such projects as measured by the performance indicators set forth in subsection (e); and

''(D) an explanation of any waivers granted by the Secretary of the matching requirement under subsection (d)(4) .

''(2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information provided under subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1) with respect to a year shall be disaggregated by each project assisted under this section for such year.

''(h) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds appropriated under section 174(e) for a fiscal year, the Secretary—

''(1) may reserve not more than 5 percent for the administration of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements awarded under this section, of which not more than 2 percent may be reserved for the provision of—

''(A) technical assistance to eligible entities that receive funds under this section; and

''(B) outreach and technical assistance to eligible entities desiring to receive such funds, including assistance with application development and submission; and

''(2) shall reserve not less than 1 percent and not more than 2.5 percent for the evaluation activities under subsection (f) or to support eligible entities with any required data collection, analysis, and coordination related to such evaluation activities.

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CHIEF EVALUATION OFFICER.—The term 'Chief Evaluation Officer' means the head of

the independent evaluation office located in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy of the Department of Labor.

''(2) COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.—The term 'community supervision' means mandatory oversight (including probation and parole) of a formerly incarcerated person—

''(A) who was convicted of a crime by a judge or parole board; and

''(B) who is living outside a secure facility.

''(3) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term 'correctional institution' has the meaning given the term in section 225(e).

''(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a private nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including a community-based or faith-based organization;

''(B) a local board;

''(C) a State or local government;

''(D) an Indian or Native American entity eligible for grants under section 166;

''(E) a labor organization or joint labor-management organization;

''(F) an industry or sector partnership;

''(G) an institution of higher education; or

''(H) a consortium of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

''(5) ELIGIBLE ADULT.—The term 'eligible adult' means a justice-involved individual who is age 25 or older.

''(6) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The term 'eligible youth' means a justice-involved individual who is not younger than age 14 or older than age 24.

''(7) HIGH-POVERTY.—The term 'high-poverty', when used with respect to a geographic area, means an area with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as determined based on the most recently available data from the American Community Survey conducted by the Bureau of the Census.

''(8) JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'justice-involved individual' means—

''(A) an individual of any age who—

''(i) has been convicted and imprisoned under Federal or State law; and

''(ii) was released from imprisonment not more than 3 years prior to enrollment in a project funded under this section; or

''(B) an individual who—

''(i) is not younger than age 14 or older than age 24; and

''(ii) has been—

''(I) charged with, or convicted of, any criminal offense in an adult court; or

''(II) charged with, or adjudicated of, a delinquent act in a juvenile court.''.

SEC. 179. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGES GRANT PROGRAM.

Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3221 et seq.), is further amended by inserting after section 172, as added by the preceding section, the following:

''SEC. 173. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to establish, improve, or expand high-quality workforce development programs at community colleges; and

''(2) to expand opportunities for individuals to obtain recognized postsecondary credentials that are nationally or regionally portable and stackable for high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

''(b) STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated to carry out this section under section 174(f) and not reserved under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to eligible institutions to carry out the activities described in subsection (e).

''(2) RESERVATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section under section 174(f), the Secretary may reserve not more than two percent for the administration of grants awarded under this section, including—

''(A) providing technical assistance and targeted outreach to support eligible institutions serving a high number or high percentage of low-income individuals or individuals with barriers to employment, and rural-serving eligible institutions, to provide guidance and assistance in the process of applying for grants under this section; and

''(B) evaluating and reporting on the performance and impact of programs funded under this section in accordance with subsections (f) through (h).

''(c) AWARD PERIOD.—

''(1) INITIAL GRANT PERIOD.—Each grant under this section shall be awarded for an initial period of not more than 4 years.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—An eligible institution that receives an initial grant under this section may receive one or more additional grants under this section for additional periods of not more than 4 years each if the eligible institution demonstrates that, during the most recently completed grant period for a grant received under this section, such eligible institution achieved the levels of performance agreed to by the eligible institution with respect to the performance indicators specified in subsection (f).

''(d) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible institution shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require.

''(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by an eligible institution under paragraph (1) shall include a description of each the following:

''(A) The extent to which the eligible institution has demonstrated success building partnerships with employers in in-demand industry sectors or occupations to provide students with the skills needed for occupations in such industries and an explanation of the results of any such partnerships.

''(B) The methods and strategies the eligible institution will use to engage with employers in in-demand industry sectors or occupations, including any arrangements to place individuals who complete the workforce development programs supported by the grant into employment with such employers.

''(C) The proposed eligible institution and industry partnership that the eligible institution will establish or maintain to comply with subsection (e)(1), including—

''(i) the roles and responsibilities of each employer, organization, agency, or institution of higher education that the eligible institution will partner with to carry out the activities under this section; and

''(ii) the needs that will be addressed by such eligible institution and industry partnership.

''(D) One or more industries that such partnership will target and real-time labor market data demonstrating that those industries are aligned with employer demand in the geographic area to be served by the eligible institution.

''(E) The extent to which the eligible institution can—

''(i) leverage additional resources to support the programs to be funded with the grant, which shall include written commitments of any leveraged or matching funds for the proposed programs; and

''(ii) demonstrate the future sustainability of each such program.

''(F) The steps the institution will take to ensure the high quality of each program to be funded with the grant, including the career pathways within such programs.

''(G) The population and geographic area to be served by the eligible institution, including the number of individuals the eligible institution intends to serve during the grant period.

''(H) The workforce development programs to be supported by the grant.

''(I) The recognized postsecondary credentials that are expected to be earned by participants in such workforce development programs and the related high-wage, high skill, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations for which such programs will prepare participants.

''(J) The evidence upon which the education and skills development strategies to be used in such workforce development programs are based and an explanation of how such evidence influenced the design of the programs to improve education and employment outcomes.

''(K) How activities of the eligible institution are expected to align with the workforce strategies identified in—

''(i) any State plan or local plan submitted under this Act by the State, outlying area, or locality in which the eligible institution is expected to operate;

''(ii) any State plan submitted under section 122 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342) by such State or outlying area; and

''(iii) any economic development plan of the chief executive of such State or outlying area.

''(L) The goals of the eligible institution with respect to—

''(i) capacity building (as described in subsection (f)(1)(B)); and

''(ii) the expected performance of individuals participating in the programs to be offered by the eligible institution, including with respect to any performance indicators applicable under section 116 or subsection (f) of this section.

''(3) CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE.—The Secretary may not disqualify an eligible institution from receiving a grant under this section solely because such institution lacks previous experience in building partnerships, as described in paragraph (2)(A).

''(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institutions that—

''(A) will use the grant to serve—

''(i) individuals with barriers to employment; or

''(ii) incumbent workers who need to gain or improve foundational skills to enhance their employability;

''(B) use competency-based assessments, such as the competency-based assessment identified by the State in which the eligible institution is located under section 134(a)(2)(B)(vii), to award academic credit for prior learning for programs supported by the grant; or

''(C) have, or will seek to have, the career education programs supported by the grant included on the list of eligible providers of training services under section 122 for the State in which the eligible institution is located.

''(e) USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP.—For the purpose of carrying out the activities specified in paragraphs (2) and (3), an eligible institution that receives a grant under this section shall establish a partnership (or continue an existing partnership) with one or more employers in an in-demand industry sector or occupation (in

this section referred to as an 'eligible institution and industry partnership') and shall maintain such partnership for the duration of the grant period. The eligible institution shall ensure that the partnership—

''(A) targets one or more specific high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industries;

''(B) includes collaboration with the workforce development system;

''(C) serves adult and dislocated workers, incumbent workers, and new entrants to the workforce;

''(D) uses an evidence-based program design that is appropriate for the activities carried out by the partnership;

''(E) incorporates work-based learning opportunities, as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302); and

''(F) incorporates, to the extent appropriate, virtual service delivery to facilitate technology-enabled learning.

''(2) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible institution that receives a grant under this section shall, in consultation with the employers in the eligible institution and industry partnership described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) establish, improve, or expand high quality, evidence-based workforce development programs, career pathway programs, or work-based learning programs (including apprenticeship programs or preapprenticeships);

''(B) provide career services to individuals participating in the programs funded with the grant to facilitate retention and program completion, which may include—

''(i) career navigation, coaching, mentorship, and case management services, including providing information and outreach to individuals with barriers to employment to encourage such individuals to participate in programs funded with the grant; and

''(ii) providing access to course materials, technological devices, required equipment, and other supports necessary for participation in and successful completion of such programs; and

''(C) make available, in a format that is open, searchable, and easily comparable, information on—

''(i) curricula and recognized postsecondary credentials offered through programs funded with the grant, including any curricula or credentials created or further developed using such grant, which for each recognized postsecondary credential, shall include—

''(I) the issuing entity of such credential;

''(II) any third-party endorsements of such credential;

''(III) the occupations for which the credential prepares individuals;

''(IV) the skills and competencies necessary to achieve to earn such credential;

''(V) the level of mastery of such skills and competencies (including how mastery is assessed); and

''(VI) any transfer value or stackability of the credential;

''(ii) any skills or competencies developed by individuals who participate in such programs beyond the skills and competencies identified as part of the recognized postsecondary credential awarded; and

''(iii) related employment and earnings outcomes on the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i).

''(3) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—In addition to the activities required under paragraph (2), an eligible institution that receives a grant under this section shall, in consultation with the employers in the eligible institution and industry partnership described in paragraph (1), carry out one or more of the following activities:

''(A) Establish, improve, or expand—

''(i) articulation agreements (as defined in section 486A(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1093a(a)));

''(ii) credit transfer agreements;

''(iii) corequisite remediation programs that enable a student to receive remedial education services while enrolled in a postsecondary course rather than requiring the student to receive remedial education before enrolling in a such a course;

''(iv) dual or concurrent enrollment programs;

''(v) competency-based education and assessment; or

''(vi) policies and processes to award academic credit for prior learning or for the programs described in paragraph (2)(A).

''(B) Establish or implement plans for providers of the programs described in paragraph (2)(A) to meet the criteria and carry out the procedures necessary to be included on the eligible training services provider list described in section 122(d).

''(C) Purchase, lease, or refurbish specialized equipment as necessary to carry out such programs, provided that not more than 15 percent of the funds awarded to the eligible institution under this section may be used for activities described in this subparagraph.

''(D) Reduce or eliminate unmet financial need relating to the cost of attendance (as defined under section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll)) of participants in such programs.

''(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—An eligible institution may use not more than 7 percent of the funds awarded under this section for administrative costs, including costs related to collecting information, analysis, and coordination for purposes of subsection (f).

''(f) PERFORMANCE LEVELS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and implement guidance that establishes the levels of performance that are expected to be achieved by each eligible institution receiving a grant under this section. Such performance levels shall be established on the following indicators:

''(A) Each of the primary indicators of performance for adults described in section 116(b), which shall be applied for all individuals who participated in a program that received funding from a grant under this section.

''(B) The extent to which the eligible institution built capacity by—

''(i) increasing the breadth and depth of employer engagement and investment in workforce development programs in the in-demand industry sectors and occupations targeted by the eligible institution and industry partnership established or maintained by the eligible institution under subsection (e)(1);

''(ii) designing or implementing new and accelerated instructional techniques or technologies, including the use of advanced online and technology-enabled learning (such as immersive technology); and

''(iii) increasing program and policy alignment across systems and decreasing duplicative services or service gaps.

''(C) With respect to individuals who participated in a workforce development program funded with the grant—

''(i) the percentage of participants who successfully completed the program; and

''(ii) of the participants who were incumbent workers at the time of enrollment in the program, the percentage who advanced into higher level positions during or after completing the program.

''(2) CONSULTATION AND DETERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—

''(A) CONSIDERATION.—In developing performance levels in accordance with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration the goals of the eligible institution pursuant to subsection (d)(2)(L).

''(B) DETERMINATION.—After completing the consideration required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall separately determine the performance levels that will apply to each eligible institution, taking into account—

''(i) the expected performance levels of each eligible institution with respect to the goals described by the eligible institution pursuant to subsection (d)(2)(L); and

''(ii) local economic conditions in the geographic area to be served by the eligible institution, including differences in unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries.

''(C) NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—

''(i) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide each eligible institution with a written notification that sets forth the performance levels that will apply to the eligible institution, as determined under subparagraph (B).

''(ii) ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—After receiving the notification described in clause (i), each eligible institution shall submit to the Secretary written confirmation that the eligible institution—

''(I) received the notification; and

''(II) agrees to be evaluated in accordance with the performance levels determined by the Secretary.

''(3) PERFORMANCE REVIEWS.—On an annual basis during each year of the grant period, the Secretary shall evaluate the performance during such year of each eligible institution receiving a grant under this section in a manner consistent with the performance levels determined for such institution pursuant to paragraph (2).

''(4) FAILURE TO MEET PERFORMANCE LEVELS.—After conducting an evaluation under paragraph (3), if the Secretary determines that an eligible institution did not achieve the performance levels applicable to the eligible institution under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide technical assistance to the eligible institution; and

''(B) develop a performance improvement plan for the eligible institution.

''(g) EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which the first grant is made under this section, the Secretary shall design and conduct an evaluation to determine the overall effectiveness of the eligible institutions receiving a grant under this section.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation of the effectiveness of eligible institutions conducted under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the general effectiveness of programs and activities supported by the grants awarded to such eligible institutions under this section, including the extent to which the programs and activities—

''(A) developed new, or expanded existing, successful industry sector strategies, including the extent to which such eligible institutions deepened employer engagement and developed workforce development programs that met industry skill needs;

''(B) created, expanded, or enhanced career pathways, including the extent to which the eligible institutions developed or improved competency-based education and assessment, credit for prior learning, modularized and self-paced curricula, integrated education and workforce development, dual enrollment in secondary and postsecondary career pathways, stacked and latticed credentials, and online and distance learning;

''(C) created alignment between eligible institutions and the workforce development system;

''(D) assisted individuals with finding, retaining, or advancing in employment;

''(E) assisted individuals with earning recognized postsecondary credentials; and

''(F) provided equal access to various demographic groups, including people of different geographic locations, ages, races, national origins, and sexes.

''(3) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The evaluation under this subsection shall—

''(A) be designed by the Secretary (acting through the Chief Evaluation Officer) in conjunction with the eligible institutions being evaluated;

''(B) include analysis of program participant feedback and outcome and process measures; and

''(C) use designs that employ the most rigorous analytical and statistical methods that are reasonably feasible, such as the use of control groups.

''(4) DATA ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall make available on a publicly accessible website of the Department of Labor any data collected as part of the evaluation under this subsection. Such data shall be made available in an aggregated format that does not reveal personally identifiable information and that ensures compliance with relevant Federal laws, including section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the 'Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974') (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

''(5) PUBLICATION AND REPORTING OF EVALUATION FINDINGS.—The Secretary (acting through the Chief Evaluation Officer) shall—

''(A) in accordance with the timeline determined to be appropriate by the Chief Evaluation Officer, publish an interim report on the preliminary results of the evaluation conducted under this subsection;

''(B) not later than 60 days after the date on which the evaluation is completed under this subsection, submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on such evaluation; and

''(C) not later than 90 days after such completion date, publish and make the results of such evaluation available on a publicly accessible website of the Department of Labor.

''(h) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall make available on a publicly accessible website of the Department of Labor, in transparent, linked, open, and interoperable data formats, the following information:

''(1) The performance of eligible institutions on the capacity-building performance indicator set forth under subsection (f)(1)(B).

''(2) The performance of eligible institutions on the workforce development participant outcome performance indicators set forth under subsection (f)(1)(C).

''(3) The number of individuals enrolled in workforce development programs funded with a grant under this section.

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term 'community college' means—

''(A) a public institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), at which—

''(i) the highest degree awarded is an associate degree; or

''(ii) an associate degree is the most frequently awarded degree;

''(B) a branch campus of a 4-year public institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), if, at such branch campus—

''(i) the highest degree awarded is an associate degree; or

''(ii) an associate degree is the most frequently awarded degree;

''(C) a 2-year Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3))); or

''(D) a degree-granting Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3))) at which—

''(i) the highest degree awarded is an associate degree; or

''(ii) an associate degree is the most frequently awarded degree.

''(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term 'eligible institution' means—

''(A) a community college;

''(B) a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))); or

''(C) a consortium of such colleges or institutions.

''(j) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local public funds made available for carrying out the activities described in this section.''.

SEC. 180. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 174 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by striking subsections (a) through (d) and inserting the following:

''(a) NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 166 (not including subsection (k) of such section) $61,800,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(b) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAMS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 167 $100,317,900 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 168 $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(d) EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 169 $12,720,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(e) REENTRY PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 172 $115,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.

''(f) STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COLLEGES PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 173 $65,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

Subtitle F—Administration

SEC. 191. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

(a) LABOR STANDARDS.—Section 181(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3241(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) CONSULTATION.—If an employer provides on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, or employer-directed skills development with funds made available under this title directly to employees of such employer that are subject to a collective bargaining agreement with the employer, the employer shall consult with the labor organization that represents such employees on the planning and design of such training or development.''.

(b) RELOCATION.—Section 181(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3241(d)) is amended by striking ''incumbent worker training,'' and inserting ''incumbent worker training, employer-directed skills development,''.

SEC. 192. GENERAL WAIVERS OF STATUTORY OR REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 189(i)(3)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3249(i)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by striking ''procedures for review and approval of plans'' and inserting ''the procedures for review and approval of plans, the performance reports described in section 116(d), and the requirement described in section 134(c)(1)(B)''.

SEC. 193. STATE INNOVATION DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.

Section 190 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3250) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 190. STATE INNOVATION DEMONSTRATION AUTHORITY.

''(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

''(1) authorize States to apply under this section, in the case of an eligible State, on behalf of the entire State, or for any State, on behalf of a local area or a consortium of local areas in the State, to receive the allotments or allocations of the State or the local areas, respectively, for youth workforce investment activities and adult and dislocated worker employment and training activities under this Act, as a consolidated grant for 5 years for the purpose of carrying out a demonstration project to pursue innovative reforms to achieve better outcomes for jobseekers, employers, and taxpayers; and

''(2) require that rigorous evaluations be conducted to demonstrate if better outcomes and associated innovative reforms were achieved as a result of such demonstration projects.

''(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

''(1) WAIVERS AND DEMONSTRATION GRANT AMOUNTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the demonstration period applicable to a demonstration project approved for a State pursuant to subsection (d)(3), the Secretary shall comply with each of the following:

''(A) WAIVERS.—Subject to paragraph (2), waive for the State as a whole, or for the local area or the consortium of local areas in such State selected by the State to carry out such demonstration project, all the statutory and regulatory requirements of subtitle A and subtitle B.

''(B) DEMONSTRATION GRANT AMOUNTS.—For each fiscal year applicable to such demonstration period:

''(i) STATE AS A WHOLE.—In a case of a State approved to carry out a demonstration project under this section on behalf of the State as a whole, distribute as a consolidated sum to the State, for purposes of carrying out the project, the State's total allotment for such fiscal year under—

''(I) subsections (b)(1)(C) and subsection (c) of section 127; and

''(II) paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 132(b); and

''(III) section 132(c).

''(ii) LOCAL AREA.—In a case of a local area selected by a State to carry out a demonstration project under this section, require the State to—

''(I) distribute as a consolidated sum to the local board for such local area, for purposes of carrying out the project, the local area's allocation for such fiscal year under—

''(aa) subsections (b) and (c) of section 128; and

''(bb) subsections (b) and (c) of section 133; or

''(II) if the local board of the local area enters into a written agreement with the State for the State to serve as the fiscal agent for the local board during the demonstration project, use the funds described in subclause (I) for purposes of carrying out the project on behalf of the local board.

''(iii) CONSORTIUM OF LOCAL AREAS.—In a case of a consortium of local areas selected by a State to carry out a demonstration project under this section, require the State to—

''(I) distribute as a consolidated sum to the consortium, for purposes of carrying out the project, the total amount of the allocations for the local areas in such consortium for such fiscal year under—

''(aa) subsections (b) and (c) of section 128; and

''(bb) subsections (b) and (c) of section 133; or

''(II) if the consortium enters into a written agreement with the State for the State to serve as the fiscal agent for the consortium during the demonstration project, use the funds described in subclause (I) for purposes of carrying out the project on behalf of such consortium.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, local area, or consortium of local areas carrying out a demonstration project under this section shall comply with statutory or regulatory requirements of this Act relating to—

''(i) performance accountability and reporting, except as otherwise provided in this section;

''(ii) the membership of local or State boards in instances where a State carrying out a demonstration project will maintain the use of such boards during the demonstration period; and

''(iii) the priority of service described in section 134(c)(3)(E).

''(B) APPLICABILITY OF DEFINED TERMS.—In carrying out a demonstration project under this section, a State, local area, or consortium of local areas may only use a term defined in section 3 to describe an activity carried out under such demonstration project if the State, local area, or consortium of local areas gives such term the same meaning as such term is given under such section.

''(3) AUTHORITY FOR THIRD-PARTY EVALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the first demonstration project is approved under this section, the Secretary shall contract with a third-party evaluator to conduct a rigorous evaluation of each demonstration project approved under this section. The evaluation shall—

''(i) cover the 5-year period of each demonstration project;

''(ii) compare the employment and earnings outcomes of participants in activities carried out under the demonstration project to—

''(I) the outcomes of similarly situated individuals that do not participate in such activities who are located in such State, local area, or a local area in such consortium; and

''(II) the outcomes of participants in activities under this chapter in the State, local area, or a local area in the consortium that was awarded a waiver prior to the award of such waiver;

''(iii) conduct a qualitative analysis that identifies any promising practices or innovate strategies that—

''(I) would not have been conducted without the waiving of statutory or regulatory provisions through the demonstration project; and

''(II) lead to positive employment and earnings outcomes for the participants; and

''(iv) compare the outcomes for subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) with respect to the subpopulations described in section 116(d)(2)(B).

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the fifth year of each demonstration project approved under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the results of the evaluation of such conducted under this paragraph.

''(c) DEMONSTRATION PERIOD; LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A demonstration project approved under this section for a State, local area, or consortium—

''(A) shall be carried out for a 5-year demonstration period; and

''(B) may be renewed for an additional 5-year demonstration period, if the State, local area, or consortium—

''(i) for each of the final 3 years of the preceding 5-year demonstration period, meets its expected levels of performance established under subsection (f)(1)(C); and

''(ii) on the final year of the preceding 5-year demonstration period, achieves a performance improvement of not less than an average of a 5-percent increase across all of the indicators of performance described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (f)(1)(A), compared with—

''(I) the highest level of performance for the corresponding indicators of performance, as described in subsection (f)(1)(B)(i) with respect to such State, for the most recent program year that ended prior to the beginning of the first year of the preceding 5-year demonstration period; or

''(II) the alternate baseline level of performance for the corresponding indicators of performance that is agreed upon between the State and the Secretary under subsection (f)(1)(B)(ii).

''(2) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) DEMONSTRATION PERIOD LIMITATIONS.—For each 5-year demonstration period (including renewals of such period) the Secretary may not approve—

''(i) more than 4 demonstration projects for States described in paragraph (3) to carry out a demonstration project described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i); and

''(ii) more than 6 demonstration projects for local areas (or consortia of local areas) to carry out a demonstration project described in clause (ii) or (iii) of subsection (b)(1)(B).

''(B) STATE LIMITATIONS.—No more than 1 demonstration project may be approved under this section per State. For purposes of this subparagraph, a demonstration project described in clause (ii) or (iii) of subsection (b)(1)(B) approved for a local area or a consortium of local areas, respectively, in a State shall be considered a demonstration project approved under this section for the State.

''(3) ELIGIBLE STATES.—The Secretary may not approve a demonstration project for a State as a whole described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) unless, at the time of submission of the application, such State is—

''(A) a State designated as a single State local area; or

''(B) a State with—

''(i) a labor force participation rate that is less than 60 percent for the most recent program year; and

''(ii) a population of less than 6,000,000, as determined by the most recent data released by the Census Bureau.

''(d) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to carry out a demonstration project under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may reasonably require, and containing the information described in paragraph (2).

