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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 3 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Bhai Mohan Singh, Gurdwara Singh Sabha of Yakima, Washington, offered the following prayer:

“One Universal Creator God, by the Grace of the True Guru.”

Almighty God, Waheguru, we call You by many names but You are one. Keep Your divine hand over the Members of this House as they steer our Nation’s future. Keep truth on our tongues, love in our hearts, and sound judgment in our minds. Remind us of our purpose: to love, serve, and create a peaceful world.

Bless all leaders working for the common good. Give those who govern humility, courage, integrity, and compassion. Release us from ego so we serve selflessly. Help us remember we belong to one family.

“Recognize the entire Human Race as One.”

You are everywhere; all are Yours. Whatever is seen is Your form. You are one.

Watch over our protectors ensuring our safety and freedom.

Homage to worldwide martyrs who fought for liberty, justice, and equality.

“In the name of Nanak, find everlasting Optimism. With Your Will, Almighty God, may there be Grace for all Humanity.”

“Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa.” “The Khalsa belongs to God.”

“Waheguru Ji kee Fateh.” “Victory belongs to God.”

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania 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.

### WELCOMING BHAI MOHAN SINGH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my guest Chaplain, Bhai Mohan Singh.

Mohan Singh was the head granthi, or the head priest, at a Gurdwara in Yakima, Washington, and now travels the Nation spreading the teachings of Sikhism.

Sikhism is the world’s fifth largest religion with nearly 30 million followers worldwide, and roughly 1 million of those are located within the United States of America. It was founded by Guru Nanak in west Punjab

in 1469 and is based on three cardinal principles: Meditate on God, earn a living by honest means, and share with the less fortunate.

Mohan Singh is a dedicated preacher with an extensive educational background in Sikhism, with experience in both teaching and leading religious services. His career spans over two decades of service in both India and the United States, and we are very fortunate to have him here today with us to lead the opening prayer and to represent the good people of central Washington.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### IN RECOGNITION OF SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

(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 congratulate Susquehanna Regional EMS/UPMC in north central Pennsylvania’s prehospital team, on being selected as the 2024 Pennsylvania Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council.

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

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



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In their tireless efforts, Susquehanna Regional EMS responded to a staggering number of approximately 20,000 calls in 2023, including 911 emergencies and nonemergent interfacility transfers. Their commitment to community benefit support was equally impressive, with over 13,000 hours dedicated to events such as the Little League World Series, Williamsport's Fourth of July celebration, and Lycoming County Fair.

Susquehanna Regional EMS educates providers and the public with programs like UPMC's Minutes Matter and Stop the Bleed. Through a partnership with Susquehanna Health Foundation, 100 AEDs, 100 bleed-control kits, and 100 packages of Narcan have been donated to our community.

Every minute counts in a medical emergency.

Susquehanna Regional EMS' daily work has saved countless lives throughout Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank them for their service to our community, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved award.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF DACA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Immigrant Heritage Month in recognition of the 12th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA.

Since 2012, DACA recipients, or Dreamers, have experienced uncertainty about their status and future in this country. Yet, their impact is certain. They are our nurses, writers, lawyers, teachers, activists, and change-makers. They have grown up here, eagerly contributing to the diversity of our country.

If Congress does nothing, we lose our neighbors, our family members, and friends. We lose fellow Americans.

With the American Dream and Promise Act, House Democrats have a plan, with bipartisan support, to finally create a pathway for citizenship for Dreamers. In America, we welcome those fleeing harm and danger. We welcome those who believe in the American Dream. We put people over politics. Americans support Dreamers, and Dreamers support America.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to the St.

Louis County Rescue Squad and Sheriff's Office for their dedication to responding to emergency situations and to mourn the loss of two Minnesotans.

Recently, they responded to a tragic accident where a party of four canoeists went over a waterfall in the Boundary Waters, and two went missing.

One of the missing canoeists, Jesse Haugen of Cambridge, was a constituent of mine. Jesse heroically attempted to save his fellow canoeists before going under himself. Jesse's bravery was no surprise to anyone who knew him, especially given his military background.