''(2) CONTENT.—Each application submitted by a State under this subsection shall include the following:

''(A) A description of the demonstration project to be carried out under this section, including—

''(i) whether the project will be carried out—

''(I) by the State as a whole;

''(II) by a local area, and if so—

''(aa) an identification of—

''(AA) such local area;

''(BB) whether the local board for such local area is the fiscal agent for the project, or whether the local board has entered into a written agreement with the State for the State to serve as the fiscal agent during the project; and

''(bb) written verification from the local board for such local area that such local board agrees—

''(AA) to carry out such project; and

''(BB) to the fiscal agent identified in item (aa)(BB); and

''(III) by a consortium of local areas in the State, and if so—

''(aa) an identification of—

''(AA) each local area that comprises the consortium; and

''(BB) the local area that will serve as the fiscal agent for the consortium during the project, or whether the consortium has entered into a written agreement with the State for the State to serve as the fiscal agent; and

''(bb) written verification from each local board of each local area identified in item (aa)(AA) that such local board agrees—

''(AA) to carry out such project as a consortium; and

''(BB) to the fiscal agent for the consortium identified in item (aa)(BB);

''(ii) a description of the activities to be carried out under the project; and

''(iii) the goals the State, local area, or consortium intends to achieve through such activities, which shall be aligned with purpose described in subsection (a).

''(B) A description of the performance outcomes the State, the local area, or consortium expects to achieve for such activities for each year of the demonstration period as described in subsection (f)(1).

''(C) A description of how the State, local area, or consortium consulted with employers, the State board, and the local boards in the State in determining the activities to carry out under the demonstration project.

''(D) A description of how the State will make such activities available to jobseekers and employers in each of the local areas in the State or, in a case of a project that will be carried out by a local area or a consortium, a description of how such services will be made available to jobseekers and employers in such local area or each of the local areas in the consortium.

''(E) A description, if appropriate, of how the State, local area, or consortium will integrate the funds received, and the activities carried out, under the demonstration project under this section with State workforce development programs and other Federal, State, or local workforce, education, or social service programs (including the programs and activities listed in section 103(a)(2), the program of adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II, and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.)).

''(F) An assurance that the State, local area, or consortium will meet the requirements of this section.

''(3) SECRETARIAL APPROVAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a State submits an application under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(i) in a case in which the application meets the requirements of this section and is not subject to the limitations described in subsection (c)(2), approve such application

and the demonstration project described in such application; or

''(ii) provide to the State a written explanation of initial disapproval that meets the requirements of subparagraph (C).

''(B) DEFAULT APPROVAL.—With respect to an application submitted by a State under this subsection that is not subject to the limitations described in subsection (c), if the Secretary fails to approve such application or provide an explanation of initial disapproval for such application as required under subparagraph (A), the application and the demonstration project described in such application shall be deemed approved by the Secretary.

''(C) INITIAL DISAPPROVAL.—An explanation of initial disapproval provided by the Secretary to a State under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall provide the State—

''(i) a detailed explanation of why the application does not meet the requirements of this section; and

''(ii) if the State is not subject to the limitations described in subsection (c), an opportunity to revise and resubmit the State's application under this section.

''(e) STATE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—A State, local area, or consortium that has been approved to carry out a demonstration project under this section shall meet each of the following requirements:

''(1) USE OF FUNDS.—Use the funds received pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B) solely to carry out the activities of the demonstration project to achieve the goals described in subsection (d)(2)(A).

''(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS LIMITATION.—Use not more than 10 percent of the funds received pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B) for a fiscal year for the administrative costs of carrying out the demonstration project.

''(3) PRIORITY FOR SERVICES.—Give priority for services under the project to veterans and their eligible spouses in accordance with the requirements of section 4215 of title 38, United States Code, recipients of public assistance, low-income individuals, and individuals who have foundational skills needs.

''(4) NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.—Serve a number of participants under the activities of the demonstration project for each year of the demonstration period that—

''(A) is greater than the number of participants served by such State, local area, or consortium under the programs described in subparagraph (A) of the definition of the term 'core program provision' under section 3 for the most recent program year that ended prior to the beginning of the first year of the demonstration period; or

''(B) is not less than the number of participants to be served under the activities of the demonstration project that is agreed upon between the State, local area, or consortium, and the Secretary—

''(i) prior to the Secretary's approval of the application submitted under subsection (d); and

''(ii) after the Secretary takes into account—

''(I) the goals the State, local area, or consortium intends to achieve through the demonstration project; and

''(II) the participants the State, local area, or consortium intends to serve under such project; and

''(iii) prior to approval of the application submitted under subsection (d).

''(5) REPORTING OUTCOMES.—Submit, on an annual basis, to the Secretary a report, with respect to such State, local area, or consortium, on—

''(A) participant outcomes for each indicator of performance described in subsection (f)(1)(A) for the activities carried out under the project; and

''(B) the applicable requirements of section 116(d)(2), including subparagraphs (B) through (G) and subparagraph (J), as such subparagraphs are applicable to activities under the demonstration project.

''(6) COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN EXISTING REQUIREMENTS.—Comply with the statutory or regulatory requirements listed in subsection (b)(2).

''(f) PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF BASELINE LEVEL FOR PERFORMANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall describe in the application submitted under subsection (d), for each year of the demonstration period—

''(i) with respect to participants who are at least 25 years old, the expected levels of performance for each of the indicators of performance under section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) for the activities carried out under the project under this section, which shall meet the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

''(ii) with respect to participants who are at least 16 years old and no older than 24 years old, the expected levels of performance for each of the indicators of performance under section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) for the activities carried out under the project under this section, which shall meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).

''(B) 5TH YEAR.—Each of the expected levels of performance established pursuant to subparagraph (A) for each of the indicators of performance for the 5th year of the demonstration period shall be higher than—

''(i) the highest level of performance for the corresponding indicator of performance for the programs described in subparagraph (A) of the definition of the term 'core program provisions' under section 3 for the most recent program year for such State that ended prior to the beginning of the first year of the demonstration period; or

''(ii) an alternate baseline level of performance that is agreed upon between the State and the Secretary—

''(I) prior to the Secretary's approval of the application submitted under subsection (d); and

''(II) after the Secretary takes into account—

''(aa) the goals the State intends to achieve through the demonstration project; and

''(bb) the participants the State intends to serve under such project.

''(C) AGREED LEVEL FOR PERFORMANCE ON EXPECTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—Prior to approving an application for a demonstration project submitted by a State, and using the expected levels of performance described in such application, the Secretary shall reach an agreement with such State on the expected levels of performance for each of the indicators of performance. In reaching an agreement on such expected levels of performance, the Secretary and the State may consider the factors described in section 116(b)(3)(A)(v).

''(2) SANCTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in section 116(f)(1)(B) shall apply to a State, local area, or consortium beginning on the 3rd year of the demonstration period for such State, local area, or consortium, except that the levels of performance established under subsection (f)(1)(C) of this section shall be—

''(i) deemed to be the State negotiated levels of performance for purposes of this paragraph; and

''(ii) adjusted at the end of each program year to reflect the actual characteristics of participants served and the actual economic conditions experienced using a statistical adjustment model similar to the model described in section 116(b)(3)(A)(viii).

''(B) INELIGIBILITY FOR RENEWAL.—A State, local area, or consortium that is subject to such sanctions shall be ineligible to renew its demonstration period under subsection (c).

''(3) IMPACT OF LOCAL OR CONSORTIUM DEMONSTRATIONS ON STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY.—With respect to a State with an approved demonstration project for a local area or consortium of local areas in the State—

''(A) the performance of such local area or consortium for the programs described in subparagraph (A) of the definition of the term 'core program provision' under section 3 shall not be included in the levels of performance for such State for any of such programs for purposes of section 116 for any program year that is applicable to any year of the demonstration period; and

''(B) with respect to any local areas of the State that are not part of the demonstration project, the State shall reach a new agreement with the Secretary, for purposes of section 116(b)(3)(A), on levels of performance for such programs for such program years.

''(g) TERMINATION.—Except as provided under subsection (c)(1)(B), the Secretary may not approve a demonstration project after December 31, 2030.''.

TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

Section 202 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3271) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''(including digital literacy skills)'' before ''necessary''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''English language learners'' and inserting ''English learners''.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

Section 203 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3272) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''listen,'' after ''write,'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

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

''(C) develop and use digital literacy skills; and'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (17) as paragraphs (4) through (18), respectively;

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

''(3) DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS.—The term 'digital literacy skills' means the skills associated with using existing and emerging technologies to find, evaluate, organize, create, communicate information, and to complete tasks.'';

(4) in paragraph (5)(C) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) has foundational skills needs;''; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking ''English language learner'' and inserting ''English learner'';

(5) in paragraph (7)(A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''English language learners'' and inserting ''English learners'';

(6) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the paragraph header, by striking ''LANGUAGE''; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''English language learner'' and inserting ''English learner'';

(7) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated), by

inserting ''and educational'' after ''the economic'';

(8) in paragraph (13) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''English language learners'' and inserting ''English learners''; and

(B) by striking ''workforce training'' and inserting ''skills development, preparation for postsecondary education or employment, and financial literacy instruction''; and

(9) in paragraph (14) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''and solve'' and inserting ''solve''; and

(B) by inserting ''and use digital technology,'' after ''problems,''.

SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 206 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3275) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $751,042,100 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

SEC. 204. SPECIAL RULE.

Section 211(e)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3291(e)(3)) is amended by striking ''period described in section 3(45)'' and inserting ''period described in subparagraph (B) of the definition of the term 'outlying area' in section 3''.

SEC. 205. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Section 212 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3292) is amended by striking ''section 116.'' and inserting ''section 116, except that the indicator described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i)(VI) of such section shall be applied as if it were the percentage of program participants who exited the program during the program year and completed an integrated education and training program.''.

SEC. 206. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

Section 222(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3302(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON MATCHING FUNDS.—Each eligible agency shall maintain, on a publicly accessible website of such agency and in an easily accessible format, information documenting the non-Federal contributions made available to adult education and family literacy programs pursuant to this subsection, including—

''(A) the sources of such contributions, except that in the case of private contributions, names of the individuals or entities providing such contributions may not be disclosed; and

''(B) in the case of funds made available by a State or outlying area, an explanation of how such funds are distributed to eligible providers.''.

SEC. 207. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

Section 223(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3303(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''activities.'' and inserting ''activities and the identification of opportunities to coordinate with activities supported under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) to expand integrated education and training programs.'';

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) assistance in reporting participant outcomes for the performance accountability system described in section 212, including facilitating partnerships with the appropriate State entities to conduct matches with State administrative data (such as wage records) to determine program performance on the indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i).'';

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (F); and

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

''(D) The development or identification (which may be done in coordination with other States) of instructional materials that—

''(i) are designed to meet the needs of adult learners and English learners;

''(ii) to the extent practicable, are evidence-based; and

''(iii) will improve the instruction provided pursuant to the local activities required under section 231(b).

''(E) The dissemination of instructional materials described in subparagraph (D) to eligible providers to improve the instruction provided pursuant to the local activities required under section 231(b), including instructional materials that—

''(i) were developed for integrated education and training in an in-demand industry or occupation within the State; and

''(ii) lead to English language acquisition, a recognized postsecondary credential, or both.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (I)(i)—

(i) by striking ''mathematics, and English'' and inserting ''mathematics, English''; and

(ii) by striking ''acquisition;'' and inserting ''acquisition, and digital literacy skills;'';

(B) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''retention.'' and inserting ''retention, such as the development and maintenance of policies for awarding recognized postsecondary credentials to adult educators who demonstrate effectiveness at improving the achievement of adult students.'';

(C) in subparagraph (K), by striking ''English language learners,'' and inserting ''English learners,'';

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (M) as subparagraph (P); and

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (L) the following:

''(M) Performance incentive payments to eligible providers, including incentive payments linked to increased use of integrated employment and training or other forms of instruction linking adult education with the development of occupational skills for an in-demand occupation in the State.

''(N) Strengthening the quality and effectiveness of adult education and family literacy programs in the State through support for program quality standards and accreditation requirements.

''(O) Raising public awareness (including through public service announcements, such as social media campaigns) about career and technical education programs and community-based organizations, and other endeavors focused on programs that prepare individuals for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.''.

SEC. 208. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

Section 225 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3305)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

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

''(d) COORDINATION.—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall—

''(1) coordinate such educational programs with career and technical education activities provided to individuals in State institutions from funds reserved under section 112(a)(2)(A) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2322(a)(2)(A)); and

''(2) identify opportunities to develop integrated education and training opportunities for such individuals.''.

SEC. 209. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

Section 231 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3321) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking ''English language learners'' and inserting ''English learners'';

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) uses instructional materials that are designed to meet the needs of adult learners and English learners and are evidence-based (to the extent practicable), which may include, but shall not be required to include, the instructional materials disseminated by the State under section 223(a)(1)(D);''; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking ''speaking,'' and inserting ''speaking and listening,''; and

(ii) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', which may include the application of the principles of universal design for learning''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) COST ANALYSIS.—In determining the amount of funds to be awarded in grants or contracts under this section, the eligible agency may consider the costs of providing learning in context, including integrated education and training and workplace adult education and literacy activities, and the extent to which the eligible provider intends to serve individuals using such activities, in order to align the amount of funds awarded with such costs.''.

SEC. 210. LOCAL APPLICATION.

Section 232 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3322) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''and coordinate with the appropriate State entity'' after ''data'';

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) a description of how the eligible provider will provide learning in context, including through partnerships with employers to offer workplace adult education and literacy activities and integrated education and training; and''.

SEC. 211. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

Section 233(a) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3323(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''95'' and inserting ''85''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) of the remaining amount—

''(A) not more than 10 percent may be used for professional development for adult educators; and

''(B) not more than 5 percent shall be used for planning, administration (including carrying out the requirements of section 116),

professional development of administrative staff, and the activities described in paragraphs (3) and (5) of section 232.''.

SEC. 212. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

Section 242 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3332) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''116;'' and inserting ''116, including the dissemination of effective practices used by States to use administrative data to determine program performance and reduce the data collection and reporting burden on eligible providers;'';

(2) in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(C)(vii)(I) of subsection (c), by striking ''English language learners'' and inserting ''English learners''; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (I); and

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

''(G) developing and rigorously evaluating programs for the preparation of effective adult educators and disseminating the results of such evaluations;

''(H) carrying out initiatives to support the effectiveness and impact of adult education, that States may adopt on a voluntary basis, through—

''(i) the development and dissemination of staffing models that prioritize demonstrated effectiveness and continuous improvement in supporting the learning of adult students; and

''(ii) the evaluation and improvement of program quality standards and accreditation requirements; and''.

SEC. 213. INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.

Section 243(c)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3333(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''English language learners'' and inserting ''English learners''.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

SEC. 301. AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2(5) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49a(5)) is amended by inserting ''the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa,'' after ''Guam,''.

(b) UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW REQUIREMENT.—Section 5(b)(1) of such Act is amended by inserting ''the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa,'' after ''Guam,''.

(c) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 6 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 49e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''except for Guam'' and inserting ''except for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa'';

(B) by striking ''first allot to Guam and the Virgin Islands'' and inserting the following: ''first allot—

''(1) to Guam and the Virgin Islands'';

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) beginning with the first fiscal year for which the total amount available for allotments under this section is greater than the total amount available for allotments under this section for fiscal year 2024, and for each succeeding fiscal year, to each of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, an amount which is equal to one-half of the amount allotted to Guam under paragraph (1) for such fiscal year.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter following subparagraph (B), by inserting '', the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa,'' after ''Guam''.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 7 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 49f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''and referral to employers'' and inserting ''referral to employers, and the services described in section 134(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(2)(A)(ii)) when provided by the employment service office colocated with the one-stop delivery system''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and in accordance with the requirements of section 134(c)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(2)(A)(i)(I))''.

(e) WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.—Section 15 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''timely manner'' and inserting ''manner that is as close to real-time as practicable'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''part-time, and seasonal workers'' and inserting ''part-time, contingent, and seasonal workers, and workers engaged in alternative employment arrangements'';

(iii) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively; and

(iv) by inserting after clause (ii), the following:

''(iii) real-time trends in new and emerging occupational roles, and in new and emerging skills by occupation and industry, with particular attention paid to State and local conditions;'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting ''(including, to the extent practicable, real-time)'' after ''current''; and

(C) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''user-friendly manner and'' and inserting ''manner that is available on-demand and is user-friendly,'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(F)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''; and'' and inserting ''(including, to the extent practicable, provided in real time);'';

(B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(C) by inserting after clause (i), as so amended, the following:

''(ii) the capabilities of digital technology and modern data collection approaches are effectively utilized; and''; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $64,532,600 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2030.''.

SEC. 302. JOB TRAINING GRANTS.

Section 414(c) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3224a) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) JOB TRAINING GRANTS.—

''(1) ALLOTMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds available under section 286(s)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(s)(2)), the Secretary of Labor shall—

''(i) return permanently 12 percent of such amounts in each fiscal year to the general fund of the Treasury; and

''(ii) of the remainder, make allotments to each State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3172) for the purpose of providing training services through individual training accounts for eligible dislocated workers as described in paragraph (2)(A).

''(B) RESERVATION; ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.—

''(i) RESERVATION.—From the amount made available under subparagraph (A)(ii) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than ¼ of 1 percent of such amount to provide assistance to the outlying areas for the purpose described in paragraph (2)(A).

''(ii) ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.—The Secretary shall use the remainder of the amount made available under subparagraph (A)(ii) for a fiscal year to make allotments to States described in such subparagraph on the following basis:

''(I) 33 and ⅓ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in each such State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in all such States.

''(II) 33 and ⅓ percent shall be allotted based on the relative number of disadvantaged adults in each such State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged adults in all such States.

''(III) 33 and ⅓ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in the civilian labor force in each such State, compared to the total number in the civilian labor force in all such States.

''(iii) DISADVANTAGED ADULT DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph and subparagraph (C), the term 'disadvantaged adult' has the meaning given such term in section 132(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3172(b)(1)(B)(v)(IV)).

''(iv) REALLOTMENT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall, in accordance with this clause, reallot to eligible States amounts that are made available to States from allotments made under this subparagraph (referred to individually in this subsection as a 'State allotment') and that are available for reallotment.

''(II) AMOUNT.—The amount available for reallotment for a program year is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the State allotment, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this subclause is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allotment for the prior program year.

''(III) REALLOTMENT.—In making reallotments to eligible States of amounts available pursuant to subclause (II) for a program year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible State an amount based on the relative amount of the State allotment for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the State allotments for all eligible States for such program year.

''(IV) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible State means a State that does not have an amount available for reallotment under subclause (II) for the program year for which the determination under subclause (II) is made.

''(C) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Governor shall allocate the funds allotted to the State under subparagraph (B)(ii) for a fiscal year to the local areas in the State on the following basis:

''(I) 33 and ⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I).

''(II) 33 and ⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II).

''(III) 33 and ⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(III).

''(ii) APPLICATION.—For purposes of carrying out clause (i)—

''(I) references in subparagraph (B)(ii) to a State shall be deemed to be references to a local area; and

''(II) references in subparagraph (B)(ii) to all States shall be deemed to be references to all local areas in the State involved.

''(iii) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this clause and after consultation with the State board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are made available to local areas from allocations made under this subparagraph (referred to individually in this subsection as a 'local allocation') and that are available for reallocation.

''(II) AMOUNT.—The amount available for reallocation for a program year is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this subclause is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year.

''(III) REALLOCATION.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to subclause (II) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year.

''(IV) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible local area means a local area that does not have an amount available for reallotment under subclause (II) for the program year for which the determination under subclause (II) is made.

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated pursuant to paragraph (1) to a local area shall be used to pay, through the use of an individual training account in the accordance with section 134(c)(3)(F)(iii) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)(F)(iii)), an eligible provider of training services from the list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(d)) for training services provided to eligible dislocated workers in the local area.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL AREAS.—As a condition of receipt of funds under paragraph (1), a local area shall agree to each of the following:

''(i) REQUIRED NOTICE TO WORKERS.—Prior to an eligible dislocated worker selecting a program of training services from the list of eligible providers of training services under section 122(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(d)), the local area shall inform such dislocated worker of any opportunities the dislocated worker may have to participate in on-the-job training or employer-directed skills development funded through such local area.

''(ii) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—Except as provided in clause (iv)(II), a local area—

''(I) may not limit the maximum amount available for an individual training account for an eligible dislocated worker under subparagraph (A) to an amount that is less than $5,000; and

''(II) may not pay an amount, through the use of an individual training account under subparagraph (A), for training services provided to an eligible dislocated worker that exceeds the costs of such services.

''(iii) WIOA FUNDS.—A local area may not use funds made available to the local area for a fiscal year pursuant to section 134(c)(1)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(1)(B)) to make payments under subparagraph (A) until the funds allocated to the local area pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection for such fiscal year have been exhausted.

''(iv) EXHAUSTION OF ALLOCATIONS.—Upon the exhaustion of the funds allocated to the local area pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, for the purpose of paying, through the use of individual training accounts under subparagraph (A), the costs of training services for eligible dislocated workers in the local area seeking such services, the local area—

''(I) shall use any funds made available to the local area pursuant to section 134(c)(1)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(1)(B)) to pay for such costs under subparagraph (A) (other than any costs that exceed the limit set by the local area pursuant to subclause (II)); and

''(II) for any eligible dislocated worker who is not a low-income individual, may limit the maximum amount available for the individual training account under subparagraph (A) for such worker to an amount that is less than $5,000.

''(3) ELIGIBLE DISLOCATED WORKER.—A dislocated worker shall be an eligible dislocated worker for purposes of this subsection if the dislocated worker—

''(A) meets the requirements under section 134(c)(3)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)(A)(i)) to be eligible for training services;

''(B) has not received training services through an individual training account under this subsection or under section 134(c)(3)(F)(iii) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)(F)(iii)) during the preceding 5-year period or, if such a worker has received such training services during such period, the worker has been granted an exception by the local area due to an exceptional circumstance, as determined by the local area; and

''(C) is not subject to any limitations established by the local area or State involved pursuant to paragraph (4), which would disqualify such dislocated worker from being an eligible dislocated worker under this subsection.

''(4) STATE OR LOCAL AREA LIMITATIONS.—A State or local area may establish limitations on the eligibility of an otherwise eligible dislocated worker who has previously received training services through an individual training account under this subsection or under section 134(c)(3)(F)(iii) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)(F)(iii)) to receive a subsequent individual training account under this subsection.

''(5) EXCESS DEMAND.—Upon the exhaustion of the funds allocated to a local area pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection and any funds that may be available to such local area pursuant to section 134(c)(1)(B) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(1)(B)) for the purpose described in paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection, the local area—

''(A) may request additional funds for such purpose from the Governor under section 134(a)(2)(A)(i)(III) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(a)(2)(A)(i)(III)); and

''(B) shall not be required to pay for training services or establish an individual training account for an eligible dislocated worker.

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise specified, a term used in this subsection shall have the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

''(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to provide an individual with an entitlement to a service under this subsection or under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.) or to mandate a State or local area to provide a service if Federal funds are not available for such service.''.

SEC. 303. ACCESS TO NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.

Section 453(j)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(j)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting ''or conducting the reporting and evaluation activities required under section 116 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3141)'' after ''State law''; and

(B) by striking ''such program'' and inserting ''such programs'' ; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking ''purposes of administering a program referred to'' and inserting ''the purposes specified''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. 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 on H.R. 6655.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

I thank Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT for his bipartisan work on behalf of America's workforce without which this bill would not be on the floor today.

BOBBY and I decided on day one that while we will not always agree on every issue, we will work diligently in the areas in which we find common ground. It is safe to say we agree that workforce development is too important an issue not to get something done.

□ 1715

I thank each and every member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Due to their efforts, we were able to pass the bill through the committee on a wide, bipartisan vote. Now it is the turn of the full House.

Mr. Speaker, A Stronger Workforce for America Act owes its bipartisan appeal to two main features: its principles and its promises.

The principles of this bill are firmly rooted in increased efficiency, innovation, and accountability in the workforce.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act will bolster the efficiency of the workforce system by dedicating 50 percent of funding to upskilling workers. Skills are becoming the currency of the labor market and the key to unlocking career success, yet too few of the taxpayer dollars provided to the

workforce system currently are being spent developing the skills of our workforce. By elevating skills development, this bill will deliver more opportunities for Americans to prepare for good-paying jobs.

Moreover, this bill gives States more flexibility to innovate and to support employer-led initiatives. Empowering States and employers is the best way to ensure the workforce system is nimble and adaptive in the modern economy.

Also, it will enhance the performance accountability system in the law that has suffered from nearly a decade of delayed implementation and low expectations, meaning States and local workforce boards will truly be held accountable for the labor market outcomes they produce.

Efficiency, innovation, and accountability are the shared bipartisan principles A Stronger Workforce for America Act rests on.

Now for the promises: A Stronger Workforce for America Act is a bill for those who believe in the incredible, boundless potential of the American workforce.

This is the American workforce that smelted the steel that built the engine that propelled man to the Moon in a Saturn V rocket. This is the American workforce that has repeatedly dropped its tools and its livelihoods on a moment's notice to go fight in service to our country. This is the American workforce that put the world in our pocket when it created the iPhone, a transformational tool that has revolutionized the way we communicate and that has enabled drones, smart homes, self-driving cars, and more.

It is our constant duty and our promise never to forget, neglect, or discount the American workforce. American workers built this great Nation. They deserve nothing but the best opportunity to succeed as rapid changes in the modern economy necessitate new skills in order to keep pace.

Therefore, the legislation before us today should be seen in that light. It is a promise that as the economy changes, we will always ensure that workers have an opportunity to gain the right skills for the job.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

Workers who are looking for higher paying careers and businesses looking for skilled workers should be able to rely on our workforce development system. Unfortunately, decades of chronic disinvestment and lax quality standards in our workforce system have contributed to unsustainable out-of-pocket costs for both workers and employers.

I thank Ms. FOXX for her bipartisan cooperation in drafting the legislation.

This bill makes an array of critical improvements to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or WIOA, in that it will improve our workforce development system for everyone. It will help create a skilled workforce for the millions of new jobs created under the American Rescue Plan Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, the bipartisan infrastructure law, and the Chips and Science Act.

Specifically, this bill will ensure that workers displaced from their jobs can access robust development services, including through individual training accounts by guaranteeing that they will receive a training voucher for no less than $5,000. This kind of investment will ensure displaced workers can pay for training in jobs that lead to high-quality, good-paying careers like welding or nursing, among many others.

It also creates an emphasis on employer-led initiatives that equip workers with the skill sets they need to fill jobs in critical industries, and it helps the currently employed workforce upskill to avoid displacement and advance their careers.

Moreover, it will serve individuals with barriers to employment by codifying reentry programs for justice-involved individuals and boosting summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth, especially those who have become disconnected from school and work after the pandemic.

Finally, it streamlines the eligible training provider list to ensure that programs are aligned with the skills and hiring demands and that State and local workforce boards are held accountable for achieving positive outcomes for program participants.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support the A Stronger Workforce for America Act because it will create more opportunities for working Americans to gain a foothold in the middle class.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the chair of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in strong support of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which will strengthen the Federal workforce system and increase access to high-quality and in-demand jobs nationwide.

WIOA was successful in many respects, including supporting educational services to help adults develop basic skills and providing funding for vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities. However, additional reforms are needed to respond to the challenges employers face in filling millions of open jobs nationwide.

I am particularly pleased to see additional funding directed toward upskilling incumbent workers, including giving States new tools through the critical industry skills fund to help employers upskill, hire, and retain workers in critical industries.

I am also pleased to see additional emphasis on digital literacy within this legislation, as we all know that these skills are necessary to succeed today.

Together, these reforms will ensure workers remain relevant for the rapidly changing 21st century economy.

As the co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am grateful to see better alignment for State activities authorized through Perkins. This coordination will allow for expanded integrated education and training programs, assistance to providers in reporting participant outcomes, and additional materials to meet the needs of adult and English learners.

Additionally, local workforce development agencies will now be able to relocate one-stop centers to CTE schools, creating a true hub for skills development.

Finally, I am pleased to see my bipartisan legislation, the Creating Opportunities to Thrive and Advance Act, included in this legislation. This will bolster career counseling programs and allow for public outreach to educate Americans on the many opportunities the workforce system can provide them. Together, these provisions fuel innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two letters. One is from the American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees, and the other letter is from the Society for Human Resource Management, better known as SHRM.

AACC
ACCT,
April 8, 2024.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: We write on behalf of the nation's community colleges and their more than 10 million students to state our support for A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWAA), which we hope will be considered by the full House soon. This bill will help our current and future students better participate in our economy, enabling them to generate family-sustaining wages. We thank the committee for the many hours of work that produced this bipartisan measure.

ASWAA builds on 25 years of experience with the federal workforce system that was overhauled in 1998. AACC and ACCT remain focused on ensuring that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) facilitates full participation of community colleges in the workforce system, a goal that unfortunately has not yet been attained.

This bill helps make the WIOA reporting requirements more realistic, a longstanding

community college goal. It streamlines the process for adding programs to the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), including making qualified Workforce Pell programs automatically eligible for the ETPL. Other ETPL revisions will help ensure program quality and clarify that the data to comply with these requirements come from state-level sources.

We endorse the bill's increased emphasis on training, which is a longstanding priority of community colleges, reflected in a requirement that local areas spend at least 50 percent of funds on skills development. Dedicating H–1B revenues that provides for the creation of mandatory-funded $5,000 Individual Training Accounts is also a major improvement. These two provisions, along with other aspects of the legislation, should greatly increase WIOA's support of workforce education. There is one area where we wish the bill would go further and that is in ensuring that the increased focus on training education went hand in hand with an increased emphasis of supports that participants will need, and which is key to successful completion of workforce programs.

Community colleges particularly applaud the authorization of the Strengthening Community College Workforce Development Grant program, modeled on a highly successful program now in its fourth year of competition. This program helps community colleges enhance workforce education offerings in areas of great demand, working in close cooperation with the private sector. We urge the consideration of higher authorization levels for this program and the rest of the Act as a forceful signal of support for continued growth over time.

We thank you again for your leadership on this bipartisan legislation that is of such great importance and has a positive impact on our students and the nation's economic health. We look forward to working with you as the legislation moves towards enactment in the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

WALTER G. BUMPHUS, PH.D.,
President and CEO,
American Association of Community Colleges.

JEE HANG LEE,
President and CEO,
Association of Community College Trustees.

SHRM,
April 5, 2024.

Re SHRM Letter of Support for the Reauthorization of WIOA.

Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX,
Committee on Education and the Workforce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT,
Committee on Education and the Workforce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: SHRM is the global association representing over 340,000+ human resources professionals and executives. Our members are the strategists and catalysts in our workplace, ensuring workers and workplaces have the skills to be competitive in the global economy. SHRM strongly supports H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, critical legislation that modernizes the nation's workforce development system.

SHRM is encouraged by the bipartisan effort to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). H.R. 6655 is a significant step toward strengthening America's workforce and ensuring its long-term global competitiveness. It wisely invests in our future, supporting strong and inclusive talent pipelines, including opportunities for untapped talent pools. Engaging untapped talent—older workers, individuals with disabilities, opportunity youth, veterans, military spouses and caregivers, and individuals with a criminal record—is essential to fostering a more productive and engaged workforce.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act presents an opportunity to align education and development programs with current industry demands. This will equip individuals with the skills and certifications businesses seek, leading to more robust talent pipelines and expanded candidate pools. Ultimately, businesses gain access to a more skilled workforce while workers receive educational opportunities that will allow them to compete in today's workforce. SHRM is committed to promoting a skilled and adaptable workforce, and WIOA reauthorization aligns with this mission.

Furthermore, WIOA reauthorization allows us to advocate for programs encouraging upskilling and reskilling throughout a worker's career. This ensures workers remain competitive in the ever-evolving job market. Additionally, reauthorization can strengthen employer engagement by fostering stronger partnerships between workforce development agencies and businesses. This collaboration gives businesses a say in program design, ensuring it directly addresses their talent needs.

SHRM strongly supports H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which is critical legislation to fortify the workforce development system. The widely bipartisan effort to reauthorize WIOA is a significant stride towards bolstering America's global competitiveness. Strategic investments in inclusive talent pipelines and aligning education and development programs with industry demands, H.R. 6655 promises to mutually benefit businesses and workers, and we urge its swift passage.

SHRM is committed to ensuring our workers and workplaces are globally competitive. We invite collaboration and offer our resources and insights to Congress to address our workforce needs. Please consider SHRM a trusted partner to seize this opportunity and cultivate a stronger, more resilient workforce for the sustained prosperity of our nation.

Sincerely,

EMILY M. DICKENS,
Chief of Staff and Head of Public Affairs.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCOTT for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which makes critical improvements to America's job training laws that will close the skills gap, strengthen the relationship between employers and the local labor market, and put more Americans on the pathway to successful careers.

I congratulate Chairwoman FOXX and Ranking Member SCOTT for their bipartisan collaboration to bring this bill to the floor, defying all the negative conventional wisdom about this place because this is a really critical program at a time when our U.S. economy has 9 million job openings.

My district in eastern Connecticut is the fastest growing labor market in our State and the second fastest in New England. The Federal job training program that we are discussing here today has been a huge contributor to that growth.

Back in 2015, I hosted then-Labor Secretary Tom Perez at Electric Boat's shipyard to meet with our local WIOA workforce board to discuss the looming need for shipbuilding skills to meet the sharply increased demand by the U.S. Navy for submarine construction.

Mr. Speaker, 5 months later, in September 2015, the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative program was launched using a $6 million WIOA grant by the U.S. Department of Labor. Since its establishment in 2016, nearly 3,500 workers in eastern Connecticut have been hired from the WIOA-funded pipeline to high-quality careers in the Electric Boat shipyard.

As you can see from this chart, Mr. Speaker, starting in 2016, there has been steady growth. There was a little dip during COVID, but last year, 945 graduates from their pre-apprenticeship program left the WIOA classes to begin their careers in the metal trades.

Because of this highly successful training pipeline, EB has had the workforce to meet the growing build rate that it continues to this day. Two months ago, EB announced that their target for 2024 is to hire 5,300 workers to, again, meet the needs for the Virginia program and the Columbia program.

Mr. Speaker, we need pre-apprenticeship programs like the manufacturing pipeline to fill those 9 million job openings in the U.S. economy. This bill will do just that by, number one, ensuring that more WIOA dollars are going directly to upskilling workers and on-the-job learning, streamlining the eligible training provider list to ensure that they are delivering good outcomes and are aligned with the skill and hiring needs of employers, and strengthening the workforce education programs at community colleges to make sure that they align with in-demand jobs by emphasizing programs with industry partnerships, providing more flexibility to one-stop operators to expand access to support services for trainees who need assistance during these 8-week classes for electricians, 10 weeks for welders, with transportation, childcare, or other essentials to ensure that they can successfully focus on their curriculum and complete their job training program.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just a program for young adults. It is also a program that helps workers of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Association of Retired Persons in support of this legislation, H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

AARP,
April 4, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and older, writes in support of H.R. 6655, A

Stronger Workforce for America Act. This bipartisan legislation modernizes the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs to better align with the current labor market while strengthening accountability to ensure the programs provide adequate job training and career services to help older job seekers.

In a tight labor market, older job seekers continue to face long-term unemployment at a greater rate than their younger counterparts. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' employment data for February 2024 finds that 24.9 percent of job seekers age 55 and older were long-term unemployed compared to 17.2 percent of those ages 16 to 54. The WIOA programs are essential for helping these older job seekers remain in the workforce, which helps their long-term financial security.

H.R. 6655 provides greater flexibility in designing job training for older workers that considers their existing skills and past work experience. It offers training and resources to encourage entrepreneurship and nontraditional employment, which is especially attractive to many older workers interested in options beyond traditional wage and salaried positions. As work requirements continue to change and the use of technology increases in the workforce, we are pleased this bill provides training in digital literacy and information technology for older workers. Additionally, increasing accountability through performance reporting based on race, ethnicity, sex, and age will help determine if the WIOA programs are adequately assisting older individuals who want to re-enter or remain in the workforce.

AARP urges Congress to pass H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, as it will strengthen our nation's workforce by providing older workers with the assistance they need to continue working, improving their financial security. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Holly Biglow on our Government Affairs team.

Sincerely,

BILL SWEENEY,
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, which, at this moment in our economy, is so critically needed.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and express great appreciation to Chairwoman FOXX and Ranking Member SCOTT for moving this forward.

In 2014, I was proud to work with my colleagues on the Education and the Workforce Committee to pass the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA, that made critical improvements to streamline the maze of Federal workforce development programs. At its core, the WIOA aims to connect people with the skills they need to be competitive in the modern workforce.

In our rapidly evolving world, the landscape of the workforce is constantly changing, as it should. Technological advancements, globalization, and shifting market trends mean that the skills needed today might not be the same as those required tomorrow. To thrive in this dynamic environment, it is imperative that individuals have the necessary skills and development opportunities that are aligned with the needs of local industries.

The bill we are considering today strengthens the law to further fuel innovation for a skills-based economy. A Stronger Workforce for America Act makes reforms to WIOA that will increase the amount of skills development provided under the law, strengthen the connections between employers and the workforce system, and streamline bureaucracy.

The bill also gives Governors a new tool to address the economic priorities of their States, allowing them to set aside additional funds for a critical industry skills fund to help employers upskill, hire, and retain workers in priority industries.

These critical reforms will equip America's workers with the skills to succeed in the modern economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to build a stronger American workforce.

□ 1730

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES), the vice ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, which would reauthorize workforce development programs.

Right now in Connecticut, there are 119,000 young people disconnected from school or work. These could be students who dropped out of school during the pandemic, are involved in foster care, or have become homeless.

YouthBuild programs in Connecticut and across the country help these opportunity youth complete their education and develop in-demand skills. I am also pleased to see that my legislation, the YouthBuild for the Future Act, was included in this bill, which provides opportunities for young people.

My legislation would allow YouthBuild programs to fund meals for participants, ensuring that no one has to choose between finding food and completing the program. This bipartisan legislation creates a workforce system that is more responsive to employer needs and puts more Americans on the pathway to a successful career.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter in support of H.R. 6655 from LinkedIn.

LINKEDIN,
December 11, 2023.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. ROBERT C. ''BOBBY'' SCOTT,
Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: LinkedIn is pleased to support H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and applauds your bipartisan commitment to strengthen the value and impact of programs currently authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

We are particularly pleased the legislation puts a skills-first approach at the forefront of workforce development systems. Current methods of finding talent often exclude large swaths of talent: workers who may have the capabilities that businesses are looking for, but don't have traditionally accepted experience or credentials. A skills-first approach increases opportunities for workers in the U.S. while ensuring critical parts of our economy are staffed. Skills-first hiring could lead to a nearly 20-times increase in qualified candidates here in the U.S., where nearly 70 percent of jobs require a bachelor's degree but only 37 percent of the workforce have one. We explored this approach in detail in our April report Skills-First: Reimagining the Labor Market and Breaking Down Barriers, and within the testimony of our Chief Economist, Dr. Karin Kimbrough, at the House Education and Workforce Committee's hearing on ''Competencies Over Degrees: Transitioning to a Skills-Based Economy'' in June.

We're proud to have recommended a number of provisions in our work with the Committee that can expand talent pools and get more Americans to work. Specifically, this includes language to allow both State and local funds to be used to carry out technical assistance for the use and validation of employment assessments as well as the creation of skills-based job descriptions. This support, which may be provided through a variety of intermediaries, is critical to help employers who are often interested in implementing skills-based hiring but do not have the tools and resources to do so.

LinkedIn is also a strong supporter of leveraging the skill assessments currently required under WIOA. We are pleased to see the expansion of career services to support competency-based assessments that leverage prior work experience, military service, and education to accelerate time to employment. Furthermore, we support funds being used by States (including in partnership with other States) for the development and implementation of new skill assessments.

We are excited to see that the majority of funds will go toward individual training accounts and employer-driven training, alongside increases to the current caps on incumbent worker training for new streams of funding at the State and local levels, which will support employer-driven upskilling.

Finally, we have advocated for sector partnerships in carrying out work-based learning opportunities, which are also included in the bin. This provides new opportunities for the creation of a fund to support performance-based payments to employers and sector partnerships, to support new or existing employees in upleveling skills for in-demand industries and occupations.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act is a significant step forward to transform how we prepare the U.S. workforce for the jobs of the future and more efficiently and equitably match talent to opportunity.

We applaud your bipartisanship on this issue and look forward to continuing our work with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

BLAKE LAWIT,
Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, which will help youth get back on the right track.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina and our chairman of the Committee on

Education and the Workforce for giving me this opportunity to rise in support of H.R. 6655, the bipartisan A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

Having built a small business from the ground up, I have experienced firsthand just how hard it can be to find skilled and qualified workers. As I traveled the 12th District of Georgia, the number one issue I hear about from businessowners and job creators is workforce development.

That is why, with nearly 9 million unfilled jobs across the Nation, it is imperative we move past the status quo and recognize that many good-paying jobs do not require a traditional 4-year college degree.

H.R. 6655 will make much-needed improvements to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to ensure Federal dollars are dedicated to upskilling the workforce and making the shift to skills-based hiring.

Additionally, I am proud that provisions from my Startup Act were included in this critical legislation to incorporate entrepreneurial skills development training into the current workforce development system.

One of the greatest honors of my life has been the ability to provide hard-working Americans with the dignity and respect that comes from gainful employment and the means to provide for their families, their communities, their church, and this Nation.

The traditional working family is the greatest economic engine ever created. By bridging the gap between the education and business communities, we can equip our workforce with the tools needed to spark innovation, spur economic growth, and achieve the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the fact that we received a letter from ITI in support of the legislation, the Information Technology Industry Council.

They point out that the bill will help many workers obtain the skills needed for today's jobs by increasing the cap on incumbent worker training funds to allow the current workforce to reskill and upskill and directs 50 percent of the funds toward workforce skill education through the individual training accounts, on-the-job training and employer-led initiatives, as well as including digital literacy skills, which play a pivotal role in today's jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from ITI.

ITI,
April 8, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: I write to you on behalf of The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), the premier global advocate for technology, representing eighty of the world's most innovative companies. Founded in 1916, ITI is an international trade association with a team of professionals on four continents. We promote public policies and industry standards that advance competition and innovation worldwide. The world's most innovative companies depend on the skills of highly trained workers. Finding qualified individuals to fill those jobs is a challenge. For the United States' economy to remain competitive, it is important to have a qualified, skilled workforce to meet the demands of today's jobs.

I write to express our support for the bipartisan H.R. 6655 A Stronger Workforce for America Act led by Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R–NC–05) and Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D–VA–03). The legislation is thoughtfully crafted as it addresses the need for Americans to have greater access to skills training and education for advancing in their careers. The legislation is timely as it has been nearly 10 years since the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was enacted, and today's workforce needs have grown and evolved significantly since that time. H.R. 6655 would help many workers obtain the skills needed for today's jobs by increasing the cap on 'incumbent worker training' funds to allow more of the current workforce to reskill and upskill, directing 50 percent of funds toward workforce skilling education through Individual Training Accounts (ITAs), on-the-job training, and employer-led initiatives, as well as including digital literacy skills which play a pivotal role in today's jobs.

We applaud the bipartisan leadership that has gone into passing this legislation through the committee and we urge its swift passage through the House. Thank you in advance for your consideration and commitment to addressing the United States' workforce needs.

Sincerely,

JASON OXMAN,
President and CEO, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI).

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

I was very pleased to see this move out of the Education and the Workforce Committee in a bipartisan manner. I congratulate Ranking Member SCOTT and Chairwoman FOXX for putting this bill on the floor today.

This bill is a big priority not only of mine, but for the district that I represent, for employers in the district there, and will help many workers achieve a better life through connection with a great job and a great career.

Mr. Speaker, I mention several things in the bill that are important to my constituents. One, reducing red tape to help qualified training providers have access to the Eligible Training Provider List, through which they can receive WIOA funding.

Additionally, this bill includes significant portions of my bipartisan bill to codify and strengthen the reentry program, which helps those exiting the justice system find stable employment and reintegrate into their communities.

The bill before us today also includes a piece of legislation that I co-led with Mr. MORAN of Texas, which allows in-school youth to access individualized training accounts, through which they can participate in training programs and get a jump start on their careers.

Finally, H.R. 6655 clarifies that online training providers are eligible to participate in WIOA, as long as they meet rigorous outcome requirements.

The A Stronger Workforce for America Act includes meaningful reforms that will make the WIOA system more impactful and would develop a new generation of workers who can meet the economic needs of our communities.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), chairman of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

The original Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA, was created to enhance our country's workforce development by streamlining a complex Federal program.

Unfortunately, it has not proved efficient. We all know that the economy is presently in bad shape. Employers continue to struggle to fill open positions. America needs an upskilled and reskilled workforce to compete in a constantly changing world.

WIOA was supposed to tackle this issue. To do so requires reform. A Stronger Workforce for America Act does just that. It works to upskill our workforce and puts employers in the driver's seat. It also gives State and local workforce boards a real opportunity to innovate within their systems, to include my One Door to Work Act.

This legislation, which duplicates the successful Utah model, encourages integration of workforce and safety net programs to create one door that will lift workers out of poverty into careers.

Though innovation is a word included in the name WIOA, in practice, it is lacking. The One Door to Work Act language allows innovation to be part of the WIOA. It empowers State and local leaders to innovate in pursuit of better outcomes. Innovation leads our Nation forward. We need to embrace that in WIOA and pass A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the letter that we received from the California Youth Opportunity Network.

They say: ''This reauthorization will improve numerous training services, planning, and outcomes for opportunity youth, and we respectfully urge

timely consideration of this bipartisan legislation on the floor of the House.''

They go on to say: ''We should not be turning away a young person trying to work toward a better future because of paperwork. For this reason, we are also extremely supportive of the provision which streamlines the eligibility determination process.''

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from COYN of April 1, 2024.

APRIL 1, 2024.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chairwoman, House Committee on Education and Workforce, Washington, D.C.
Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and Workforce, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: We write to express our support for passage of H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) through the US House of Representatives. WIOA is critical for organizations like the California Opportunity Youth Network (COYN) and New Ways to Work (NWW) to help disconnected youth achieve self-sufficient and successful career outcomes. This reauthorization will improve numerous training services, planning, and outcomes for Opportunity Youth and we respectfully urge timely consideration of this bipartisan legislation on the floor of the House. We also urge your commitment to ensure adequate resources are authorized and appropriated in the future to meet demands for services and resources can more efficiently be used.

COYN and NWW are committed to advancing opportunities for youth who are out of school and out of work and/or involved with the foster care, juvenile justice, and youth homelessness systems. That's why we are pleased to see language in the new WIOA reauthorization bill that broadens WIOA Youth Program eligibility to include all out-of-school, homeless, foster, and justice system-impacted youth. These are young people we know through research will face barriers and are at-risk right now.

Accessing WIOA for systems-involved youth can also be challenging, especially if they are concurrently pursuing their education goals. Replacing the definition of ''out-of-school youth'' with ''Opportunity Youth'' and categorically including systems-involved youth will allow job training providers to better meet their goals and encourages state and local workforce boards to develop service delivery systems to better reach and serve this population.

We also know the existing documentation requirements to prove eligibility represents a major barrier in accessing WIOA programs and services, especially for Qpportunity Youth and systems-involved youth who typically lack access to the necessary forms. We should not be turning away a young person trying to work toward a better future because of paperwork. For this reason, we are also extremely supportive of the provision which streamlines the eligibility determination process by allowing youth to self-attest that they meet the eligibility criteria while still ensuring accountability and eligibility in the future.

Finally, the bill would also require state WIOA plans to increase their focus on Opportunity Youth and other at-risk young people. We support this effort to encourage states to not just develop and submit compliance plans but to truly produce a strategic vision and plan for serving Opportunity Youth, through WIOA and other programs, and understanding their circumstances and needs.

H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act was approved by the committee with wide bipartisan support. Passing this bill through the House is a critical step to build upon WIOA's strong foundation and make efficiency improvements, along with new flexibilities that will ensure better outcomes for states, workforce boards, training providers and more importantly the millions of young people who could be helped on their pathways to careers.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to support this legislation as it moves to the House floor and to ensure adequate appropriations are provided to the programs in the future. We again support passage of H.R. 6655 through the House and thank you for your work on advancing bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

SEAN HUGHES,
California Opportunity Youth Network.
ROBERT SAINZ,
New Ways to Work.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman FOXX and Ranking Member SCOTT for introducing H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act.

This bipartisan legislation will address the workforce needs of our industries by making necessary updates to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, also known as WIOA.

This bill accomplishes much but let me highlight four important areas.

First, this bill ensures that 50 percent of adult and dislocated worker funding goes toward upskilling workers.

Second, this bill strengthens the current workforce education programs at community colleges so that educational programs are tied to the needs and demands of the communities, businesses, and the free market.

Third, this bill heightens accountability for the use of these funds and is more outcome based while reducing the bureaucracy of typical government programs.

Fourth, this bill includes my Building Youth Workforce Skills Act, which provides eligible in-school youth access to individual training accounts for a wide range of educational programs. This creates more opportunities for youth as they look to develop their skills in a way that is aligned with their passions and that is also relevant to business.