Mr. Speaker, the Boundary Waters are remote, making any rescue attempt complex. During this time of the year, high water levels and fast currents made these efforts even more difficult.

Jesse Haugen and Reis Grams both tragically died, but I am grateful to the St. Louis County Rescue Squad and Sheriff's Office for staying on the scene for 2 weeks until both men were located.

Thanks to their determination and professionalism, the families of Jesse and Reis can now have closure, and I will continue to pray for them and our St. Louis County Sheriff's Rescue Squad.

#### RECOVERING ECONOMY

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the United States is recovering from the pandemic faster than any other industrialized nation. In fact, the World Bank expects the United States economy to grow significantly faster than they initially predicted, and our growth is fueling a worldwide economic recovery. Yet, prices remain stubbornly high for groceries, gas, and especially housing. Both realities are true.

One culprit of this is corporate profit-taking and greed because unemployment is low, our job market is strong, and inflation is cooling. Yet, prices are still up almost 19 percent since 2021.

Historically, in the years leading up to the pandemic, corporate profits were responsible for approximately 11 percent of price increases. Contrast that with the second and third quarters of 2023. Corporate profits were responsible for more than 50 percent of price increases. In the latest quarter of 2023, American corporate profits reached an all-time high of \$2.8 trillion.

President Biden and congressional Democrats are working to address this manipulation head on, while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle propose tax cuts for the very corporations taking advantage.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to hear real solutions from the so-called leaders of the House.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 249TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

(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, today we commemorate the 249th birthday of United States Army.

On this day, the Second Continental Congress transformed a local rebellion into a war for independence by establishing the Continental Army, which today is the United States Army. One day after the Army was established, Congress appointed French and Indian War veteran George Washington to be the very first commander of the Army, and the rest is history.

The Army's birthday is a day where we can express gratitude for the brave men and women who served and continue to serve in our Nation's oldest branch of the military. As one of 38 Army veterans currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize this historic milestone.

One thing everybody knows about the U.S. Army is that, when duty calls, we will rise to the challenge. "This We'll Defend."

God bless our troops, Iowa, and God bless the United States of America.

I also acknowledge that today, June 14, is Flag Day. Please remember and honor the values of our flag.

I extend birthday wishes to President Donald Trump.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

#### VISIT TO UNION SQUARE GREENMARKET

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited the Union Square Greenmarket in New York with Chef Evan Handczor, founder of Little Egg in Brooklyn.

Evan is a chef-ambassador for Chefs for Healthy Soil, a coalition that promotes the connection between sustainable agriculture and the foods that sustain us.

We spoke with farmers who produce nutritious, locally grown food by focusing on soil health and sustainability. They understand the deep connection between the quality of delicious food at restaurants like Little Egg and the quality of the environment in which that food was grown.

Access to food is a fundamental human right. Americans deserve a food system that secures that right for everyone while doing right by farmers, food workers, and the planet. Supporting our farmers as they protect soil health and sustain local food systems is one of the best tools we have to end hunger now.

I thank Chef Evan and everyone at Union Square Greenmarket for introducing me to this important work.

HONORING THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN WESLEY POWELL'S EXPEDITION OF THE GREEN AND COLORADO RIVERS

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 155th anniversary of John Wesley Powell's daring expedition of the Green and Colorado Rivers. These findings literally put Utah's Canyonlands on the map. These rivers and canyons are vital to Utah's economy, agriculture, and recreation.

First, the expedition successfully navigated Flaming Gorge. The expedition then mapped and survived the vast canyons and open sagebrush flats of the present-day Uintah County and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservations.

The expedition continued through Desolation Canyon, into eastern Utah, before meeting the confluence of the Colorado River in present-day Canyonlands National Park in San Juan County.

This year, Uintah County will commemorate the expedition with a musical, "Let's Go—a John Wesley Powell Story," in addition to the sixth annual John Wesley Powell River Festival.

These Western heroes created the records for the lands and rivers we are now so grateful to recreate in and enjoy safely.