It is critical that we provide workers access to workforce development and training programs that find the sweet spot between the needs of businesses and the skills of their workers. H.R. 6655 does just that, and it brings greater accountability and value to the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons and many more, I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT for his unyielding and inspired leadership on this critical jobs training bill and for yielding me time. What America makes and grows, makes and grows America.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan reauthorization. The A Stronger Workforce for America Act legislation is a pivotal measure for workers across America. Particularly in regions like mine, the outsourcing of manufacturing jobs has left profound scars, especially the loss of real American wealth within our borders. That is the ability to feed, clothe, educate, transport, heal, and supply our people inside our borders and not become dependent on any outside force for the energy that fuels us or the clothing we wear.

This reauthorization makes critical investments in skilled training opportunities, and it bolsters vital apprenticeship funding. It paves the way for individuals to gain the necessary skills to thrive in today's rapidly evolving job market.

I am heartened by the enthusiasm that I witness in the aspiring generation to build forward skills inside America's borders that sustain the Nation itself.

Apprenticeship opportunities play a crucial role in restoring American job training capacity through focused hands-on experience, mentorship, and specialized skills development. Imagine our Nation unleashing the potential power of America's full capacity here at home.

In the heartland region, where NAFTA dealt a body blow to manufacturing jobs, I have committed a great deal of my service to help create new jobs for northwest and northern Ohio in steel, automotive, agriculture, food processing, technology, and so much more.

Apprenticeship programs offer a pathway to revitalizing our workforce and rebuilding our communities. With the historic job boom of over 15 million jobs created under the Biden administration, compared to the loss of nearly 3 million jobs under the prior administration, the importance of job training initiatives cannot be overstated.

By investing in our Nation's future workers and retraining the current workforce, we not only empower individuals to succeed, but we also lay a stronger foundation for our Nation's economy here at home, real wealth—not virtual wealth, real wealth.

Prioritizing workforce development means good-paying jobs for steelworkers, railroad workers, autoworkers, skilled mechanics, leather workers, carpenters, plumbers, joiners, and fitters, and members of our building trades. Let's lift up the talents of our people and teach these precious skills.

We will ensure that every American has the opportunity to contribute to

and benefit from the prosperity of our Nation. Let's build more houses. Let's build more American cars. Let's make more American products. Let's tap into the vital creativity that is the heart of innovation and growth in this economy.

Let's educate. Let's reeducate. Let's train.

Mr. Speaker, what America makes and grows, makes and grows America.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, a critical piece of legislation that addresses the pressing needs of our workforce development system.

I thank Chairwoman FOXX and Ranking Member SCOTT for their work on this bipartisan legislation and for their responsiveness to the input from Members of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

I am especially proud that this reauthorization includes my language that addresses a concerning gap in our current workforce funding mechanisms. As included in A Stronger Workforce for America Act, my provision specifically amends the distribution of Federal dollars, allowing States to reallocate funds as performance incentives to workforce boards that have either met or exceeded their performance targets.

Additionally, recaptured funds that are awarded as performance incentives are not subject to the 50 percent training requirement that applies to the adult and dislocated worker programs.

□ 1745

This will help entities who are meeting their targets reinvest in programs that work.

It also ensures that our taxpayer dollars are effectively allocated to entities that are best serving our communities and helping individuals access the skills and education they need for meaningful employment.

I am proud to have been involved in the drafting of this version of the Stronger Workforce for America Act as it enhances accountability, quality, and efficiency within our workforce system, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the last Congress, we tried to get together on a reauthorization of WIOA, but we couldn't come to an agreement. We passed the bill. It didn't pass the Senate.

I am pleased that this Congress, Chairwoman FOXX and I and the committee's staff were able to get together and work together on a bipartisan draft of the Stronger Workforce for America Act.

I am grateful that the committee staff, particularly Scott Estrada and Marek Laco, spent countless hours drafting this legislation.

This bill is an example of the great work that can get done when we work together, so I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, which will meaningfully strengthen our workforce.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT for his good work on this, as well as the staff on his side who have worked so diligently on this as well as the Members on the other side of the aisle.

Fighting on behalf of American workers has been one of the great privileges of my time leading the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In fact, it has been one of the great privileges of my entire career.

Mr. Speaker, I thank each staff member who has undertaken this duty with me over the years and especially on this bill.

There is an unsung army behind me that equals every bit of my passion for the American worker. Together, we hammered out the details of this bill the old-fashioned way. This is a product of negotiation and compromise, and it is a welcomed sight.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support from many organizations, including the Business Roundtable, Americans for Prosperity, and Associated Builders and Contractors.

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY,
April 8, 2024.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of more than 3 million Americans for Prosperity activists across all 50 states, I write in support of H.R. 6655, the Stronger Workforce for America Act. This bipartisan legislation represents a significant step forward in reforming our Nation's workforce development system. Since the enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014, our economy and labor market have evolved dramatically. However, the existing framework has struggled to keep pace with these changes. H.R. 6655 addresses many of these gaps, offering innovative marketplace solutions that are crucial for both economic growth and individual prosperity while reducing governmental inefficiency and interference.

Specifically, the Stronger Workforce for America Act emphasizes the importance of upskilling and reskilling workers by allocating substantial funds towards individual training accounts (ITAs), on-the-job learning opportunities, and employer-led initiatives and less on the system's bureaucracy—shifting misallocated taxpayer money away from unaccountable and irrelevant programs. This focus on enhancing individuals' skills aligns with our commitment to fostering economic freedom and ensuring competitiveness in today's job market by strengthening labor force participation. This bill takes important steps to empower states to pilot One Door to Work reforms to assist working-age Americans re-enter the workforce more effectively by integrating workforce development and safety net programs while reducing the burden on taxpayers. Additionally, the bill strengthens the connection between employers and workers through enhanced employer involvement and industry-relevant upskilling programs. By fostering collaboration between employers and education providers, the bill ensures that workforce programs align with the current labor market demands, facilitating individuals' access to meaningful careers.

Furthermore, the bill introduces measures to improve accountability and quality in workforce programs by implementing reforms in program evaluation and performance indicators. This emphasis on accountability and results is essential for building a more efficient and effective workforce development system that reduces the governmental footprint and propels individuals towards self-sufficiency. Additionally, the bill prioritizes modernization and innovation by emphasizing digital literacy, virtual services, and skills-based hiring practices, reflecting a forward-thinking approach that aligns training programs with the realities of the 21st-century workplace. This includes pathways for ex-offenders to re-integrate into their communities.

H.R. 6655 is a blueprint for a more dynamic workforce where the private sector and education providers rather than government are empowered to meet the needs of America's workers and employers. We urge you to support this bill, recognizing its potential to significantly contribute to a stronger, more resilient, and more prosperous America.

Sincerely

BRENT GARDNER,
Chief Government Affairs Officer.

APRIL 8, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: The Skills First Coalition, a consortium of employers and innovative education providers advocating to advance policies that invest in and strengthen the alignment between education and skills training for in-demand jobs, is writing today to express our strong support for the bipartisan H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, and urges its swift passage.

As a Coalition, we believe Congress must do more to recognize and equalize many nontraditional ways that workers and learners obtain in-demand skills and secure good paying jobs. We are encouraged H.R. 6655 takes significant steps toward these goals, including:

Directing no less than 50 percent of funds toward workforce skills education, ensuring our workforce system focuses on its primary goal of providing learners with in-demand occupational skills needed to compete in today's labor market.

Promoting employer-led learning models, better linking education to work.

Incentivizing states to expand the adoption of skills-based hiring and learning that reward an individual's competencies, knowledge, and prior work experience.

Increasing the cap on incumbent worker training, helping our current workforce to reskill and upskill so they can remain competitive.

Including digital literacy as a foundational skill to better align with an ever-changing economy.

Encouraging states to streamline access to the Eligible Training Provider List and offer reciprocity among each other to ensure more individuals access high-quality education providers.

Promoting better access to centralized data tools, including state wage records and the National Directory of New Hires, to

measure outcomes consistently, reliably, accurately, and in real-time.

Allowing high-quality in-person, online, and hybrid learning models that individuals can access in a variety of flexible and innovative ways.

We commend the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for favorably reporting this bipartisan bill on December 12, 2023, and urge you to vote YES on the House floor. America's learners, workers, and employers deserve a workforce system that keeps pace with technological advancements demanded in the workplace and is accountable, flexible, and innovative in its delivery of high-quality learning.

Sincerely,

The Skills First Coalition, IBM Corporation, Cengage Group, American Trucking Associations, Autos Drive America, Chegg, CompTIA, HP Inc., International Paper, LinkedIn, National University, Presidents Forum, Randstad, Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Western Governors University.

ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS,
April 8, 2024.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national construction industry trade association with 68 chapters representing more than 23,000 members, I write in support of H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the first time in nearly a decade and promotes America's economic competitiveness.

Since its passage in 1998, WIOA has been a crucial asset to the construction industry, aiding in securing funds for workforce development efforts and assisting those seeking new jobs and employment. However, since WIOA's bipartisan reauthorization in 2014, the construction industry has faced new challenges and a workforce shortage that has left many contractors throughout the country in desperate need of qualified, skilled craft professionals. To ensure the workforce is equipped to meet industry demand, ABC is committed to pursuing policies and legislation like H.R. 6655 that address these unique challenges. Most critically for ABC and our members, H.R. 6655:

Supports an all-of-the-above approach to work-based learning, including employer-led and on-the-job workforce upskilling programs and opportunities;

Ensures more dollars are directed toward tangible worker programs by dedicating 50 percent of the adult and dislocated worker funding for upskilling workers through individual training accounts on-the-job learning and other employer-led and industry-relevant initiatives;

Streamlines the ''eligible training provider list'' to ensure programs are aligned with in-demand jobs and the needs of employers to ensure better jobs and workforce opportunities;

Allows for better evaluation of program success to ensure job seekers obtain the skills they need and safeguard valuable taxpayer dollars; and

Improves the efficiency and effectiveness of workforce programs by increasing the cap from 10 percent to 60 percent on the amount of funds a local board may use on pay-for-performance contracts.

ABC supports an all-of-the-above approach to workforce development that levels the playing field for apprenticeship programs not registered under the U.S. Department of Labor. ABC urges you to support H.R. 6655 and the efforts of this reauthorization to seek true modernization and bipartisan input to support WIOA's success.

Sincerely,

KRISTEN SWEARINGEN,
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE,
April 8, 2024.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the CEO members of Business Roundtable, I urge you to vote for H.R. 6655, A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which would modernize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Improving how the federal government invests in workforce development will better prepare U.S. workers for in-demand careers; enable businesses to more readily fill the nearly nine million open jobs with skilled workers; and advance recent federal investments in industries key to strengthening U.S. economic growth and competitiveness.

The public workforce development system is not keeping up with the economy. The system is inefficient, ineffective and too cumbersome to use at scale. Too few Americans—particularly those with employment barriers—can access needed training, and too few businesses utilize the system as a solution to evolving workforce needs.

A Stronger Workforce for America Act would help address these shortcomings. For example, it would dedicate no less than 50 percent of WIOA adult and dislocated worker funding toward upskilling workers through individual training accounts, on-the-job learning and other industry-led training. The bill would promote employer-driven training programs that equip workers with the skills for fulfilling careers. Through increased flexibility, it would empower states to structure workforce systems that meet their needs. These important reforms would enable business leaders to work with public and private stakeholders at the state, regional, and local levels to benefit workers and communities and drive economic growth.

Business Roundtable urges you to support A Stronger Workforce for America Act. Congress can create a workforce development system that expands opportunity for all and helps American workers tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow. We remain committed to working with you to build this ever-ready U.S. workforce.

Sincerely,

SCOTT KIRBY,
Chief Executive Officer, United Airlines, Chair, Education and Workforce Committee, Business Roundtable.

Ms. FOXX. 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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6655, 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.

Ms. FOXX. 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.

MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2051) to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2051

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 ''Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11292) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'', and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) the term 'child sexual abuse material' has the meaning given the term 'child pornography' in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code;''.

(b) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 404 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11293) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6)(E), by striking ''the tipline established'' and inserting ''the CyberTipline established''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking ''hotline by which'' and inserting ''call center to which''; and

(II) by striking ''individuals may report'' and all that follows and inserting ''individuals may—

''(I) report child sexual exploitation and the location of any missing child; and

''(II) request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child's parent;'';

(ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) manage the AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution Program; and'';

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''with their families'' and inserting ''with their parents'';

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''to families'' and inserting ''to parents'';

(D) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following:

''(G) provide technical assistance and case-related resources, including—

''(i) referrals to—

''(I) child-serving professionals involved in helping to recover missing and exploited children; and

''(II) law enforcement officers in their efforts to identify, locate, and recover missing and exploited children; and

''(ii) searching public records databases and publicly accessible open source data to—

''(I) locate and identify potential abductors and offenders involved in attempted or actual abductions; and

''(II) identify, locate, and recover abducted children;'';

(E) in subparagraph (H), by inserting ''on long-term missing child cases'' after ''techniques to assist'';

(F) by striking subparagraph (I) and inserting the following:

''(I) provide education, technical assistance, and information to—

''(i) nongovernmental organizations with respect to procedures and resources to conduct background checks on individuals working with children; and

''(ii) law enforcement agencies with respect to identifying and locating noncompliant sex offenders;'';

(G) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''with their families'' and inserting ''with their parents'';

(H) in subparagraph (K)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''tipline'' and inserting ''CyberTipline'';

(II) in subclause (I)—

(aa) in item (aa), by striking ''child pornography'' and inserting ''child sexual abuse material'';

(bb) in item (dd) by striking ''sex tourism involving children'' and inserting ''extraterritorial child sexual abuse and exploitation''; and

(cc) in item (ee), by striking ''extra-familial''; and

(III) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by striking ''tipline'' and inserting ''CyberTipline''; and

(bb) by adding ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''child pornography'' and inserting ''child sexual abuse material'';

(II) by inserting ''and'' after ''other sexual crimes''; and

(III) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting '', including by providing information on legal remedies available to such victims;''; and

(iii) by striking clause (iii);

(I) by redesignating subparagraphs (L) through (O) as subparagraphs (M) through (P), respectively;

(J) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:

''(L) provide support services, consultation, and assistance to missing and sexually exploited children, parents, their families, and child-serving professionals on—

''(i) recovery support, including counseling recommendations and community support;

''(ii) family and peer support;

''(iii) requesting the removal of child sexual abuse material and sexually exploitive content depicting children from the internet, including by assisting with requests to providers (as defined in section 2258E of title 18, United States Code) to remove visual depictions of victims that—

''(I) constitute or are associated with child sexual abuse material; or

''(II) do not constitute child sexual abuse material but are sexually suggestive;'';

(K) in subparagraph (M), as so redesignated—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''educational'' before ''information to families'';

(ii) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking ''child abduction and'' and inserting ''missing children and child''; and

(II) by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) internet safety, including tips and strategies to promote safety for children using technology (including social media) and reduce risk relating to—

''(I) cyberbullying;

''(II) child sex trafficking;

''(III) youth-produced child sexual abuse material or sexting;

''(IV) sextortion; and

''(V) online enticement;'';

(L) in subparagraph (N), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and preventing child sexual exploitation'' after ''recovering such children'';

(M) by striking subparagraph (O), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(O) coordinate with and provide technical assistance to Federal, State, and local government agencies relating to cases of children missing from a State or Tribal child welfare system and assist the efforts of law enforcement agencies and State and Tribal child welfare agencies in—

''(i) coordinating to ensure the reporting, documentation, and resolution of cases involving children missing from a State or Tribal child welfare system; and

''(ii) responding to foster children missing from a State or Tribal child welfare system; and''; and

(N) in subparagraph (P), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and recovery support services'' after ''technical assistance''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) publish an analysis of the information determined under paragraph (1) that includes disaggregated demographic data and comparison of such data to demographic data from the census.''.

(c) REPORTING.—Section 407 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11295a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon,

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) the number of children nationwide who are reported to the grantee as missing from State-sponsored care;

''(6) the number of children nationwide who are reported to the grantee as missing from State-sponsored care whose recovery was reported to the grantee; and

''(7) the number of children nationwide who are reported to the grantee as missing from State-sponsored care and are likely victims of child sex trafficking.'', and

(2) by adding at end the following:

''(c) CRITERIA FOR FORENSIC PARTNERSHIPS.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 404(b), the grant recipient shall annually provide to the Administrator and make available to the general public, as appropriate, the criteria and processes the grantee uses to establish forensic partnerships and recommend forensic resources to law enforcement and shall annually review these forensic partnerships and forensic referrals against the criteria and review new advancements in technology.''.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 409(a) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11297(a)) is amended by striking ''$40,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2023, up to $32,200,000'' and inserting ''$49,300,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, up to $41,500,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. 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 on S. 2051.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act, which authorizes the support for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC. NCMEC is the national clearinghouse and resource center for protecting missing and exploited children.

Protecting our country's most vulnerable children has long been a national priority. That is why Congress created the Missing Children's Assistance Act, MCAA, in 1984 to provide Federal coordination of State and local efforts to recover and support missing and exploited children.

At the opening ceremony for NCMEC, President Reagan proclaimed, ''All Americans, and especially our youth, should have the right and the opportunity to walk our streets, to play and to grow and to live their lives without being at risk.''

Ever since, NCMEC has dutifully served as the national resource center to find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization. Reauthorizing the MCAA is imperative in today's times of unparalleled and evolving threats to children, both online and out in public.

S. 2051, the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023, is bipartisan legislation that renews the MCAA through fiscal year 2028 and takes critical steps in helping NCMEC better respond to crimes affecting children across the country.

A companion bill, H.R. 5224, was introduced in the House by Representatives Bean and Courtney, and I thank them for their work on this important issue.

S. 2051 would improve NCMEC's ability to assist law enforcement to identify, locate, and recover missing and exploited children; develop educational materials to reduce the risk of child sex trafficking, online enticement, sexual extortion, and cyberbullying; provide education and technical assistance for conducting background checks on individuals working with children; offer support services to missing and exploited children and their families; and facilitate requests to have child sexual abuse material removed from the internet.

In fact, NCMEC's commitment also extends globally, collaborating with international organizations to combat the issue of child exploitation. Such collaborations ensure a united effort against international trafficking threats, particularly in a world increasingly interconnected online and ever evolving with the advent of artificial intelligence.

When President and CEO of NCMEC Michelle DeLaune was asked by the Education and the Workforce Committee at a recent hearing how concerned on a scale of 1 to 10, she was

about AI threats to children, DeLaune responded an 11.

Earlier this year, Big Tech CEOs testified before the Senate and received sharp criticism for rampant child exploitation on their platforms. Those CEOs have blame to share, but the House of Representatives has a duty to fulfill.

Passing the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023 means we will ensure NCMEC has the tools needed to protect America's most vulnerable children today and in the future.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2051. All children deserve a safe, loving home and to have their basic needs met.

When a child goes missing or suffers abuse, families experience unimaginable pain and horror. For children, the trauma is much worse. Many survivors of exploitation or abuse suffer physical and mental harm that can impact them for the rest of their lives.

This pain has grown in recent years. We have seen a disturbing exponential rise in reported exploitation and child abuse cases, particularly online. For example, in 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, received a staggering 36 million reports of child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation from public and electronic service providers, such as Facebook or Google on its CyberTipline.

Members from both sides of the aisle have long agreed that NCMEC is essential to protecting and supporting exploited children, as well as restoring hope to parents and loved ones. Today, NCMEC is working diligently to keep pace with innovative technology and get ahead of evolving threats to our children's safety.

I am grateful that our colleagues Representatives Courtney and Bean came out together to introduce the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act, which makes several improvements to NCMEC that the Chairwoman outlined a few minutes ago.

The bottom line is that we are working to renew the authorization of NCMEC's grant program and to ensure that they have the necessary tools to protect America's most vulnerable children.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I support the legislation and urge my colleagues to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN), Chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Madam Chair, Ms. FOXX, very much for the time.

Mr. Speaker, every 40 seconds in America a mother or father will experience the worst nightmare, a missing child. The reason can be as benign as a simple misunderstanding or a serious abduction by a stranger.

In fact, nearly half a million children are reported missing every year, but astonishing as that number is, the real number could be much higher since many children are not reported missing.

However, Mr. Speaker, it didn't always used to be this way.

In the 1970s when I grew up—hard to believe that—but when I grew up in the 1970s, I remember that we had unfettered play activities outside as long as you are home before the streetlights came on. We were there for dinner. Unsupervised outdoor activity was a safe, integral part of adolescence and we lived in a high-trust society. Though, over time that image of society slowly faded away due to several high-profile child abductions, including the tragedy of Adam Walsh.

Now, the world feels much less safe.

Each year, threats to our children grow just as the avenues for reaching them are expanding. Predators are more sophisticated about how they gain access to children, their actions are more brazen, and those threats have found a way into our homes.

The proliferation of the internet and smartphones have enabled child sex trafficking and other forms of child exploitation. Consequently, the number of reports of online photos and videos of children being sexually abused is at record levels.

□ 1800

Bottom line: Our children deserve to grow up in a safe environment. It is our duty to protect our most precious and vulnerable citizens and for our law enforcement to be prepared to respond efficiently and quickly when the unthinkable happens.

That is where the Missing Children's Assistance Act, the MCAA, comes in. Enacted in 1984, the MCAA allowed the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, to serve as the national resource center with the goal of protecting children from abduction, exploitation, and abuse.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children helps locate missing children and provides support for victims of abduction, exploitation, and abuse. The organization works tirelessly to prevent these tragedies from occurring in the first place, creating a safer world for our children.

Here are some numbers, Mr. Speaker, and they are big numbers, too. In 2023, NCMEC received 148,695 calls, and the organization assisted law enforcement, families, and child welfare with 28,886 cases of missing children, recovering 88 percent of those cases. For 40 years, NCMEC has led the fight to protect children across the Nation, recovering more than 400,000 missing children.

By supporting NCMEC, we contribute to the safety and well-being of all children, ensuring they can grow up in an environment where they are protected, nurtured, and allowed to flourish.

That is why I am proud to join Representative JOE COURTNEY to introduce the companion to this bill. The Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023 makes critical updates to help the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children better support youth who are missing, to reduce child sexual exploitation, and to prevent child victimization. This bill also provides critical transparency requirements to better assess the performance of specific scientific techniques and NCMEC's forensic partners to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Specifically, this bipartisan, bicameral bill will improve NCMEC's ability to assist law enforcement to:

Identify, locate, and recover missing and exploited children;

Develop educational materials to reduce the risk of child sex trafficking, online enticement, sexual extortion, and cyberbullying;

Provide education and technical assistance to help conduct background checks on individuals working with children;

Offer support to missing and exploited children and their families; and

Facilitate requests to have child sexual abuse materials removed from the internet.

As the father of three, I can't imagine the pain of having a missing or exploited child. It is why I am voting ''yes'' on this bill, the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023. I strongly urge the entire body, all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to join me and support this bill and uphold our solemn duty to shield children from exploitation and danger.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues to rise today in strong support of the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023. This bill is the Senate companion to H.R. 5224, which I co-led with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN), a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

This bipartisan legislation renews the Missing Children's Assistance Act and makes critical updates to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC, to find missing children, reduce child exploitation, and prevent child victimization.

Since Congress first authorized the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children through the MCAA in 1984, NCMEC has assisted in over 400,000 cases to successfully recover missing children. In 2022 alone, NCMEC assisted law enforcement, families, and child welfare agencies with 27,644 cases of missing children who were recovered.

Again, NCMEC operates critical programs to help these children, including a 24-hour toll-free hotline, a cyber tip line to report suspected child exploitation, and a forensic science unit to help find long-term missing children.

NCMEC is also essential to combat child abuse and exploitation online, which is growing at an exponential rate, as we heard from my colleagues on the floor a few minutes ago.

Unfortunately, the Missing Children's Assistance Act and the authorization of NCMEC expired at the end of fiscal year 2023. Letting the authorization for NCMEC continue to lapse will put the safety of children at risk, which is particularly troubling as there has been a disturbing and exponential increase in reports of child abuse and exploitation, particularly online.