□ 0915

RECOGNIZING 25TH ARMY CORPS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Today, I rise to remind us that as we celebrate Juneteenth, let us not forget the men of the 25th Army Corps.

General Gordon Granger came into Galveston, Texas, to read General Order No. 3, announcing that the enslaved persons had been freed, but it was the 25th Army Corps that came in before General Gordon Granger and liberated Galveston, Texas.

They were 1,000 persons who had been enslaved but were now free. The 25th Army Corps deserves recommendation, and they deserve commemoration. Let us remember them, as well.

God bless you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING T.C. ROBERSON RAMS BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we witnessed this week a remarkable baseball contest. In the Congressional Baseball Game, the Republicans defeated the Democrats 31–10, but, Mr. Speaker, I

rise today to congratulate and recognize some real baseball talent.

I rise today to congratulate the T.C. Roberson Rams baseball team for winning North Carolina's High School Athletic Association's 4A State title for the second year in a row. The Rams finished the season with a 14-game winning streak, and the team won a decisive 8–1 shutout victory.

The Rams are now the third 4A school in North Carolina to win back-to-back championships and the first to do so in two decades. Coach Eric Filipek has mentored this group of young men for more than 13 years, and his dedication has guided them to be better players and better leaders.

Hopefully, one day, some of these great athletes will also join our congressional baseball team. I congratulate the Rams for, again, making western North Carolina proud.

HONORING ANNA PIERCY

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Anna Piercy, a devoted educator, community leader, mother, and personal friend.

Anna dedicated about 40 years of her life to serving Anaheim Union High School District. Her journey in education started in 1968 as a seventh grade teacher at Trident Junior High School, where she instilled a love for education in all of her students.

Anna went on to serve as a member of the Anaheim Union School Board, where she continued to advocate for students and educators. She also went to serve our community as a member of Cypress City Council and as Cypress mayor.

Anna leaves behind a lasting legacy, survived by her two daughters and six grandchildren. I join her family and our community in remembering her legacy. I thank her for her community involvement, and I thank her for all she has done for us. We will not forget her.

SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURTIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 1287 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8070.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) kindly take the chair.

□ 0918

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the

further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. LOUDERMILK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 13, 2024, amendment No. 53, printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 4 consisting of amendment Nos. 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, and 289 printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

AMENDMENT NO. 235 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Add at the end of title XI of division A the following:

SEC. 11. OMB EMPLOYMENT FORM REQUIREMENT FOR DOD CONTRACTORS.

The Secretary shall require all individuals hired to Department of Defense contracts to use Declaration for Federal Employment Form OMB No. 3206-0812.

AMENDMENT NO. 236 OFFERED BY MR. AMODEI OF NEVADA

At the end of subtitle D of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. BRIEFING ON ARMY ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT USED IN COLD AND EXTREME COLD WEATHER ENVIRONMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2025, the Secretary of the Army shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the modernization and sustainment plans of the Army for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments. The briefing shall include the following topics:

(1) The planned requirement of the Army for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments.

(2) The current inventory of the Army of such clothing and equipment.

(3) The modernization plan of the Army with respect to such clothing and equipment.

(4) Any relevant investments currently programmed for such clothing and equipment in the Future Years Defense Program.

(5) The cost and timeline associated with implementing such plan, including any additional outlays by Congress necessary to fulfill the plan.

(6) Such other matters as the Secretary finds appropriate.

(b) ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT USED IN COLD AND EXTREME COLD WEATHER ENVIRONMENTS.—In this section,

the term “organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments” includes extreme cold weather clothing, footwear, handwear, shelters, sleep systems, sleep mats, snowshoes, and skis.

AMENDMENT NO. 237 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. REPORT ON THE USE OF MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY STATUS FOR KENYA.**

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

(1) the designation of a country as a major non-NATO ally is intended to facilitate an increased security relationship between the United States and the designated country and is not intended to be merely a symbolic gesture;

(2) Kenya is an increasingly important security partner in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean; and

(3) major non-NATO ally status for Kenya should be utilized to facilitate increased security cooperation with Kenya to advance our shared security priorities.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit a classified report, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees, which shall—

(1) identify all opportunities to increase security cooperation with Kenya as a result of its major non-NATO ally designation;

(2) assess the feasibility of implementing the identified opportunities, including cost, timeline, and availability of defense articles as applicable; and

(3) assess the priority of identified opportunities based on the Kenyan government's requests and input and the impact on advancing the national security interests of the United States.