As we have heard from Chairwoman FOXX, the bill doesn't just merely reauthorize the law. It also introduces updates and improvements to allow NCMEC to perform its duty with higher efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, NCMEC has made a big impact on the State of Connecticut. I know that because my wife, Audrey Courtney, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Connecticut Children's Hospital, working in its child protection unit. That unit provides highly skilled medical help to victims of child abuse and assists law enforcement in the apprehension, arrest, and prosecution of perpetrators. NCMEC is instrumental to her work and the work of her highly skilled and diligent colleagues.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, someday we will reach a time when there is no need for NCMEC. Unfortunately, we are not there today in 2024. Therefore, it is our solemn duty to America's vulnerable children to move forward and pass this bill. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Vulnerable youth are at heightened risk of endangerment. Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth face disproportionate rates of experiencing homelessness, often caused by fleeing abuse or rejection by family members. No child should be in harm's way or exploited because of who they are. The majority of missing child cases reported to NCMEC involve endangered runaways.

Importantly, NCMEC works with a diverse group of stakeholders, uses trauma-informed practices, and uses a case management approach to ensure that it meets the needs of each child individually, taking into consideration their diverse needs.

I am grateful to Representatives COURTNEY and BEAN for introducing the House companion bill. This legislation makes several important improvements to NCMEC's grant program and, importantly, reauthorizes it. I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The successes of NCMEC over the past 40 years and the need for its continued funding have been well established. Today, NCMEC, with its 450 employees, operates a unique public-private partnership that is the essential formula for effective governance, working with families, law enforcement, schools, community leaders, and nonprofits.

In 2023 alone, NCMEC received 148,695 calls, and the organization assisted law enforcement, families, and child welfare with 28,886 cases of missing children and recovered 88 percent of those cases.

With the passage of S. 2051, the Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023, we can ensure continuing success for NCMEC.

Government's most basic duties include establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, and promoting the general welfare. Our most sacred responsibility is to protect the well-being and upbringing of future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation to protect missing and exploited children, who deserve their shot at the American Dream, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2051, 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.

Ms. FOXX. 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.

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 6 o'clock and 10 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. MOLINARO) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 6655;

S. 2051; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

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

A STRONGER WORKFORCE FOR AMERICA 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. 6655) to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 26, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 105]

YEAS—378

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

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

NAYS—26

Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Brecheen
Burchett
Cammack
Cloud
Clyde
Crane
Davidson
Donalds
Fulcher
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Jordan
Luna
Massie
Mast
Miller (IL)
Norman
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Self
Steube

NOT VOTING—26

Babin
Blumenauer
Carter (GA)
Case
Ciscomani
Duarte
Golden (ME)
Green (TN)
Grijalva
Kamlager-Dove
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
LaTurner
Lesko
Luetkemeyer
McHenry
Mooney
Payne
Pence
Rouzer
Salazar
Sherrill
Spanberger
Strickland
Titus

□ 1858

Mrs. LUNA, Messrs. BURCHETT and SELF changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. TLAIB changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2051) to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, 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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 106]

YEAS—406

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strong
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—24

Babin
Bacon
Carter (GA)
Case
Ciscomani
Golden (ME)
Grijalva
Kamlager-Dove
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
LaTurner
Lesko
Luetkemeyer
McHenry
Mooney
Payne
Pence
Rouzer
Salazar
Sherrill
Spanberger
Strickland
Titus

□ 1911

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for Roll Call Nos. 105 and 106. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 105, H.R. 6655 and "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 106, S. 2051.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the rollcall votes for the Motions to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6655 and S. 2051. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 105, H.R. 6655; and "yea" on rollcall 106, S. 2051.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4006

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4006, a bill originally introduced by Representative JOHNSON of Ohio, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCY FUMIO KISHIDA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, April 11, 2024, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan.

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING JENNA NEWCOMB, JAY LARSON, ROMONA SCHUPBACH, AND JACOB SCHUPBACH

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from across the Illinois delegation to pay tribute to the victims that were killed and injured in the Rockford stabbing spree on March 27.

On that dark day for our city, we lost 15-year-old Jenna Newcomb, a student from East High School who shielded her sister and others from the attacker.

We lost 49-year-old Jay Larson, a 25-year veteran of the United States Postal Service and member of the Illinois Letter Carriers who was out delivering the mail to his neighbors.

We remember 63-year-old Romona Schupbach, a mother, a grandmother; and her 23-year-old son, Jacob Schupbach.

Together, we grieve for the loss of our loved ones.

As a native Rockfordian, I have faith that we will not let this tragedy define us. As we work to make sense of what happened, we must continue to tell the story of who we are and what we stand for.

Today, we lead with love, compassion, and kindness. As neighbors, we weather every awful storm, looking for the sunlight to tell us that it is over.

I appreciate my colleagues standing with me today on the floor of the House to remember those we lost in tragedy. I thank all of the Members of this entire body who share their thoughts, prayers, and are keeping Rockford in their hearts during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in a moment of silence to remember the victims of the Rockford, Illinois, stabbing spree.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). The House will stand in a moment of silence.

BORROWER DEFENSE RULE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to the House that Article III courts have once again protected the American people from extreme executive overreach.

I am talking, of course, about the President's so-called borrower defense rule. On Friday, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stopped the regulation in its tracks for now.

This key decision gives strong reason to believe that the borrower defense scheme will be permanently scuttled.

Writing for the court, Judge Edith Jones said: " . . . we assess a strong likelihood that the plaintiffs will succeed on the merits in demonstrating the Rule's numerous statutory and regulatory shortcomings."

This is a grand slam for taxpayers and for every American who never stepped foot on a college campus yet have been forced to pay for others' student debt.

God bless our Republican system of checks and balances.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the extraordinary achievements of the NC State men's and women's basketball teams, which had amazing runs through this year's NCAA championships.

For the first time in NC State's history, both teams made it to the Final Four in the same year. The underdogs of the season, the men's team shocked the Nation when they beat top-seeded UNC to win the ACC Tournament, claiming the title for the first time since Jimmy V was the coach in 1987.

They continued to defy the odds by beating Duke and making it to the Final Four.

The three-peat ACC champions, the women's team, also made the Wolfpack community exceptionally proud, starting the season unranked and making it to the Final Four with an incredible final game against South Carolina.

I congratulate both teams on their fantastic season.

Go, Pack.

GOLD STAR SPOUSES 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 Gold Star Spouses Day.

On April 5, we honored the spouses of military servicemembers who died while defending our freedom and serving our country. This day offers remembrance for the spouses while also acting as a time of recognition for their sacrifices.

As an Army dad, I am blessed my son has returned home from his deployments. I am aware that this is not the case for all families, and we must take the time to remember, respect, and honor the spouses of our fallen servicemembers.

Gold Star Spouses Day brings awareness of the sacrifices and the grief these spouses have faced in the name of our country.

Mr. Speaker, let us all take a moment to remember that our freedom is not free. Gold Star families have lost a loved one in the name of protecting our

freedom, and they deserve our gratitude today and every day.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

(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, every day, more than 200 Americans lose their lives due to fentanyl drug overdose.

The overdose rate among the American population has reached an unprecedented high. The truth is that, last year, United States Customs and Border Protection personnel seized 51.4 million fentanyl pills at the Tucson sector alone.

Unfortunately, fentanyl pills and counterfeit drugs still manage to make their way into American communities. During my recent visit to Nogales, Arizona, it was made clear that we urgently need more scanning technology, bandwidth, and personnel.

Congress must take immediate action to stop the flow of deadly fentanyl that includes securing the border and passing the MAP Act.

SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 45 years of the Taiwan Relations Act, which has strengthened our partnership with our friends in Taiwan and shaped U.S. foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific.

Taiwan is a trusted partner in freedom, democracy, trade, security, and global health.

As chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific, I have been working to ensure the United States supports Taiwan. I led the Taiwan WHO Act to support Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization and the World Health Assembly, and the Taiwan Nondiscrimination Act to give Taiwan a seat at the table in the International Monetary Fund.

I also led the Arms Exports Delivery Solutions Act, which became law through the NDAA, to track and ensure delivery of backlogged arms sales to Taiwan.

Our partnership with Taiwan is more important than ever.

ARIZONA'S ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Arizonans, tonight, I am angry.

Today, the Arizona Supreme Court upheld an 1864 law, passed before Arizona was a State, before women could even vote, that bans abortion at every stage of pregnancy without exceptions for rape or incest. It puts women's lives at risk.

Recently, a constituent of mine shared a story of her close friend. She went into preterm labor at just 20 weeks, and her doctors had devastating news. Her baby wasn't viable. However, under Arizona's draconian abortion laws, she was told she would have to wait until her baby's heart stopped or she became seriously infected before her medical team would be allowed to intervene. She was in pain and scared, scared she could suffer future infertility or even die.

This is the devastating reality of a post-Roe America, politicians deciding who can receive healthcare and when, not families and their doctors. Additionally, extremists in this Congress continue to block a vote on the Women's Health Protection Act, which would restore the Federal right to an abortion.

It is unforgivable, and Arizonans will remember in November.

□ 1930

THE WASHINGTON TIMES COURAGEOUSLY STANDS FOR TRUTH

(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, incredibly, March 22 The Washington Times lead front-page article by Ben Wolfgang was a remarkable journalistic achievement. It correctly warned of the ISIS-K terrorist attack on Russia, which gruesomely was correct that night with the murderous attack on the Moscow Crocus City Hall, killing over 140 innocent civilians.

At a time of fake news and blatantly biased reporting by mainstream media, it is refreshing to know The Washington Times courageously stands for truth.

The Washington Times President Christopher Dolan has launched the Threat Status newsletter with national security editor Guy Taylor to provide daily email updates.

The March 22 article specifically cited an imminent terrorist attack in Russia, which war criminal Putin that day should have tried to prevent instead of his obsession with mass murder of Ukrainians.

With Biden open borders and the warnings by the FBI, American families are sadly at a greater risk of attack today than ever. In the event of attacks to disrupt elections, all voting should be election day in person while accepting military absentee ballots.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Dawn Staley and the USC Gamecocks.

SOLAR ECLIPSE TOURISM IN NORTHWEST OHIO

(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, yesterday, I viewed the total solar eclipse surrounded by thousands of children, teachers, and families at Imagination Station in Toledo, Ohio.

So many traveled from near and far to witness this phenomenon together. New generations of astronauts and scientists were inspired to think about how our solar system and its qualities impact our way of life.

The science and mysteries of the cosmos, Sun, Moon, and the stars above remain new horizons for humankind.

As a lifelong resident of the Buckeye State, I know Ohio is recognized as the State of Flight and from courageous heroes like the Wright Brothers to astronauts John Glenn and Neil Armstrong.

Our State has a proud tradition of breaking barriers from soaring into flight, taking the first steps on the Moon, and launching toward the stars above.

Yesterday, a new generation of Ohioans got a chance to take in the wonders and see a phenomenon, something we will not witness again until 2044. Maybe the next John Glenn or Sally Ride was amongst us yesterday dreaming of the day they will change the course of space travel and human history.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF ISRAELI HOSTAGES HELD BY HAMAS

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

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice to the chorus of voices calling for the release of the hostages taken in Israel by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

Last week, I was in Israel, and I had the opportunity to hear from the parents of a young American who is being held hostage, Hersh Goldberg. His incredible parents, Jon and Rachel, with incredible poise and patience articulated to us what it is like to wake up for 180 days and know their son is being held hostage in a tunnel with no Red Cross access. They know he is missing an arm. They have had no medical updates, and now it has been 185 days.

Mr. Speaker, I will take this opportunity to join all freedom-loving people in the world in calling to bring them home. Let's not make it 186 or more days. The hostages need to be released. They need to be home with their families.

RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL SIXTH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the fourth annual Sixth District Congressional Art Competition.

This week, I honored the winners at a reception where we displayed not only the winning artwork, but every submission, which included pieces from Guilford, Rockingham, Caswell, and Forsyth County Schools.

I was amazed by the remarkable artistic talent of these young people from across the Triad.

First, I will recognize the honorable mentions: A piece titled ''Claire'' by Anya and ''Falling Man'' by Violet, both students from Weaver Academy.

Third place was shared by two pieces: ''Fish Light'' by C. Hayden from Penn Griffin School for the Arts in High Point, and ''Smile'' by Quincy from Weaver Academy.

In second place was ''The Beauty of Bodie Island'' by Cate from Northwest Guilford High School.

And claiming the top honor of first place is ''Spectrum'' by Kayden from Weaver Academy.

I am truly proud to represent such talented young students, and I look forward to seeing all their future artistic achievements.

INVASION ACROSS OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we haven't been in Congress for 2 weeks now, but the number one issue in the country remains what it was 2 weeks ago because the President of the United States refuses to act and that, of course, is the invasion across our southern border.

Around the time we left, we had new estimates on the number of people who have come over here. They are estimates because nobody knows exactly the number. We estimate that about 40,000 to 50,000 of the people who come across every month are what they call got-aways. Due to a shortage of people in the Border Patrol, we do not even count them or interview them or know much about them. Our estimate is that in February, we had about 220,000 people come here. That was down from December, but still about 10 times the number who came across in Donald Trump's final February of his term.

We have 10 times as many. We estimate about 9,000 to 10,000 of those are unaccompanied minors. This is a crisis that demands immediate attention from the White House and, quite frankly, a little more attention from this body. It dwarfs all the other bills we have here. I hope that Congress now deals with this issue.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what a great amount of excitement yesterday when I left downtown Houston and went to one of our community schools to engage with young Hispanic and African-American students on the eclipse that had not been seen for years and years and years.

What an enthusiastic message we were giving them that they, too, can stand for science and the solar system.

Yet, my Republican friends want to make light of some interpretation that I gave to one of the elements of this eclipse. Rather than being excited about the idea of those seeing the eclipse, Republicans again wanted to make fun. They didn't want to talk about prenatal care. They didn't want to talk about the idea of women's rights. They didn't want to talk about school student loan reduction. They wanted to talk about a Democratic Member.

Well, I am glad I was standing with these children right here—here I am—to be able to celebrate the eclipse that will not be seen until 2044. It is unfortunate that we didn't have this picture, at least, to show that someone is looking at the Sun in 2017. That is something to laugh about.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it seems that I have caused a dust-up on outrage island.

Ah yes, Republicans in search of their day-to-day quest to find something to be mad at, are obsessing with the fact that I misspoke yesterday when talking about the sun.

Well, since tomorrow we know they will be looking for something else, allow me to suggest some ideas.

Let us hear the selective outrage of their dear leader staring aimlessly with his own unshielded eyes at the last eclipse.

Or maybe, let's hear the screams of disapproval over the time he told us all we should inject ourselves with bleach during the Pandemic.

Hmmm one more for good measure, the time just a few weeks ago he thought Nikki Haley who has never served in Congress, was in control of security at the Capitol on, I believe January 6, 2021.

While you all focus on the misuse of words, I'm focused on helping kids get exposed to science and expanding the rights of women that all of you are so desperate to take away.

Want a story to write? Write about that. And write about the goodness of so many Americans.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Community College Month. Each year, community colleges help over 10 million students achieve their dreams of earning a college degree.

I am so proud that the Massachusetts Seventh is home to Bunker Hill Community College and Roxbury Community College. I am grateful for the exemplary work that they do for learners from every walk of life and circumstance. Their impact reaches far beyond the classroom. They deliver critical services to their communities, disrupt generational poverty, and strengthen our workforce.

Further, as minority-serving institutions, the students benefit from an academic ecosystem that is rooted in community and reflective of the community. They understand that education justice includes racial justice.

In Boston and throughout our country, community colleges are central to making higher education accessible for all and Congress must invest in them like the public good that they are.

That is why I was proud to secure Federal funding for Boston's Tuition-Free program to help address our college affordability crisis so students in my district can earn associate degrees and certificates at no cost. This month and every month community colleges are worth the investment.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF MURDERED NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER JONATHAN DILLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and honor the service of a murdered New York City Police Officer, Jonathan Diller.

I rise today also to honor his wife, Stephanie, and his 1-year-old son, Ryan. They both will spend the rest of their lives reeling from the loss of a beloved husband and father in a way that none of us can fully understand.

Jonathan Diller's death is a national tragedy. It is an indescribable loss not only for his family, for Long Island, for the great State of New York, but for the United States of America and law enforcement in every corner of this globe.

Horrifically, Officer Diller's death is not the only death endured by the NYPD in recent memory.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as well to honor the lives and service of Anastasios Tsakos, Jason Rivera, Wilbert Mora, Adeed Fayaz. We pray for these slain NYPD heroes and their families, and we remind those retired

and those serving here in the House of Representatives that we will always stand with the men and women of law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor as well, the some 374 officers slain in the line of duty since President Biden began to steadily chip away at law and order in this country since 2021.

President Biden and allied politicians in Governor's mansions, District Attorneys' offices, and right here in the House of Representatives may pay lipservice to these officers and their families, but their votes, their rhetoric, their spewing of hatred tell a very different story.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason why Governor Hochul's presence was universally rebuked by those, including myself, in attendance at now Detective First Grade Diller's wake. The reason, Mr. Speaker, Governor Hochul and far-left lawmakers have at every single turn prioritized equity over the lives of men and women who wear the uniform.

They have pursued disastrous, procriminal policies when they could have and should have pursued public safety. As a result, brave public servants and innocent Americans are paying the price in blood, and we have, thankfully, across this country many organizations who support men and women in blue in some of our worst times.

Some of them are here with us today. I will thank Project Thank Cop for being here and always supporting men and women in blue.

Public safety is not rocket science. When we witness record assaults and attacks against law enforcement officers, we begin to look at those in power in these places and wonder why are they choosing to allow this to happen.

When Americans and New Yorkers watch videos of illegal migrants brutally beating NYPD officers in Times Square, we begin to look at those in power and wonder why they choose to allow these people to be here in the first place.

Just minutes ago, the New York Post issued another article. It is titled: ''Migrant repeat offenders viciously attack cops during bust for ransacking NYC Target.''

Whether it is cashless bail or open borders, the common denominator among these stories is radical progressive policy and the American people know, see, and suffer this reality.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—not all of them, but some of them—are no doubt aware that the animal who shot Officer Diller had 21 prior arrests. He had 21 prior arrests for charges ranging from drug convictions to assault to hate crimes.

When someone like Detective Diller's killer can commit heinous acts of violence, be apprehended, and then let out on the street the same day, we have a problem. Mr. Speaker, that problem lies not with the police, not with the men and women of law enforcement, not with the men and women who put on that shield and that gun belt every day. Mr. Speaker, it lies with elected officials who have no regard for public safety.

Time and time again, those elected officials have chosen to preserve this revolving door of criminality through their explicit embrace of policies like cashless bail and open borders.

The American people know that it does not need to be this way and that it was not this way until very recently when those in power changed course. Mr. Speaker, nightmares like those of Officer Diller will continue to occupy our headlines and our hearts.

You are going to hear from other Members from the great State of New York tonight. In New York, not only is our Governor a Democrat, but the State legislature is also run by Democrats. Not only are they saying that cashless bail is working and that criminal justice reform is working, but they are doubling down and saying that it is better for the city and the State of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I plead with my colleagues in all branches of government to come to their senses. I humbly ask that they listen to law enforcement experts. Give them the tools they need. Do not take the handcuffs from officers' gun belts that are meant to be used on criminals and use them on them. Let them do their jobs.

I ask that they change course, that they understand in their reckless pursuit of equity and social justice, they are hurting those trying to protect us. In my years as an NYPD detective, I saw enough death and suffering. We don't need to see more.

Mr. Speaker, that morning just a week ago, when Stephanie Diller gave the eulogy for her hero husband, she mentioned the funerals of Police Officers Mora and Rivera and referenced the speakers who said that we needed change.

To those elected officials who were in that church in Massapequa, and of course the thousands upon thousands in the streets and the thousands listening at home, she asked a simple question: What has changed? In places like New York that are run by Democrats, the answer is nothing. Nothing has changed in our pursuit of justice.

The only thing that has changed is people's lives have become more dangerous, and our streets have become more dangerous. We don't need to see more death and suffering. We don't need to see more nightmares like Detective First Grade Diller.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO for his service and for highlighting the dangers that our law enforcement face each and every day.

As a Representative from New York City, it breaks my heart to see that we are losing police officers year after year, not just to retirements and then those who are fleeing our State, but those who are being murdered by criminals who should not be on our streets.

We talked about how 374 police officers have been killed in the line of duty since Joe Biden became President in 2021. That includes five of our brave NYPD: Detective Tsakos, Detective Rivera, Detective Mora, and Officer Fayaz, and the latest being Jonathan Diller. We must listen to the words and the pleas of their widows, of their parents, of their family members, of their fellow law enforcement officers who are saying that this is preventable.

If we see that our police officers are not safe in cities like ours, how can the public be safe?

It is truly tragic because we know it is preventable, and there are a certain number of laws that the State legislature in New York has put in place that have caused this crisis. The individuals who were responsible for the death of Officer Diller were career criminals.

Guy Rivera, who was the one who pulled the trigger, had 21 prior arrests, and he was still on our streets. He was most recently released from a 5-year prison stint for a drug conviction, and then he went off to parole in 2022. He was on the streets because of a new law that the legislature passed called the Less is More Act. He had parole violations, but he wasn't in jail, and that is because of the actions of our Governor and the State legislature.

His partner, the other perp, was arrested at least 14 times for things like robbery, assault, and even attempted murder in 2001. He was sentenced to a decade behind bars, but guess what? He is back on the street. In April, he was caught with a loaded illegal gun. The DA sought bail. The judge agreed on bail, but not to monitoring, so he made the bail and was released back onto our streets again.

It is so tragic to see that these laws put in place by our legislature have caused the deaths of these police officers. New Yorkers are being hurt each and every day by people who have not a dozen, not two dozen, not three dozen, but sometimes even four dozen prior arrests. They are still on the streets because of the revolving door.

We just heard of another cop who was hospitalized last week after being attacked by six migrants at a Target on the Upper East Side. Once again, lawlessness is taking over the streets of New York City.

What you are seeing taking place is a combination of the Federal policies of this President, open border policies, the policies of our left-leaning State legislature with bail reform, Raise the Age, as well as the Less is More Act, and couple it with the city policy that handcuffs the NYPD and doesn't allow for any cooperation for individuals who are committing crimes to be deported or at least detained.

If ICE makes a detainer request for these individuals, which they have, the

city won't comply. They will just release them back on the street so they can continue wreaking havoc in our city, in our country. That is wrong. It is not going to stop, and we are not going to bring public safety to the streets of this city or this country, unless we change these policies.

The left-leaning Democrats who continue to vote for these policies, support these policies, refuse to repeal or even adjust or fix these policies, we are speaking to them tonight. We are echoing what the widows, the children, the parents, the family members, and the community where these police officers are and the millions of crime victims we are seeing across our country reside.

They want action, and they want it now. We must continue to fight for it. We won't stop until we get cooperation from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN), my good friend.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to address the tragic murder of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller, whose life was senselessly taken while serving his community.

This heinous act of violence not only took the life of a dedicated officer, but it also serves as a stark reminder of the dangers our law enforcement officers face every day.

Guy Rivera and Lindy Jones, the perpetrators of this despicable crime, are no strangers to the criminal justice system. With extensive criminal histories, including prior arrests for violent offenses, Rivera and Jones epitomize the threat posed by repeat offenders who continue to roam our streets despite arrest after arrest.

Officer Diller's death clearly exposes the threat that soft-on-crime policies in Democrat-led cities have brought to communities across the country. These atrocities have enabled individuals, like Rivera and Jones, to evade accountability and continue to live freely while law-abiding citizens and our brave men and women in law enforcement pay the price.

As we mourn the loss of Officer Diller, we must also demand action and policies to restore accountability in our criminal justice system to support crime victims and prioritize the safety of our communities and our law enforcement officers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for meaningful change to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS), my good friend.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues from New York, particularly a veteran of the New York Police Department, Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Before serving in this august body, he served his neighbors and helped keep them safe. He speaks out of passion and experience on this critical topic.

This is a time of soul-crushing grief for the Diller family. I can't feel what they feel, but I can say this: They are not alone.

Across America, people are standing up, and they are saying that this senseless violence has to stop. It cannot go on.

When New York City and Albany turned their backs, letting someone with 21 prior arrests back on the street, Massapequa Park was left to pick up the pieces, left to ask questions like: How many crimes does someone have to commit and how many people does someone have to threaten to kill before you make sure they don't have the opportunity to do more damage?

They want to know why, time and again, dangerous, violent criminals who public servants have the responsibility to remove from society are instead free to victimize more innocent people like Officer Diller. They want to know why they have to suffer while career criminals so often avoid real consequences.

There is so much more that we must do at the policy level to prevent more tragedies like these from occurring, to prevent career criminals from destroying families like this one.

Radical policies like no-cash bail cannot continue. Willful ignorance from elected officials cannot continue. Preventable killings like this one simply cannot continue.

We cannot stop working until we reach the day when our Nation's police officers and their families—in fact, when all decent, law-abiding folks who are just trying to get along and do the right things are able to trust that their elected officials here and at the local level truly have their backs. May that day come soon.

Stephanie and little Ryan, my heart breaks for you. America lost a hero, but you lost a husband and a father whose selfless dedication and service will not be forgotten.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW), my good friend.

□ 2000

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost Jonathan Diller is an American hero, a hero whose wife will now have to grow old without a husband who she loved so much, a hero whose 1-year-old son will grow up without a dad.

Yet, what makes this tragedy so gut-wrenching, so horrible, so foul is the fact that it was 100 percent avoidable. It did not have to happen.

What kind of society are we when we let individuals who have been arrested 14 times, 20 times, or more times than even that, back out to roam the streets and hurt our good American citizens?

What kind of a society are we when we prioritize identity politics over the safety of the American public and our law enforcement officers?

This is a dangerous pattern that we see in New York, but it is all across the country. The left continues to vilify our law enforcement. The left continues to undermine or outright ignore the laws meant to protect our American citizens. The left continues to push weak-on-crime laws and elect weak-on-crime district attorneys, and that is where the blame goes.

This isn't a matter of policy differences; this is a matter of good versus evil, right versus wrong, law and order versus criminality and chaos.

Of course, Jonathan Diller, an American hero serving his community, it cost him his life. How many times must we lose good Americans before people wake up and realize that we need to stand up for our law enforcement officers?

How many families must suffer the loss of a loved one before we continue to say enough is enough, that this is it, we have had it?

This is the time. This is the place. It has to be more than words. It has to be more than resolutions. It has to be in change.

We need to make that change now. We cannot allow brave men like Jonathan Diller to die in the future.

Our police already have one of the hardest jobs that anyone could imagine. We cannot make their whole lives harder by defunding them. We cannot make their lives harder by demeaning them. We cannot make their lives harder by demonizing them. We cannot make their lives harder by allowing career criminals to stay out of jail over and over and over again.

We are a nation of laws, and we owe a tremendous debt to those men and women who enforce those laws. We owe it to them. We owe it to them to pass laws that ensure that they are properly funded and to enforce laws that keep the bad guys off the streets.

I thank Officer Diller. I thank him for his brave service, and I am praying—we all are; America is praying—for his family.

As I said before, that is not enough. We must make the change.

I thank my friend, Congressman ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO for bringing us all together today. I thank him for his good work.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), my friend.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my good friend from New York, and I thank him for his service as a law enforcement officer before coming to Congress.

Most importantly, I stand here today in support of our law enforcement officers who are currently wearing the uniform. We have similar problems in California as New York does.

These brave men and women wake up every morning and think about the sobering and very realistic thought that today may actually be the last day of their life. Despite having that realization every morning, the realization that they may have to deal with someone who will literally try to kill them,

they still get up, they still put on the uniform, and they proudly serve our communities.

They do it despite the radical policies like defunding the police, despite the lunatics dressed in suits disguised as DAs like our own district attorney in Los Angeles County who goes by the name of George Gascon.

Gascon, instead of being the DA is more like a defense attorney rather than a district attorney. He is more like the Penguin of Gotham City who enables the death of his constituents and puts our sheriffs' and LAPD officers' lives at risk every day. He helps the bad guys instead of protecting the innocent, instead of allowing the police to do their job. He allows for early release of felons, downgraded or no charges at all for serious offenses—most of them felonies—and zero-cash bail policies instead of supporting law enforcement and law-abiding citizens.

The brave peacemakers in blue wake up every morning and serve, despite the fact that they are working double overtime because our county supervisors and our mayors aren't hiring enough new cadets into the academies.

They get up and put their lives on the line on a daily basis despite their own elected officials who are supposed to represent them at all levels of government not supporting them.

They also suffer disproportionately high divorce rates, and unfortunately, astronomical suicide rates. In my district alone, we saw four law enforcement officers commit suicide in just 1 week.

But to the 708,000 police officers, please know this: The good guys have your back. As a former combat Naval aviator and the son of an LAPD officer, I know the dangers that are faced on a daily basis, and I appreciate their courage and their sacrifice and that of their families. Their families face fear on a daily basis, the reality that some of them may not come home at night because evil still does exist on our streets. We are eternally grateful to them, and most people in our communities are.

Each year more than 100 cops give their lives in our defense. Last year, 136 cops were killed in the line of duty.

Someone doesn't need to become a cop, or someone doesn't want to become a cop. They don't do it for the money. They don't do it for the benefits. They do it because they want to serve, they want to protect, and they want to do what is right and what is noble.

There is no greater form of love than being willing to give your own life in defense of another human being, and for many of us that is true for our kids, that is true for our spouses or close friends. We would die for them.

But the amazing thing about law enforcement officers is that they wake up every morning willing to give up their lives in defense of complete strangers. That is extremely powerful, and that should be very humbling to the rest of us.

The least we can do as elected officials at all levels of government is to give our law enforcement officers every dollar of funding and every policy tool to make sure that they come home at night and that the bad guys go to prison. We should never bend the knee. Never bend the knee to an organization or human being that supports defunding or jeopardizing the lives of our police officers.

I urge leadership in this body, the House of Representatives, to bring my bill, the Sergeant Steve Owen bill to the floor for a vote.

Sergeant Steve Owen, who is pictured here, was a brave sheriff who was brutally executed in broad daylight in the Antelope Valley, just like Deputy Ryan Clinkunbroomer, who is also pictured here, was shot in the head while sitting in his patrol car in the afternoon in the Antelope Valley.

The Sergeant Steve Owen bill would make the intentional killing of a cop a Federal felony with a punishment no less than the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. This should be the law of the land in all 50 States, and, Mr. Speaker, we should all agree that it is a reasonable law. This is a reasonable punishment for such evil.

May God look over our peacemakers. I thank my colleague from New York for putting this Special Order on. May the lawmakers and the district attorneys, the elected officials, do their jobs and take care of those who provide our communities with our security blankets on a daily basis.

God bless our law enforcement officers. God bless this country.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN).

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and former NYPD Detective ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO for holding this Special Order today to honor the life and the memory of New York City Police Officer Jonathan Diller.

On March 25, 2024, during a routine traffic stop in Queens, New York, Officer Diller was shot by man with 21 prior arrests who was released on parole just 3 years ago.

The fact that this killer was able to be released on parole should be a shock to anyone and is unfortunately endemic to the soft-on-crime policies that extreme Democrats are pushing across the country.

This tragedy was entirely avoidable, and we as leaders must act to ensure that it does not happen again.

I rise today to honor a young man who was a credit to his community and to his profession. During his 3 years in the NYPD, Officer Diller was recognized three times for excellent police duty. He was respected in his community and deeply loved, as seen in the tremendous outpouring of support during his funeral and wake services last week.

Let us remember the sacrifices that he made and the lives he touched. We in this Chamber need to make clear our complete support for the brave men and women who proudly wear the badge, risking their lives to keep our communities safe.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Jonathan's wife, family, and the NYPD community. To those members of law enforcement and first responders in New York, in New Jersey, and across our country, stay safe and know that we are with you.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), someone who throughout his career in public service has always supported law enforcement, whether as a State legislator or as a county executive.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, not only for today's Special Order but for a lifetime of service and sacrifice on behalf of the people of the city of New York and his own community. He knows firsthand the sacrifice that men and women in law enforcement make every day, and by the way, by extension the sacrifice their families have to offer in that service.

Today, I certainly rise in support and recognition and extend my love and prayers to the family of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller. We heard some powerful words from his widow reminding us how absolutely important it is that we establish policy that protects men and women in law enforcement in the State of New York but also across the country. Too many are passing policies that make the job of law enforcement that much more dangerous, undermining the ability to provide for public safety.

We have to remember that Jonathan Diller was killed senselessly by a man who had previously been arrested 21 times—21 times in the State of New York—21 times.

I want to speak specifically to New York State's cashless bail policy and some of the laws that have come out of Albany, New York, that have made law enforcement that much more difficult, and sadly, have made this particular tragedy—the loss of Officer Diller—a sad story that gets told and retold across New York.

Since the establishment of cashless bail in New York, New York State's criminal justice system has acted as a revolving door for repeat offenders. What New York has done is instead of taking the smart way of ensuring judicial discretion, the ability to evaluate risk, and by the way, giving local law enforcement the ability to intervene with the appropriate tools to de-escalate and to end recidivism, New York threw that all out.

The State of New York instead established a policy that emboldens criminals.

Now, the response from leaders in Albany, New York, and some across the country is that crime is on the decline. They point to arrest statistics as a suggestion that somehow crime is going down.

In places like New York arrests aren't being made. Why? Because small business owners on Main Streets across the State, in neighborhoods in New York City, they know not to even bother calling in many cases because the law enforcement community is unable to respond to even the simplest of crimes, and because of that they consistently see the escalation of crime. Those who are committing lower level offenses sooner or later are committing higher level offenses and maybe even taking the life of a law enforcement official, and then it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, 21 times that person was arrested and released before killing Officer Diller. Mr. Speaker, 21 times this criminal justice system had the ability in the State of New York—if it only had the backing of policymakers—had the ability to intervene and to protect Officer Diller and the 20-plus victims that came before him.

□ 2015

Officer Diller's death is just one more example of how incomprehensible the decision to eliminate cash bail throughout New York has made our State, my State, a community that I have served since 1994, as a whole more dangerous for men and women, small business owners, and families. We know it.

For the State of the Union, I brought two upstate county sheriffs. They know firsthand how crime has continued to rise and violence continues to escalate.

Because of decisions out of Albany, New York, the Governor, State legislators, Democrats empowered one-party rule in my State, New York is more dangerous, and the ability to provide for public safety, that much more difficult.

Under current law, instead of receiving the innovative services and programs which help to discourage recidivism and empower law enforcement officials to intervene at the right moment, instead of doing that, those apprehended due to criminal activity are free to re-offend; because of it, they are back out on the streets within moments, if not immediately, creating more victims, creating more crimes, undermining community safety—by the way, even putting their own ability to find their way to a life free of crime, putting that at risk.

Now, while touted as progressive, New York's State bail reform is anything but. New York State's cashless bail is not progressive. It is cruel, and it is dangerous, and it has put the lives of too many New Yorkers, including the life of Jonathan Diller, at risk.

The first rule of policymaking is to do no harm, and cashless bail in the State of New York has only produced harm.

Albany's bail reform experiment has failed. Yet, the politicians in the State of New York continue to avoid the necessary question to revisit this disaster of a policy.

It is time that lawmakers in Washington and lawmakers in State capitals across this country, like in Albany, prioritize public safety, prioritize supporting law enforcement, and end senseless tragedies.

Prior to coming to Congress, I spent 12 years as a county executive where we focused on intervention, prevention, and diversion tools, giving law enforcement the capacity to make communities safer. New York State threw it all out, and with it, has made our communities less safe and the work of law enforcement more dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing our deepest sympathy and extending our love to the family of Officer Diller, but also to the men and women of law enforcement across New York and across America and their families. May they come home to families that love them and ultimately communities and governments that support them.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, we have heard this evening from Members of this body from throughout the country that we are faced with a problem, and the problem is that in far too many places, in far too many progressive Democrat cities and States, we have chosen to put criminals ahead of law-abiding citizens.

Throughout the last couple of weeks, many of us who support law enforcement and support the repeal of cashless bail, have heard the naysayers talking about gun violence and that Republicans should focus more on banning certain types of weapons.

I would point out that in a place like New York, we have on the books some of the strictest gun laws in the country. I myself have taken hundreds of guns off the street as a New York City detective, and I will tell you that there was one thing in common with those hundreds of arrests for firearms: Never once was I presented with a license to carry it.

You see, the guns being used to kill people throughout this country are illegal firearms, illegal handguns.

Just weeks ago, the Committee on House Administration held a hearing to discuss the violence here in the Nation's Capital. We, again, from the other side of the aisle were poised with the question: Well, what about banning certain types of guns?

We heard from law enforcement professionals with almost 80 years of combined service, and they gave us the facts. They said of the hundreds of guns recovered, over 90 percent of them were illegal handguns.

You see no signs in cities that say a no handgun zone. That is not going to solve the problem. Banning certain types of weapons, those aren't the weapons that are killing people. Those are not the weapons that killed the brave hero and detective from New York City.

What we need is to have district attorneys actually enforce the law, actually live up to the oath that they took to be the highest ranking law enforcement officer in their jurisdiction, not someone like in New York City and Manhattan, where we have a rogue DA by the name of Alvin Bragg, who even before he took his oath of office, he thought that it was his job not to enforce the laws, but in New York apparently rewrite the penal code, and only enforced those laws that he deemed necessary. Well, we see where that ended up.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from across this country who joined with me here this evening to salute Detective First Grade Jonathan Diller.

Mr. Speaker, when I took the oath to become a member of the NYPD, I raised my right hand and I swore to protect and serve but I also made a promise, and that is the same promise that law enforcement officers make throughout this country when they take their oath, and that is to never, ever, ever forget our fallen brothers and sisters.

For those on the other side of the aisle in State houses throughout this country and in this Chamber, and our colleagues on the other side of the House who think that the failed progressive policies that they have put in place are actually working, I ask them to do one thing.

I remember the night when Officers Ramos and Liu were shot and killed in Brooklyn, New York, and I heard the radio transmissions. I have listened to the radio transmission of Officer Diller and his partner just weeks ago when they were at what they thought was just a routine car stop. When you hear Officer Diller yell into the radio that he had been shot, I ask my colleagues who think that these failed policies aren't putting people in danger, sit down and listen to those blood-curdling radio transmissions.

Mr. Speaker, in just a few weeks from now, there will be thousands, tens of thousands of law enforcement agencies from throughout this country here. They will make their way to Capitol Hill. Just the other day they began to engrave the names of fallen officers from throughout this Nation on our Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. We will gather. We will gather on the lawn for the vigil, and we will commemorate and pay homage to every single member of law enforcement who died in the line of duty.

On the statue at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, there is a beautiful statue of a lion, and underneath that lion is a simple quote. It says: ''It is not how these officers died that make them heroes, it is how they lived.''

Mr. Speaker, it is not how Detective First Grade Jonathan Diller died that made him a hero, it is also how he lived. He was a loving father, a giving husband, someone who surrounded himself with friends who wanted to be near him because he made them laugh. He made them feel special.

Even with just a few years on the job, he went out into some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city of New York and did real police work. He was willing to stop those cars to take those illegal guns off the street, even when he knew that district attorneys wouldn't do their best to prosecute. He went out there and did God's work. He did the work that he took the oath and swore that he would do.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my colleagues for sharing this hour not only with me, but with the family of Detective Diller, with members of law enforcement throughout this country, and with the NYPD. Every night I pray for the mayor of the city of New York, Mayor Adams; our police commissioner, Ed Caban; the hierarchy of the NYPD; and the rank and file, the men and women who go out there each and every day to do that great work.

You see, the men and women that we have honored tonight, it is not how they died that make them heroes, it is how they lived.

I thank all law enforcement officers throughout this country, whether it is right here in this beautiful Capitol building and the Capitol Police that protect us each and every day, to the counties, the cities, the villages, the States, from sea to shining sea. Stay safe. And realize that in a country where each and every night we watch the news and it seems like in our social media streams that all elected officials are fighting against the good work of law enforcement, there are good people that are praying for them, that are rooting for them, that are making sure that they have the resources each and every day to do the job that they need to do.

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

CRISIS IN HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor the CBC Special Order hour, along with my distinguished colleagues, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON and STACEY PLASKETT.

For the next 60 minutes, Members of the CBC have an opportunity to discuss the crisis of Haiti, an issue of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this day to help shed light on an escalating crisis 700 miles from the shores of Florida. That crisis is in the island nation of Haiti.

I thank my colleagues for anchoring this evening's Special Order hour as part of our mission in the Congressional Black Caucus: Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, your leadership is tremendous, and, of course, my colleague, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the Haitian people are experiencing some of the most horrific times in modern-day civil society. Their democracy has been suspended and there is no viable governance. Anarchy is poised to take root, and there is no protection for the people.

This is a humanitarian crisis that has reached unprecedented levels with widespread food insecurity, hunger, and undeterred gang violence, filling the void and terrorizing the nation.

□ 2030

According to the U.N., 4 million people in Haiti face acute food insecurity and 1 million are one step away from famine. Imagine the population of Los Angeles, subject to severe food insecurity and violence that has led to a spike in starvation, with goods unable to move freely while people are forced to remain in their homes out of fear for their lives.

Haiti is a mere 700 miles from our shores, yet in many ways, Haiti has been forgotten. It is urgent, crucial, that we pay attention.

American lore and ethos paint the United States as a Nation of immigrants, but our Nation has historically welcomed mostly immigrants of European origin, like Donald Trump, who once asked: Why are we having all these people from ''S-hole'' countries come here?

Some of the wealthiest people in the world, who despite being immigrants themselves, continue to push insane conspiracies, completely devoid of compassion, logic, and reason. They repeatedly use the rhetoric of the white supremacist great replacement conspiracy theory, focus efforts on the erasure of Black immigrants' contributions to our Nation from our history, and hoping that a whitewashed or real replacement theory of disinformation will endure.

Their racial cruelty and inhumanity have only enabled maltreatment of Black immigrants as temporary workers or, worse, as criminals, rather than as legal, permanent residents and asylum-seekers, as political pawns rather than people in need.

They describe Haitians as invaders. Desperate families seeking refuge, clinging to life and their fleeting tenuous futures are not invaders. Such rhetoric reflects an ongoing 21st century vicious quest for racial hierarchy in immigration policy that deters and blocks Black refugees and immigrants from entering the United States.

It is urgent that we pay attention, because the Black African descendant diaspora has always been the reservoir to Black communities and Black families in the United States, from Malcolm X, whose mother was from the island nation of Grenada, to Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, whose father is Jamaican, just like mine.

As we continue to bear witness to the hell unfolding on a small nation a mere 700 miles off our coast, we can never forget that Black history is American history.

In closing, I implore my colleagues and the administration to come together for our Haitian sisters and brothers. My co-chairs from the Haiti Caucus and I will continue to push this administration to extend TPS for Haiti and a pause in deportations.

The whole country is unstable and dangerous. There is no excuse to send anyone anywhere in Haiti. Let me repeat: There is no excuse to send anyone anywhere in Haiti. We cannot give credence to those who would have us give in to fear, forsaking our American values for reasons beyond logic and comprehension. We cannot forsake our American values for reasons beyond comprehension or give credence to those who would have us give in to fear.

Our Nation rises to its greatest heights when we are guided by our hearts and compassion and moral obligations to our neighbors in need.

I, again, thank my colleagues for spending this time tonight.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE for her statements.

I also recognize that Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE has submitted her comments for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, as well as her co-chair, Congressman JONATHAN JACKSON, who have led this Special Order hour for some time now, bringing to America, as well as to other Members of Congress, the issues that are important to the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of the Congress.

It is these Special Order hours which really allow our colleagues and others to understand those issues which may not get the kind of attention through the media or even in our hearings that they deserve. I thank them for spending this time to allow us to talk about a festering crisis that is directly at our border, that Congress has not engaged in sufficiently to ensure that democracy continues to reign in this near neighbor of ours.

The time for dawdling, procrastination, pointless disputes, reviews, and continual talking has long expired. Haiti cannot wait.

Haiti is a nation that has endured a tremendous amount of misfortune. Although it holds the distinction of being the first republic of people of African descent and one of the oldest nations in the Americas, second only to the United States of America, Haiti faces a significant and ongoing humanitarian and political crisis.

The world has witnessed the Republic of Haiti face a profound political, security, and humanitarian crisis as the nation continues to be overwhelmed now by gangs that systematically endanger its democratic process. During this period, the U.S. has condemned the violence, imposed sanctions on gang leaders, and called to hasten the transition to elections.

That is not enough. While observing Haiti's plight—the sustained, consistent misfortune, lack of access to resources, abject poverty, and rampant corruption—one might wonder: What is the root cause of these issues? I know I have. I know others have. They have said: Why are they in this situation?

In understanding Haiti's disadvantaged state, we must acknowledge the ways in which the nation and its resources have, in fact, been exploited for many years.

In the early 1800s, Haiti was forced to pay huge reparations to France in exchange for independence, which they had won fairly. They have paid to the tune of $21 billion to France, a debt that took over a century to pay off, payment for freedom.

Can we as Americans imagine paying England for the right to be independent, for winning a revolution?

But France required it, and we, the United States, forced that payment on Haiti, a debt that took over a century to pay, paid to a European superpower that had colonized and enslaved them in order to profit from their labor and the resources of the land. Like many European nations, the wealth and ease of living enjoyed by the French today were built at the expense of Haiti, the Haitian people, and many other colonized areas, affecting many generations.

The continuous and often gross exploitation that organically accompanied colonial rule in places like Haiti, along with the results that followed, is something that is often ignored. We want to forget that that happened. We want to just look at the state that they are in now and not think about what brought them there, how we may have led to that exploitation as well. It is rarely acknowledged and almost never remediated. The nation of Haiti, with its past, current, and ongoing dilemmas, is a testament to the tragedy of this reality.

How could a nation, entrenched in billions of dollars of debt over multiple generations, even begin to establish the necessary infrastructure and societal structure needed to build a semblance of normalcy and make significant progress towards economic growth and prosperity?

The severity of the situation has far surpassed the usefulness of words.

We, in the United States, must assist. We are operating on borrowed time, with Russia having already set its sights on expanding its reach from the African Continent closer to our shores. Intent on capitalizing on Haiti's political instability, the Wagner Group has sought to offer the Haitian Government military strength to combat the gangs. If the United States does not take immediate action, our foreign adversaries, not limited to Russia and China, may be 700 miles from our shores. That is how close Haiti is, as you have heard from Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, to the United States.

This continued marginalization has negatively impacted the entire region—in this case, Haiti—and threatened to derail U.S. security and economic interests in the Western Hemisphere. The fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act included an amendment that directed the Department of Defense to assess the standing U.S. military force posture in the Caribbean, given U.S. national and regional security interests, and to thwart our foreign adversaries, Russia and China.

Those adversaries have set their sights on expanding their reach in the region of the Caribbean and Latin America. The continued expansion of Russian and Chinese influence threatens our national security, our prosperity, and our democratic values.

China's economic investments and financial assistance target vulnerable countries in the Caribbean and carry collateral conditions, including diplomatic expectations.

Through their Belt and Road Initiative, BRI, China has entrenched its presence by signing agreements with countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Guyana, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and others. These investments span vast infrastructure projects including the development of major ports, highways, and energy sectors.

For example, recently, the Dominican Republic received a $600 million loan to expand the country's electric grid, along with a $3.1 billion package of investments. Do we not think that China will not use this as leverage while these projects bolster economic growth and infrastructure development? They also raise concerns about the leverage and strategic advantages the investments have.

What will happen to Haiti?

Haiti is in a position where they need financial support. We in the United States have got to pass the Caribbean Trade Resolution. The resolution recognizes the importance of enhanced trade and investment in the Caribbean. We are also working on strengthening existing trade relationships, like the Caribbean Basin Initiative or the sponsorship of HOPE for Haitian Prosperity Act of 2023, to signal our long-term commitment to Haiti.

As a member of the New Democratic Coalition, I join my colleagues in calling for renewal and enhancement of the Generalized System of Preferences, in which numerous Caribbean nations participate. In strengthening our economic partnership, the support of these nations is vital not only to their economic growth but to our national security.

As the United States' third border, the Caribbean's economic stagnation directly impacts U.S. security and stability.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caribbean Caucus, I am acutely aware that the economic and political challenges facing our neighbors are complex and as such require collaborative and sustained efforts from policymakers, industry experts, financial institutions, and civil society.

□ 2045

We must have U.S. leadership in the region. Neighboring nations will continue to look elsewhere for support.

Venezuela is another country that they are looking to. My colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus agree that Haiti is at an inflection point and that we need to act decisively by approving the State Department's request for $40 million in funding for the Multinational Security Support Mission to Haiti.

For over 6 months, this Congress has held those funds. Congressional Republicans have refused to deliver the necessary resources to carry out this mission, even as the situation on the ground has deteriorated.

The instability in Haiti is not only a humanitarian crisis but a threat to our national security. We believe that the Multinational Security Support Mission would advance the national security interests not just of Haiti but of the United States. It would demonstrate American leadership in the Caribbean and provide a lifeline to the Haitian people.