(c) SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS.—On the date that is 180 days after the report required under subsection (b) is submitted, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit a classified annex, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees containing a report that identifies all requests by the Kenyan government on cooperation on activities covered under the major non-NATO ally status, including—

(1) a detailed summary of each request, including cost and the defense articles requested;

(2) whether those requests were approved or denied; and

(3) an explanation for why each request was approved or denied.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 238 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 13. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING ASYMMETRIC NAVAL ASSETS IN DEFENSE OF TAIWAN.**

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a classified report, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees that contains an assessment of—

(1) the feasibility of developing and deploying asymmetric naval assets for a potential defense of Taiwan;

(2) whether Taiwan's ability to deter, or in the alternative confront, a maritime invasion by the People's Republic of China would be enhanced by deployment of small, high-speed, long-range (200 or more nautical miles), extreme-weather-capable, reduced-radar-signature boats with the capacity for launching missiles, addressing subsurface threats or delivering and recovering small troop units to coastal and littoral locations in the vicinity of the Taiwan Strait, and, if so, in what number and in what configurations;

(3) whether existing and planned Tuo Chiang class catamaran-hulled corvettes are naval assets capable of fully meeting the needs of an effective asymmetric naval defense strategy; and

(4) the vulnerability of Taiwan's existing larger-platform surface naval fleet, including Keelung-class destroyers, Cheung Kung-class frigates, Chi Yang-class frigates, Kang Ding-class frigates.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 239 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON USE OF UNMANNED VEHICLES TO REDUCE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPENSES.**

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess ways unmanned vehicles can reduce overall operating expenses and costs at the Department of Defense. Such study shall include—

(1) an analysis of unmanned ground and air systems and a comparison of the capability, capacity, and operating cost tradeoffs associated with each such system and those associated with similar manned technologies or systems;

(2) recommendations regarding new areas in which unmanned technology could supplement or complement manned systems in order to reduce overall force operating costs; and

(3) such other matters as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(b) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2025, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the preliminary findings of the study required under subsection (a); and

(2) agree to a format and timeline for providing to such committees a final report on the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 240 OFFERED BY MR. GARBARINO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR SURFACE AND SHALLOW WATER MINE COUNTER-MEASURES.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in di-

vision D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test and evaluation, Navy, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for advanced component development and prototypes, surface and shallow water mine countermeasures, line 035 (PE 0603502N), is hereby increased by \$9,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test and evaluation, Navy, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for advanced component development and prototypes, chalk coral, line 063 (PE 0603734N), is hereby reduced by \$9,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 241 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

At the end of subtitle H of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON SEPARATING MEMBERS WHO HAVE HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCE AND MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS.**

By not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the process by which members of the Armed Forces with health care experience transition to civilian life and the number such members who join the Medical Reserve Corps.

AMENDMENT NO. 242 OFFERED BY MR. AMODEI OF NEVADA

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII the following:

**SEC. 28. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO MAP REFERENCE IN THE MILITARY LAND WITHDRAWALS ACT OF 2013.**

Subtitle G of the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 1025; 136 Stat. 3027) is amended by striking “November 30, 2022” each place it appears and inserting “May 22, 2024”.

AMENDMENT NO. 243 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 17. LIMITATION ON DISPLAYING IN CERTAIN PUBLIC AREAS CUT FLOWERS OR GREENS NOT PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—A cut flower or a cut green may not be officially displayed in any public area of a building of the Executive Office of the President or of the Department of State or of the Department of Defense unless the cut flower or cut green is produced in the United States.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The limitation in subsection (a) may not be construed to apply to any cut flower or cut green used by a Federal officer or employee for personal display.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “cut flower” means a flower removed from a living plant for decorative use.