Depending in large part on what Congress does or does not do next, the situation could start to improve or, by contrast, devolve into chaos and even civil war. If we act decisively, then Haiti has a fighting chance. If we dither and delay, then we are likely to watch as the Haitian National Police collapses, violent gangs overrun the country, and irregular immigration to the United States and other countries surges.

We recognize that, of course, there is a right and responsibility to be careful to scrutinize the funds to ensure the State Department has explained, but we believe that the burden of persuasion has been met and that it is time to release the remaining funds.

We regard American leadership as indispensable in this area. What is happening in Haiti is a test of American

mettle, and we must pass this test. Our hands-off and apathetic approach to Haiti is an affront to our values. This is a country that helped us during our Revolutionary War. Haitian men came and fought alongside our American soldiers in the American Revolution. When they sought their own revolution, what did we do at the end but require them to pay our ally France?

Our support of Haiti must be clear. We must support our democratic neighbor to the south.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support all measures that would advance stability in this nation and ensure that the people of Haiti can, in fact, prosper.

I thank Congresswoman CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK for the opportunity to speak. I know that this is an issue that is very dear to her not only because of her own familial ties to Haiti but so many of her constituents as well in Florida are crying out for support for their families and friends who remain there. They are Americans trying to ensure that their brothers and sisters, their family members, can, in fact, prosper. I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this issue.

I thank the Congressional Black Caucus for doing all that they can do. Of course, my sister from another mister, YVETTE CLARKE of Brooklyn, I thank her for always being there in the fight, as well.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT. Again, I thank our Congresswoman from New York, YVETTE CLARKE, for working tirelessly with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable STACEY PLASKETT for her leadership, and I thank my colleague, the Honorable SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, for yielding.

Much of the world today has their attention focused on Gaza, and it seems as if Haiti has been ignored. Mr. Speaker, when you consider the long and difficult journey of the Haitian people from bondage to freedom and all that has been done to destabilize and punish Haitian independence, I say to you that Haiti cannot be ignored.

It would be easy to blame the Haitian people for the overwhelming violence being committed on the streets of Port-au-Prince, in Jacmel, and in the countryside, but such thinking would be the result of a tragic reductionism more so intended to manipulate the facts than to teach them. What is happening in Haiti today is the result of what happens when empires and colonial powers conspire to make it economically impossible for liberated countries to flourish and survive.

To think that Haiti had to pay France the equivalent of what would be today $21 billion in 1804 after Dessalines had declared independence—King Charles X of France, a slaver and a colonial power, had the American Government, after its independence, enforce a payment to American, French, and German bankers and put a tax on the Haitian people for 150 years. Haitians did not stop paying French bankers until 1947.

Yes, a 150-year tax was put on the first freed African group of people to resist slavery and colonialism.

How is it even possible for the world to stand by and allow France to put a tax on the people of Haiti because they dared to do what Americans had done just 20 years prior to the Haitian Revolution?

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine the outcry in this country if Great Britain had required America to pay a freedom tax after the Revolutionary War to make up for lost wages and profits?

Americans would still be angry. Americans would be resentful. More importantly, Americans would still be recovering from having to dedicate most of its GDP to paying an unconscionable tax for the subsequent loans and interest needed to resolve it.

How did it happen that for 150 years the nation of Haiti was trapped in a vicious cycle of economic extortion and exploitation while the rest of the so-called civilized world acted as if making the victim pay the brutalizer was not a crime against humanity and the complete inversion of common sense?

This is what has happened to Haiti. This is the root cause and the base behind the bottomless music of chaos and violence happening in Haiti right now.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., said that violence is the language of the unheard, a point to which I shall add that criminality is the syntax and verbiage of the poor. People who have neither the means nor the opportunity to participate and benefit from the wealth of their own country will, in the end, act against the national interest because the politics of bread is unrelenting.

I stand with all of my colleagues who condemn the violence going on in Haiti because violence is never the answer. More than that, I call on all the Western powers to, once and for all, take their knees off of the neck of the Haitian economy. The world owes the Haitian people an apology and the real support Haiti has never received.

America should celebrate our longest and greatest democratic ally in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti. The Haitian Army fought with America in the American Revolution in Savannah, Georgia. We can end this violence not with soldiers but with real economic investment.

If the manifest destiny of America is to be concerned about the quality of life in our hemisphere, then the investment we make in Haiti is, in effect, an investment in the future stability of the neighborhood we live in. Charity begins at home, our Scriptures teach us. It is about time the Nation and the world support Haitians' self-determination.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Today, I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, to discuss the future of Haiti. Haiti is a country with an inspirational global history and a rich culture, but it has encountered numerous obstacles over the years, such as political turmoil and dire gang violence.

Gangs currently control 80 percent of the capital; 1.4 million Haitians are nearing famine; 362,000 people are internally displaced; and young girls are regularly victims of gender-based violence. In short, the gang violence has caused life in Haiti to be unbearable.

The Haitian people have been crying out for help, but the Republican Party has been holding up funding for the security mission to help more than 2 million people in Haiti for the last 6 months. The security mission in Haiti is critical to protecting the Haitian people and creating an environment necessary for peace, stability, democracy, and self-determination.

We are at a tipping point, and we need a solution now—no debates and no political games. Haiti cannot wait any longer for the Multinational Security Support Mission. Every single day we wait, we risk another life.

We must end this nightmare and terror facing the Haitian people. Instead of actively working toward a solution, Republicans are holding these funds to further their radical agenda.

Haiti is in our backyard. Its insecurity is a direct threat to America's security. No one wants to leave their homes; they are forced to.

Despite receiving 70 briefings since October 2023, Republicans continue to spread misinformation and are engaging in fearmongering toward Haitian migrants coming to the United States. They are refusing to propose real solutions while lives hang in the balance and our national security is under real threat.

Let me be clear. The United States supports the security of the Haitian people. I commend the Biden-Harris administration and Secretary Blinken for pledging a total of $300 million to support the MSS. The Biden-Harris administration just announced an additional $25 million in addition to humanitarian assistance for Haiti. This builds on the $33 million for humanitarian assistance Secretary of State Blinken announced last month.

Republicans must stop playing these political games with Haitian lives and release their hold on the Multinational Security Support Mission now. The longer we hold the funds, the more Haitian people die and flee to the United States.

Recently, we have seen more Governors talking about this fear of Haitian people coming to our borders, but the truth is that if we step in now and release the funding, we would have the security necessary so no one has to leave their homes.

Every day, we see more children, women, boys, and girls who are being

brutalized, kidnapped, and raped in front of their families. Rape has been used as a tool to intimidate the Haitian people.

How can we stand as Americans who call Haiti and Haitian people our allies and not come to their defense?

How can we stand in this very moment when we see Haitian lives every single day being sacrificed and being killed and do nothing?

How can we play these political games while we have so many family members who are dying?

Being the only Haitian American in Congress and the first Democrat, it breaks my heart that we are in this place, and I can see my Republican counterparts playing these games.

Every single day, I live in fear of hearing another family member has died in Haiti. Every single day, we have more than 1.2 million Haitian Americans living in the United States who are in fear that family are being murdered. Right now, we have Haitian Americans who cannot be evacuated soon enough to get out of the country.

We have elderly people who came to the United States, worked very hard, and went back to retire in their home country but cannot get out of the country and are being threatened and beaten. We see children every single day being forced into being part of a gang and have been tasked with burning bodies and actually shooting on first sight when they see people.

How can we as Americans every single day see these atrocities and do nothing? How do we live and have a conscience and come to Congress and continue to play games?

We must do what is right for the Haitian people and the American people. We must live up to our greatness and put an end to these political games and do what is right.

As the leaders of the global economy and as the leaders of the international world, let us stop playing these games and finally lead with compassion.

Our strength is in our ability to come together and service all humanitarian people, all humanity. Let us act today and stop playing these games.

For the last 6 months, we have been begging for these funds to be released. To be honest with you, Mr. Speaker, $40 million being released for this mission is nothing compared to what we have spent in other regions, so why not for a country that is right in our backyard?

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the critical crisis that is occurring in Haiti, an increasing escalating situation.

The situation in Haiti is deteriorating and the Haitian government has recently declared a state of emergency.

In the last couple of years, Haiti has seen an increase in violence, including kidnappings and sexual violence in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince which have ravished the country.

At least 80 percent of the capital is under the control of gangs.

Many Haitian citizens cannot leave their homes for fear that they will never make it back.

In 2023, there were 5,000 murders and 2,000 kidnappings and over 300,000 people have been displaced within the country while another 1.4 million Haitians are near famine.

It is truly devastating to see Haiti in such a condition considering its history of resilience and fervent fighting spirit.

For decades, Haiti has faced significant challenges, including natural disasters and environmental shocks as well as multiple political crises.

Intensified gang violence and recurring political and civil unrest since July 2018 have severely exacerbated Haiti's dire economic and humanitarian conditions: unemployment and inflation are high; the national currency is volatile; fuel shortages are recurring and severe; foreign reserves are dangerously low; more than 60 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and more than four million Haitians face crisis- or emergency-level food insecurity.

Following the catastrophic events that occurred in 2018, I introduced H.R. 6325, the Continue American Safety Act (CASA) which provided temporary protected status for certain countries, such as Haiti.

The proportion of people in Haiti facing acute food insecurity has increased significantly, from 1 in 3 people in 2018 to almost 1 in 2 people in 2022, according to the study ''Food security in Central America, Panama, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Haiti,'' published by the Inter-American Development Bank.

In addition to grappling with the COVID–l9 pandemic and an economic recession, President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated on July 7, 2021, and weeks later a 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit southern Haiti on August 14.

A nearly two-month long gang-led blockage of the nation's largest fuel terminal from late September to early November 2022 led to a nationwide fuel shortage, shutting down hospitals and water treatment facilities at the same time cholera reemerged for the first time since 2019.

While humanitarian assistance can alleviate some urgent needs, it will not, and cannot, address the root causes of the current economic and political paralysis in Haiti.

Haiti has been one of the closest, and longest-standing allies of the United States.

Haiti needs help because the stability of Haiti and its surrounding nations is interconnected. It is only through a unified voice that we will be able to experience a vibrant and successful Haiti that is a leader in the Caribbean.

I have supported legislation in the past, such as the introduction of the HOPE for Haitian Prosperity Act of 2023.

An Act that would extend trade preferences with Haiti, expand core labor standards, and provide technical assistance to the Haitian government.

It is imperative that we support Haiti and help with this ongoing crisis.

The Haiti Support Project is an initiative of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century, who recently visited with my office here on Capitol Hill.

The primary mission of the Haiti Support Project is to marshal moral, political, and material support to assist the Haitian people to develop a strong and vital democratic society and a vibrant and sustainable economy as a free and self-determining people.

Given Haiti's unique history as the first Black Republic in the western hemisphere, the Haiti Support Project seeks to build a constituency and effective base of support for Haiti in the U.S., primarily focusing on mobilizing the human and material resources of African Americans in collaboration with Haitian Americans.

Although democracy in Haiti requires a Haitian-led solution, there are many ways we can assist our Haitian brothers and sisters because public safety should be our number one priority, especially in countries outside of our own.

It is imperative that we support Haiti in its desire to transition towards free and fair elections while applying pressure to political and economic actors who are exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Haiti.

Haiti's transition to a functional democracy is important to the United States.

Strong democratic institutions, including holding regular free and fair elections, can help guarantee Haiti's democratic traditions and ensure a voice for the Haitian people in their governance.

By promoting democratic core values, such as respect for human rights, the rule of law, and economic development both in the region and around the world, we can be the prime example for country development and assistance.

Additionally, we must subvert the trade and sale of illegal guns which is a major contributor to Haiti's growing gang crisis and the current instability that plagues the country.

Haitians have long asked for safety from gang violence and they deserve help that the U.S. can provide.

Illicit arms trafficking from the United States to the Caribbean is a regional and national security threat.

In 2022, the Department of Homeland Security reported an increase in the number, caliber, and types of firearms illegally trafficked to the Caribbean.

The steady flow of illicit firearms has exacerbated crime and migration in the Caribbean.

In Haiti, illicit firearms from thejUnited States have enabled violent gangs to control over 80 percent of Port-au-Prince and have caused a dramatic increase in migration to the United States.

In the 117th Congress, I also supported the introduction of H. Res. 670, Condemning the inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants at the southern border of the United States, as they should not be mistreated for fleeing a country riddled with violence.

My colleague, Rep. SHEILA CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and others have introduced the Caribbean Arms Trafficking Causes Harm (CATCH) Act to curb U.S. Firearms Trafficking to the Caribbean.

By requiring the Coordinator for Caribbean Firearms Prosecutions to report on their implementation of anti-firearm-trafficking provisions in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, this legislation will combat firearms trafficking from the United States to the Caribbean.

We must also invest our resources in the people of Haiti by building schools, encouraging education, creating job opportunities. Education is the key that unlocks the possibilities of the future; it changes lives.

Sixty-four percent of the Haitian population is under 24 years of age.

Working to foster a culture of education in Haiti is the greatest investment we can make in eliminating poverty, boosting economic growth, strengthening democracy, and promoting prosperity.

Finally, as members of Congress, we must collaborate to unlock the $40 million in aid that the Biden administration has requested to help stabilize Haiti amid an increase in gang violence there, despite warnings that continued chaos could lead to a humanitarian crisis and drive migrants fleeing the country into the United States.

Haiti's insecurity is a threat to America's security.

It is past time for the United States to step up and come together and carry out our responsibility as the leader of the free world.

□ 2100

BRING THEM HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 186 days since the barbaric Hamas attack on October 7, in which more than 1,200 people were brutally murdered and more than 250 taken hostage. It has been 186 days, and still 133 people, including 8 Americans, are being held hostage in Gaza.

Many of the 133 are known to be dead, including 3 of the Americans. Some were murdered on October 7, and their bodies taken into Gaza. Some, known to be alive in captivity, have been murdered by their captors, like Elad Katzir, whose body was recovered just last week in Khan Yunis.

It has been 186 days, more than 6 months, and there is no indication of their medical status, no visits from the Red Cross, no word of when they might come home.

For the families, 186 unbearable days of wondering if their loved one is dead or alive, is being tortured, or is a victim of sexual violence.

Mr. Speaker, 186 days is unconscionable.

For many weeks, negotiations facilitated by the United States, Egypt, and Qatar have sought to achieve a ceasefire and bring hostages home. Israel has accepted the terms. Hamas has, to date, rejected them. The world waits for Hamas' response.

As Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted earlier today: ''It is astounding to me that the world is almost deafeningly silent when it comes to Hamas.''

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again bring urgent and necessary attention to the hostages still held in Gaza. All deserve to be named, but I will list the Americans, many of whose families are with us in the gallery here today: Edan Alexander, Sagui Dekel-Chen, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Omer Neutra, Keith Siegel, Judi Weinstein and Gad Haggai, and Itay Chen.

My heart goes out to the families and friends of those hostages who have yet to be released, who have no information about the well-being of their loved ones, whether they are alive, injured, or dead.

I refuse to let the hostages be forgotten. We must bring them home.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, with my colleagues, we stand on the House floor imploring Congress to work to save the hostages. We also honor the families of those who were killed or taken hostage on October 7.

Tonight, a number of these families present in the House gallery continue to call for our government to do all it can to bring the remaining hostages home including: Rachel Goldberg and Jon Polin, parents of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a 23-year-old Chicago native who attended the Tribe of Nova music festival on October 7.

Jonathan Dekel-Chen, father of Sagui Dekel-Chen, a 35-year-old husband and father who was 200 yards from his kibbutz when Hamas terrorists invaded the area on October 7. After sounding the alarm for his neighbors, he joined the kibbutz' security team to push back on Hamas. His mother was also taken captive but escaped when an IDF helicopter shot at the vehicle taking her away.

Ronen and Orna Neutra, parents of Omer Neutra, a 21-year-old member of the IDF who was in a tank defending the Gaza border on October 7. He grew up in New York and was living in Israel before attending university in the United States.

Adi and Yael Alexander, parents of Edan Alexander, a 19-year-old member of the IDF who was stationed near Gaza at the time of the attack.

Andrea Weinstein, sister of Judi Weinstein, who was killed on October 7. Judi, age 70, grew up in Canada but was born in New York.

Liz Hirsh Naftali, the great aunt of 3-year-old Abigail, who was kidnapped and taken alone to Gaza after her parents were murdered in front of her eyes by Hamas terrorists.

We honor the memories of those who have died, and we pray for those who are still in captivity.

I thank all my colleagues who have joined me here today as we work to make sure that we bring those hostages home.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida, (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my good friend and colleague who joined me in Israel just 2 weeks ago on a mission to understand what Israel was going through and how we can make a difference.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in calling all of us together in support of bringing all of our hostages home.

I am reminding the world that Hamas still has American hostages in its grip. We are joined tonight in the gallery by several of their family members who have spent every night for over half a year praying, mourning, hoping beyond hope for their loved ones' safe return.

Our number one job as elected officials is providing for the safety, security, and integrity of the American people. We cannot rest while a terrorist group that has murdered Americans continues to hold Americans hostage.

Nothing is more critical than what President Biden and his administration are doing every day. He is fighting tirelessly to bring Americans and the rest of the hostages home right now through a temporary cease-fire agreement.

It is unconscionable that Hamas continues to reject a hostage deal and hold over 130 hostages in Gaza. It is despicable that these sick, violent fiends refuse to allow the hostages to be reunited with their families and cling like vultures to the remains of innocent civilians they have tortured, starved, and murdered in order to use them as political leverage.

Our message to these families, our regional partners, and the American people is consistent and clear. Hamas must not succeed. The hostages must come home.

I joined my colleague from Illinois 2 weeks ago, and we both led side-by-side congressional delegations, I for women Members of Congress, where we met with the parents of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who we have met with numerous times, and many of the family members that are here tonight.

Rachel and Jon are here tonight as well, and their strength and commitment alongside all of the American families to be reunited with their loved ones is inspiring. The love of a parent knows no bounds.

Once the hostages are released, we look forward to welcoming you all back to this Chamber in celebration of your families being made whole again. Please know that I, personally and on behalf of my constituents, carry all of your loved ones in my heart each and every day.

I am proud President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have stood by Israel's side all of this time, defending the American and Israeli people and using leverage to push our allies and partners to get a deal done.

There has been a deal on the table, and that continues to be negotiated today, spearheaded by President Biden, backed by Israel, Egypt, and Qatar, that will get hostages home, aid into Gaza, and a pause in the fighting.

Hamas can end all the pain in hearts right here around us and in that region. If they had any interest in safeguarding Palestinians, this could all be over right now. Egypt, Qatar, and leaders with leverage must insist that Hamas accepts this deal. Anyone who wants to see a temporary cease-fire, the release of hostages, and a just and lasting peace must demand it of Hamas.

It has been 186 days. Our fellow Americans must come home now. Those who have been lost must be brought home and laid to rest. Until that day, we will continue to stand together, arm in arm with these families and with our ally, Israel.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my colleague. I am proud that support for Israel and the call for bringing the hostages home is something that we work together collaboratively on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, Hamas has committed countless acts of cruelty against the Israeli people since last year's unprovoked attack. Thousands lost their lives when Hamas stormed into Israel this past October to terrorize Jewish communities and brutalize their people.

Many families have mourned the loss of loved ones while others still live with the uncertainty of knowing if their family members are held in captivity.

I have had the opportunity to speak with the families of those hostages on multiple occasions, including some of those here tonight.

□ 2110

I stood shoulder to shoulder with them as they recount the terrible pain they have experienced as they nervously await news of their loved ones.

Despite the overwhelming grief these families have experienced, they continue to share their stories to shine a light on the true scale of Hamas' inhumanity.

I appreciate them for remaining in the spotlight to remind the world of the terrible atrocities committed by Hamas.

Their courage is a testament to the strength of the Israeli people and all those who have been victimized by the Hamas terrorists.

We will continue to fight for the release of all the hostages that are still held in captivity and stand with our friends in Israel in their struggle for their lasting security.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), my friend, who also traveled with us to Israel 2 weeks ago.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Representative SCHNEIDER for bringing us together to push for the release of the hostages.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 6 months since Hamas terrorists invaded Israel to carry out gruesome attacks, raping, mutilating, slaughtering civilians, and taking innocent people hostage. Here we are 6 months later and 130 hostages remain captive in Gaza.

I recently returned from a congressional delegation trip to Israel. I saw firsthand the savage and diabolical nature of the October 7 attack.

I visited Kibbutz Kfar Aza, one of the communities that was burned and pillaged. I saw the devastating destruction that resulted when Hamas went house to house killing people by throwing grenades in their homes, spraying them with bullets, and setting their homes on fire while young people were hiding inside. The deliberate cruelty was shocking, gut-wrenching, and unforgettable.

Kibbutz Kfar Aza is where Aviva and Keith Siegel were taken by Hamas. Keith Siegel is an American citizen from my home State of North Carolina. For 6 months, Keith has been held hostage by these terrorists. I think about Keith and all the hostages every single day.

Aviva spent 51 days in captivity and thankfully she was released in November. Since her release, she has spoken out about the horrifying sexual abuse and violence she saw Hamas use on the hostages. It is hard to imagine what the women still being held captive today must be experiencing.

It is hard to anticipate the condition they will be in when they are finally returned. For the young women who are being raped and tortured, I am deeply worried that they will be pregnant as a result of their rapes in captivity.

During my visit to Israel, I met with Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levy, the chair of Israel's Civil Commission on October 7 Crimes by Hamas Against Women and Families. She is working tirelessly to gather testimony and the evidence of the sexual abuse of women and families. She says the job of viewing and archiving the evidence is particularly tough on her staff.

So are the death threats they get from people who don't want to see the evidence of those horrific crimes collected for the world to see.

The accounts of sexual violence she shared can only be described as evil, carried out to inflict maximum physical, emotional, and psychological pain on women and girls.

We cannot allow the world to ignore what has happened and we cannot allow the world to forget the hostages. The world cannot be allowed to ignore the truth that Hamas has the power to end the war they started by releasing the remaining hostages.

Time and time again, Hamas has refused cease-fire deals and refused to release the hostages. It is shocking that the world is not protesting Hamas, calling out Hamas for starting this war and continuing it, hiding behind women and children, and prolonging the suffering of two peoples.

Let me be clear: Hamas must release the hostages and stop all the suffering they have caused and are continuing to cause.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, my dear friend, Representative SCHNEIDER, for his leadership and for organizing this time together for us to continue our call for every single hostage to be brought home.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES), another one of our colleagues who joined us on that trip 2 weeks ago.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to demand the immediate release and safe return of the remaining hostages in Gaza who have now spent half a year in captivity.

The words of a mother: ''I love you. Stay strong. Survive.'' This is the mental message Rachel Goldberg-Polin sends her son Hersh every single day. He is an American who is among the 130 hostages still held captive by terrorist Hamas for 186 days. The 130 hostages are not mere numbers, they are people with stories and families who love them and desperately want to see them home.

Three of these hostages are American citizens. Hersh Goldberg is a vibrant 23-year-old California native who loves soccer, traveling, and spending time with his family and friends. He fought for unity and equality in Israel as a leader of an initiative to bring Israeli and Palestinian children together through soccer.

I spoke with his mother, his parents, who are with us tonight, in Israel last month. They are in a constant state of profound trauma not knowing whether their son is dead or alive, not knowing if their son will ever come home.

All they know about their child came from survivor accounts and from watching terrorist Hamas' GoPro footage of the October 7 massacre. Hersh was last seen on October 7 with his left arm blown off by terrorist Hamas' grenades, and his body was loaded into a truck heading into Gaza at gunpoint. His last messages to his parents read: ''I love you. I am sorry.''

Despite the horrifying images, Hersh's mother, Rachel, says that hope is mandatory.

Mr. Speaker, here in Congress, hope is not enough. I join my colleagues in calling for the immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas terrorists and I urge the administration to continue to do everything in its power to help free the hostages like Hersh and ensure their safe return.

I will not allow the hostages to be forgotten. They are not a terrorist group's political pawn, and I stand with their families in calling for an immediate return.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, last week there were 19 Members of the Republican freshman class who were in Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM), one of those 19 Members.

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas committed unspeakable war crimes 186 days ago on October 7.

Since that day, we have borne witness to stories of the atrocities committed by Hamas from survivors of the attack and from hostages who have been released.

Last week, I traveled to Israel and saw the aftermath of Hamas' slaughter firsthand. While in Israel, I visited Kibbutz Nir Oz, which prior to Hamas' attack had 400 residents.

□ 2120

In that kibbutz, we walked through homes where men, women, children, and elderly were murdered or taken hostage. It is estimated that 25 percent of Nir Oz's residents were either killed or abducted and taken hostage by Hamas. Hamas showed utter disregard for human life.

I also met with Rachel Goldberg and Jon Polin, whose American-Israeli son, Hersh, was taken hostage by Hamas. Hersh remains in captivity today. I am grateful that Rachel and Jon are here tonight, along with several other families whose loved ones are being held in Gaza. I admire their strength, especially in a time of such immense hardship.

I hope they know that their loved ones are not forgotten. We must continue to call for the release of every last hostage until they have all come home.

The fastest way for this conflict to end is for Hamas to release every hostage and surrender.

It is past time to bring them all home. I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois, BRAD SCHNEIDER, for organizing tonight's Special Order. I thank him for his leadership.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS).

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, today, we stand against anti-Semitism and in solidarity with the hostages and their families. We stand together against the depravity of Hamas holding innocent men, women, and children hostage for 6 brutal months. We proclaim with one voice that the hostages must be returned immediately and unconditionally.

We stand together against the surge in anti-Jewish and anti-Israel hate crimes. We proclaim with one voice that anti-Semitism and the delegitimization of Israel have no place in our country.

My forebears in Ukraine learned through torment that hate may begin with solitary, anonymous acts of desecration, but it does not end there. Hate does not end unless we drag cowardly anti-Semitic actions into the daylight, bear witness as a community to their personal and penetrating effects, and resolve together that we are our neighbor's keeper.

I am committed to all measures that will counter the scourge of anti-Semitism and that will hasten the return of the hostages.

We must all strive for an America that is true to its ideals and an Israel that is secure and democratic, where in both countries ''all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid.''

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Illinois for scheduling this Special Order.

I rise here tonight once again to lift up the 133 hostages—innocent babies, grandparents, young women who have suffered from awful sexual abuse, and so many others—who were all brutally and illegally captured on October 7 by Hamas, a terrorist organization that has held them in treacherous conditions for 6 months.

We don't actually know how many are alive because Hamas has violated just about every single humanitarian law that exists and will not provide a basic list of those who are alive or even provide wellness checks and daily medication to the elderly. Eight of these hostages are Americans, three of whom are sadly now confirmed dead.

Three weeks ago, Itay Chen, a 19-year-old soldier in the IDF who was on the border of Gaza on October 7, was determined to have been killed on that fateful day.

Hagit and Ruby, Itay's parents, my constituents who are here tonight with several other families of hostages, have fearlessly and courageously led the families of hostages to focus our attention on the urgent need to bring them home. Ruby and the other hostage families should not have to work so hard to keep the hostages front of mind.

Since when do Americans show indifference to eight of our own held hostage by a terrorist group? Since when do international organizations and democratic countries around the world simply allow a terrorist group to hold hostages from 26 different countries captive for 6 months with deafening silence? Is it only because they are Jewish that they are viewed differently?

We all want this conflict to end. We want the violence to stop. Let me give you two simple actions that can end this conflict immediately. First, Hamas can lay down their arms and relinquish control of the Gaza Strip. Second, and most importantly, Hamas must release all the hostages, including the deceased bodies. That will end this today.

There was a permanent cease-fire on October 7 when Hamas executed the worst terrorist attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas has vowed to repeat that attack over and over again if given the opportunity.

Just imagine if after 9/11, al-Qaida controlled Mexico or Canada and vowed to continue to attack the United States from our own border again and again. Would a single person in this country have called for us to retreat and let al-Qaida remain in power next door, poised to replicate 9/11 again? Of course not.

There are many calls for some kind of cease-fire, and there is no question that some kind of cease-fire is long overdue, even though everyone seems to have a different understanding of the term.

No question Israel must do its part. The Israeli Government must increase humanitarian aid so that displaced Palestinians can get the food and medical care they need. They have been doing that much more robustly since a conversation between President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu last week. The Israeli Government must be willing to enter into a reasonable agreement to stop the violence and get the hostages out.

One requirement of any reasonable, rational cease-fire agreement must include that the innocent, tortured, illegally held hostages are released. I dare, I challenge, anyone in this building, in my district in New York City, or in any of the 435 districts around this country to publicly say that a cease-fire agreement of any kind need not include the return of the illegally abducted hostages.

Israel has no control over the hostages. Hamas does. If any reasonable cease-fire agreement necessarily includes the return of hostages—and it must—then there can be no cease-fire agreement of any kind if Hamas is not a party to that agreement. If you are calling for a cease-fire, then you must call on Hamas to release the hostages.

I say to our administration, I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, on both sides of this Capitol, I say to our allies around the world, Hamas and the countries that harbor and communicate with their leadership must feel much greater pressure to release the hostages. More and more are dying every day. We must bring them home. We must bring them home now.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, I would like to read into the RECORD the statement from our colleague from Maryland, Mr. STENY HOYER.

''Mr. Speaker, I rise today''——

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman's request was to read another Member's statement into the RECORD; is that correct?

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Yes, if that is allowed by the rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman would like, he can include the remarks in the RECORD under general leave.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to do, on behalf of our colleague from Maryland, Mr. STENY HOYER, is submit for the RECORD his statement talking about American hostage Itay Chen, who was deemed to have been murdered on October 7. His family is waiting to bring his body home before they honor him with a funeral and sit the Jewish tradition of shiva, 7 days of mourning. They will not have that opportunity to sit shiva until Itay's body is returned.

We all join with the Chen family, with all of Israel, waiting for the return of every hostage, not just those living but those who are deemed deceased.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today, as I have at several special order hours these past six months, on behalf of Itay Chen and his family.

This is the first time I've done so since we learned the devastating news that Hamas terrorists killed Itay on October 7.

An American Israeli serving bravely in the IDF, he died defending innocent Israeli civilians from Hamas' brutal, cowardly surprise attack.

He was only nineteen years old.

Not satisfied with killing this courageous defender, the terrorists took Itay's body into Gaza, where it remains. Doing so was an act of supreme moral depravity and dishonor.

When I first met Itay's father Ruby shortly after October 7, he gave me this dogtag which says: "Bring Them Home Now."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because our commitment to bring his son home has not changed.

Itay deserves to be laid to rest with the honor that befits a hero and with the dignity that befits every human life.

His family deserves to sit Shiva and to process this terrible loss properly.

They cannot get that closure, however, until we secure Itay's remains.

They have my word, Mr. Speaker, that our Government will not yield until they are reunited with their son.

Nor will we stop until all the remaining hostages—those living and those not—are returned to their families.

Until then, we will keep supporting the Chens and the other families waiting to put their loved ones to rest.

We will stand with the families who still hold out hope for their loved ones' safe return—a hope that we all share.

And we will keep fighting for the release of those hostages who remain in Gaza.

May Itay's memory be a blessing, and may his spirit continue to give us the strength necessary to bring these hostages home.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, six brutal months have passed, and over half of the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas on October 7th have still not been released. This is nothing short of an unthinkable crime against humanity. It is inhuman.

Each of the remaining hostages, these are human beings. Human beings with individual hopes and dreams, just like you and me. Each one has a family and loved ones back home in Israel, devastated by their kidnapping and desperately begging for their release. Many are children, or elderly, with no involvement in any combat whatsoever.

Last week, I saw the Nir Oz Kibbutz and the site of the Tribe of Nova Music Festival, where so many Israelis were kidnapped on October 7th, and many more were killed. I heard firsthand accounts from survivors on the ground, you can still hear the pain in their voices. Even then, that pain is incomparable to the ongoing trauma of those who were taken hostage by these terrorists, their specific whereabouts and conditions still unknown.

The attacks of October 7th were and continue to be crimes against humanity. Americans looked on in horror as videos emerged of the bloodshed and the destruction. Mothers and fathers across our country, including myself, were overcome with intense emotion. Think about your child, if they were torn away from you, or worse, as so many were.

America is unified in standing with the Israeli hostages and their families. On Sunday, thousands gathered in New York City and called for the immediate, unconditional release of the Israeli hostages. We raised our voices as one, and our message will be heard.

Tonight, I echo that one, simple demand of these devastated families. Not one more day should go by without the safe return of all Israeli hostages from Gaza.

To the families here tonight, whose loved ones were taken on October 7th, I want to express my most sincere and heartfelt sympathy for the suffering that you have bravely endured over these long six months. For those whose loved ones have not yet been returned, we all pray for their safe release.

May God bless all of you. America stands with you and for the safe return of all Israeli hostages.

Bring them home, now.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 10, 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–3715. A letter from the Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the Office'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–3716. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2023 Annual Report of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5452(e); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 342(e); (124 Stat. 1543); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3717. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Investment Management, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exemption for Certain Investment Advisers Operating Through the Internet [Release No.: IA-6578; File No.: S7-13-23] (RIN: 3235-AN31) received April 4, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–3718. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for OSHA, Directorate of Construction, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Worker Walkaround Representative Designation Process [Docket No.: OSHA-2023-0008] (RIN: 1218-AD45) received April 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC–3719. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Clean Ports Program: Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition [EPA-R-OAR-CPP-24-04] received March 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–3720. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Clean Ports Program: Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition [EPA-R-OAR-CPP-24-05] received March 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–3721. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Hydrofluorocarbon Reclaim and Innovative Destruction Grants [EPA-R-OAR-HFC-24-01] received March 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–3722. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — FY 2022 and FY 2023 Pollution Prevention Grant Program [EPA-I-OCSPP-OPPT-FY2022-001] received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3723. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — FY 2023--FY 2024 Pollution Prevention Grants: Environmental Justice in Communities [EPA-I-OCSPP-OPPT-FY2023-001] received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3724. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — FY 2023--FY 2024 Pollution

Prevention Grants: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products [EPA-I-OCSPP-0PPT-FY2023-002] received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3725. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — FY23 Brownfield's Job Training (JT) Grants [EPA-I-OLEM-OBLR-22-02] received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3726. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Grant Program [EPA-OAR-OTAQ-23-06] received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3727. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of Regulatory Guide — Evaluating Deviations and Reporting Defects and Noncompliance under 10 CFR Part 21 [Regulatory Guide 1.234, Revision 1] received March 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–3728. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of Regulatory Guide — Guidance for a Technology-Inclusive Content-of-Application Methodology to Inform the Licensing Basis and Content of Applications for Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Non-Light-Water Reactors [Regulatory Guide 1.253, Revision 0] received March 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–3729. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting two (2) notifications of discontinuation of service in acting role 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–3730. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–3731. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration'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–3732. A letter from the Acting Vice President, Office of External Affairs, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation'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–3733. A letter from the Director, U.S. National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation'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–3734. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency'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–3735. A letter from the Executive Director, United States Access Board, transmitting the Board'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–3736. A letter from the Executive Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Service'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–3737. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Delisting and Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of Chrysopsis floridana (Florida Golden Aster) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2019-0071; FF09E22000 FXES1113090FEDR 2223] (RIN: 1018-BE00) received April 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–3738. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf —— Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment [Docket ID: BSEE-2024-0001; EEEE500000245E1700D2 ET1SF0000.EAQ000] (RIN: 1014-AA61) received March 27, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3739. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments (RIN: 3245-AI01) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–3740. A letter from the Chair, National Science Board, transmitting a report titled ''The State of U.S. Science and Engineering Indicators 2024'', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1); May 10, 1950, ch. 171, Sec. 4(j)(1) (as amended by Public Law 110-69, Sec. 7016); (121 Stat. 684); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

EC–3741. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Office of Contracting Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's Interim final rule — Providing Discretion To Extend Women-Owned Small Business Program Recertification Where Appropriate (RIN: 3245-AI11) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

EC–3742. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Office of Investment and Innovation, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's Direct final rule — Small Business Investment Company Investment Diversification and Growth; Technical Amendments and Clarifications (RIN: 3245-AH90) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

EC–3743. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Small Business Size Standards: Adjustment of Alternative Size Standard for SBA's 7(a) and CDC/504 Loan Programs for Inflation; and Surety Bond Limits: Adjustments for Inflation (RIN: 3245-AG16) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

EC–3744. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Office of Size Standards, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Small Business Size Standards: Adjustment of Monetary-Based Size Standards, Disadvantage Thresholds, and 8(a) Eligibility Thresholds for Inflation (RIN: 3245-AH93) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

EC–3745. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Small Business Development Centers [Docket No.: SBA-2015-0005] (RIN: 3245-AE05) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

EC–3746. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Qualified Student Loan and Qualified Mortgage Bonds (Notice 2024-32) received April 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–3747. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Guidance to Registrants on Activities to Improve the Efficiency of Endangered Species Act Considerations for New Active Ingredient Registrations and Registration Review received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce.

EC–3748. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Guidance to Registrants on Activities to Improve the Efficiency of ESA Considerations for New Outdoor Use Registrations of Conventional Pesticides and Biopesticides received February 5, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5914. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–449). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI):

H.R. 7887. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit minimum experience or educational requirements for proposed contractor personnel in certain contract solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 7888. A bill to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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 Florida (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 7889. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to increase grants to combat domestic violence for States that implement domestic violence prevention training in the cosmetologist and barber licensing process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H.R. 7890. A bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 7891. A bill to protect the safety of children on the internet; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 7892. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to rename master promissory notes for loans made under part D to student loan contracts; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CARL, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 7893. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the ''Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 7894. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make grants to professional nonprofit theaters for the purposes of supporting operations, employment, and economic development; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 7895. A bill 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 7896. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the criteria for approval of certain independent study programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 7897. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to finalize a proposed rule to remove the Apache trout from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 7898. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the administration of housing loans of the Department of Veterans Affairs to prevent or resolve default under such loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. EZELL:

H.R. 7899. A bill to direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to promulgate the final regulations relating to special registration for telemedicine; 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. FINSTAD (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BACON, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 7900. A bill to establish a regulatory review process for rules that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency plans to propose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 7901. A bill to authorize the appropriation of $2,000,000,000 for rental vouchers for high population areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 7902. A bill to support a review of surcharge policy at the International Monetary Fund; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 7903. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow elective payment of applicable credits to bona fide residents of and entities organized under the laws of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 7904. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend tax credits for clean vehicles to possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. MENG, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. SWALWELL):

H.R. 7905. A bill to prohibit States from imposing a tax on the retail sale of menstrual products; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 7906. A bill to improve the effectiveness and available tools of State and tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 7907. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for career support for a skilled, internationally educated health care workforce; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 7908. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a Commission on Youth Homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 7909. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NICKEL (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 7910. A bill to require States to carry out congressional redistricting in accordance with a redistricting plan developed by an independent redistricting commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7911. A bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to prohibit the use of questions on citizenship, nationality, or immigration status in any decennial census, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 7912. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the aggregate dollar limitation on the amount of qualified adoption expenses which may be taken into account for purposes of the adoption expenses credit in the case of a taxpayer who adopts 2 siblings in the same taxable year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 7913. A bill to require a notice be submitted to the Register of Copyrights with respect to copyrighted works used in building generative AI systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 7914. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions on the Popular Resistance Committees and other associated entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 7915. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Department of Homeland Security's oversight of certain intelligence matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 7916. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide grants for nitrate and arsenic reduction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BARR, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. HILL, Mr. EMMER, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. ROSE, Mr. STEIL, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. OGLES):

H.J. Res. 127. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to ''The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors''; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. SELF, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MAST, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mrs. HINSON, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H. Res. 1117. A resolution opposing efforts to place one-sided pressure on Israel with respect to Gaza; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BERA, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 1118. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Japan alliance and welcoming the visit of Prime Minister Kishida Fumio to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H. Res. 1119. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6929) to appropriate funds for the Affordable Connectivity Program of the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H. Res. 1120. A resolution condemning Joanne Chesimard and those who celebrate her and her actions, and honoring the law enforcement members killed by her and groups she was connected to; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H. Res. 1121. A resolution recognizing the 158th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1866; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. COLE, and Mrs. BICE):

H. Res. 1122. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of General Thomas P. Stafford; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H. Res. 1123. A resolution condemning Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's March 24, 2024, comments on ''60 Minutes'' and calling on the Mexican Government to limit illegal immigration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILD, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 1124. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the last Tuesday of April each year as ''APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD) Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-98. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, relative to Interim Resolution 2023-005, requesting the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development and the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development encourage the United States Congress to ensure that prior converted cropland that is leased for solar arrays maintains its designation as ''available for Agriculture'' through an amendment to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (also known as the Farm Bill) or in United States Department of Agriculture guidance; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

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. MACE:

H.R. 7887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution, in that the legislation regulates forms of commerce specified in that clause; and, Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution, in that the legislation ''is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers'' and ''other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof,'' including the powers of the President specified in Article II of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reduce employee education and experience mandates in federal solicitations.

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 7888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

National Security

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 7889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to increase grants to combat domestic violence for States that implement domestic violence prevention training in the cosmetologist and barber licensing process, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 7890.

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:

To amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 7891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To protect the safety of children online.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 7892.

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:

This bill renames a master promissory note that is made for certain student loans a student loan contract.

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 7893.

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:

This legislation has been introduced to rename the post office located at 306 Pickens St Marion AL 36756 after Albert Turner, Sr.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 7894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Theaters

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 7895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states ''[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposed and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Restoration of entitlement for educational assistance and disapproval of educational institutions for violating certain provisions

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 7896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expand educational opportunities for veterans in high demand skilled trades.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 7897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of the Interior to finalize a proposed rule to remove the Apache trout from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 7898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Housing

By Mr. EZELL:

H.R. 7899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Attorney General, in consulation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate the final regulations required under section 311 (h)(2) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 831(h)(2))

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 7900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a regulatory review process for rules that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency plans to propose that have an impact on agriculture.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 7901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal Housing Assistance

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 7902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation prusuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support a review of surcharge policy at the International Monetary Fund.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 7903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, §8, cl. 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [...and] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers

The single subject of this legislation is:

Application of an Investment tax credit to residents and entities organized in a U.S. Territory.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 7904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, §8, cl. 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [...and] To make all Laws which shall be

The single subject of this legislation is:

Application and disbursement of a tax credit on Clean Vehicles to residents and entities organized in a U.S. Territory, depending on the tax status of the jurisdiction.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 7905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit States from imposing a tax on the retail sale of menstrual products.

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 7906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 7907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for career support for a skilled, internationally educated health care workforce.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 7908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a Commission on Youth Homelessness, and for other purposes.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable.

By Mr. NICKEL:

H.R. 7910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1, allows states to prescribe the ''Time, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives,'' but allows Congress ''at any time'' to ''make or alter such regulations.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Elections

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 2 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would prohibit the U.S. Census Bureau from including questions on the decennial census about citizenship, nationality or immigration status.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 7912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is.

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the aggregate dollar limitation on the amount of qualified adoption expenses which may be taken into account for purposes of the adoption expenses credit in the case of a taxpayer who adopts 2 siblings in the same taxable year

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 7913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Intellectual Property

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 7914.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. [Page H1714]

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Affairs

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 7915.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the Department of Homeland Security's oversight of certain intelligence matters, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TORRES of California:

H.R. 7916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in

The single subject of this legislation is:

safe drinking water

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.J. Res. 127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Aarticle I of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Resolution under the Congressional Review Act to nullify the Securities and Exchange Commission rule on ''Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 82: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 163: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 234: Mr. MURPHY and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 251: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 309: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 466: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 475: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 537: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 595: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 619: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 625: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 767: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 807: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 830: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 856: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 866: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 893: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 906: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 907: Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 984: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 997: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 1088: Mr. HUNT and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 1111: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1198: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1273: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 1277: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 1293: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 1385: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1440: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1444: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1477: Mr. GALLEGO and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1478: Mr. MRVAN and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1526: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1572: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1582: Mr. LALOTA and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1584: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 1598: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 1610: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1668: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 1695: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1729: Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1770: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1806: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1828: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2374: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2377: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2394: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 2402: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 2448: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2534: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 2537: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2662: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 2666: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2668: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2685: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 2706: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 2713: Mr. TRONE and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 2725: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2732: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2742: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 2745: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 2785: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 2845: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 2864: Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. ROSE, Mr. COLE, and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 2871: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 2891: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2923: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 2941: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2952: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 2966: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3012: Mr. AMO and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3018: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3036: Mr. STEIL and Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 3039: Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 3096: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3170: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 3240: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 3325: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3381: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3396: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3404: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 3409: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 3413: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 3417: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 3420: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 3432: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3433: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3481: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 3507: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3539: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3625: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3635: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3656: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 3730: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 3790: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3792: Mr. DUARTE.
H.R. 3811: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3876: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. WILD, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3882: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3910: Mr. TIFFANY and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 3925: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 3933: Mr. MANN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3946: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4059: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 4101: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4138: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4172: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 4175: Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 4184: Ms. OMAR and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4260: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 4277: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4293: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4315: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4335: Mr. BACON and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 4391: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4392: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4438: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4456: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4524: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 4525: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4534: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4571: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4579: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 4588: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4627: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4661: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 4663: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4740: Ms. HAGEMAN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4750: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 4769: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MANN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4780: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 4812: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4818: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4858: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 4867: Ms. TITUS, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 4886: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4897: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 4929: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4933: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 4942: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 4949: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4995: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 5003: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5012: Ms. MALOY and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 5049: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5134: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 5141: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 5145: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5208: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 5212: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H.R. 5248: Mr. AMO, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 5295: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5302: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 5333: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 5361: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 5383: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 5403: Mr. ISSA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5408: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 5441: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 5530: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 5545: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5599: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5603: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 5631: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 5636: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 5785: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5799: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5806: Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 5834: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5840: Mr. COHEN, Mr. EZELL, and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 5842: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 5879: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 5976: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 5985: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 5995: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 6001: Mr. DELUZIO and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 6020: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6033: Mr. PHILLIPS and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 6049: Mr. BERA, Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 6065: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 6127: Ms. LEE of Nevada and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6171: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6172: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 6179: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6205: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6220: Ms. CRAIG and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 6283: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6319: Mr. NADLER and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 6348: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6362: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 6381: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 6415: Mr. AMO, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 6424: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6451: Mr. THANEDAR and Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 6452: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 6455: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 6515: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 6524: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6538: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 6542: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SMUCKER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 6555: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6608: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6658: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 6672: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6696: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 6716: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6762: Mr. OGLES.

H.R. 6783: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6784: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 6805: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 6815: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 6860: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 6929: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 6933: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6946: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 6951: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 6999: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 7002: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7007: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 7012: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 7038: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 7039: Mr. RYAN, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LIEU, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 7053: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7071: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 7075: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 7082: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CASTEN, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 7108: Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 7109: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. ROSENDALE, Ms. MACE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. ESTES, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. COMER.
H.R. 7123: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 7125: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 7134: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 7137: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 7142: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 7152: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 7158: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 7165: Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 7187: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 7202: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 7218: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 7222: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 7272: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 7274: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 7287: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 7297: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 7325: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 7348: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 7366: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 7379: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 7384: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 7398: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 7404: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 7406: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 7412: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 7418: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 7434: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 7442: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 7465: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 7490: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 7494: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 7515: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 7516: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 7517: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 7525: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 7543: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 7563: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 7581: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. BICE, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 7623: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 7625: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 7627: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7629: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BACON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 7649: Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 7660: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 7677: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 7683: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 7688: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 7695: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 7701: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7714: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 7735: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 7752: Mr. GOMEZ and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 7764: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7768: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 7772: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 7807: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 7808: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. WILD, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BACON, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 7812: Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SALINAS, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 7813: Mr. ROSE, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. OGLES.
H.R. 7814: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 7816: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7823: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 7824: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 7829: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 7837: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7845: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 7849: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 7853: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 7855: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 7856: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 7857: Mr. ROSE.
H.J. Res. 82: Ms. JAYAPAL and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.J. Res. 111: Mr. DONALDS.
H.J. Res. 115: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.J. Res. 123: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.J. Res. 124: Mr. STEIL.
H.J. Res. 125: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H. Res. 146: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H. Res. 427: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 821: Mr. HARDER of California.
H. Res. 943: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H. Res. 946: Mr. ROSE.
H. Res. 988: Ms. OMAR and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 991: Ms. PINGREE.
H. Res. 1001: Mr. MOYLAN.
H. Res. 1012: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H. Res. 1042: Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 1050: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 1082: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 1101: Mr. LIEU.
H. Res. 1109: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. JORDAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.R. 7888, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. TURNER

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in H.R. 7888, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.