(2) The term “cut green” means a green, foliage, or branch removed from a living plant for decorative use.

(3) The term “produced in the United States” means grown in—

(A) any of the several States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) a territory or possession of the United States; or

(D) an area subject to the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 244 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARTZ  
OF INDIANA

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, insert the following:

**SEC. 15. ASSESSMENT OF INNOVATIVE DATA ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of an assessment of the implementation by the Department of Defense of innovative data analysis and information technology solutions that could improve risk management, agility, and capabilities for strategic defense purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 245 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle C of title V insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. POSTHUMOUS COMMISSION AS CAPTAIN IN THE REGULAR ARMY FOR MILTON HOLLAND.**

(a) POSTHUMOUS COMMISSION.—Milton Holland, who, while sergeant major of the 5th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor in recognition of his action on September 29, 1864, during the Battle of Chapin's Farm, Virginia, when, as the citation for the medal states, he “took command of Company C, after all the officers had been killed or wounded, and gallantly led it”, shall be deemed for all purposes to have held the grade of captain in the regular Army, effective as of that date and continuing until his separation from the Army.

(b) PROHIBITION OF BENEFITS.—Section 1523 of title 10, United States Code, applies in the case of the posthumous commission described in subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 246 OFFERED BY MS. GARCIA OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle E of title V insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. ANNUAL TRAINING ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE FOR STUDENTS IN THE JUNIOR RESERVE OF OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.**

Chapter 102 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**§ 2037. Training on prevention of sexual abuse**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall establish training for students enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps regarding prevention of sexual abuse.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—The training established under this section shall—

“(1) be age-appropriate;

“(2) be evidence-based in polyvictimization research;

“(3) be comprehensive, including elements regarding—

“(A) grooming;

“(B) bullying, including cyberbullying;

“(C) appropriate relationships and interactions between such students and instructors;

“(D) signs of inappropriate behavior between adults and adolescents; and

“(E) digital abuse; and

“(4) provide such students with the contact information of local resources through which a student may report alleged sexual abuse or receive treatment and support for such abuse.

“(c) PROVISION.—The Secretary shall ensure that each such student receives training established under this section—

“(1) from an entity other than an administrator or instructor of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and

“(2) once each year.

“(d) METRICS.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain metrics regarding the effectiveness of the training established under this section.

“(e) SEXUAL ABUSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘sexual abuse’ means an offense covered by section 920, 920b, 920c, or 930 of this title (article 120, 120b, 120c, or 130 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 247 OFFERED BY MS.

STANSBURY OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of subtitle B of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS UNDER NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM.**

Section 2713(c)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “two calendar years” and inserting “five calendar years”.

AMENDMENT NO. 248 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle A of title XVII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 17. PROJECT SPECTRUM.**

Chapter 19 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting before section 399 the following new section:

**§ 398b. Project Spectrum**

“(a) PROJECT SPECTRUM; PURPOSE.—There is within the Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense a program known as ‘Project Spectrum’, the purpose of which is to provide to covered entities, through an online platform, digital resources and services that increase awareness about cybersecurity risks and help such covered entities to comply with the cybersecurity requirements of the defense acquisition system.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Director of the Office of Small Business Programs may establish eligibility requirements for the receipt by a covered entity of a given resource or service made available through Project Spectrum.

“(c) APPLICATION.—To receive through Project Spectrum a resource or service for which the Director has established an eligibility requirement under subsection (b), a covered entity shall submit to the Director an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Director determines appropriate.

“(d) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out Project Spectrum, the Director shall maintain an online platform through which the Director shall make available to each covered entity that the Director determines to be eligible under subsection (b) with respect to a given resource or service, the following:

“(1) Educational materials regarding cybersecurity, including cybersecurity training courses and workforce development training.

“(2) Guidance regarding best practices for cybersecurity matters, including guidance for developing internal cybersecurity policies and suggestions for procedures for reviewing any violation of such policies.

“(3) Assessments of the cybersecurity practices and cybersecurity systems used by a covered entity.

“(4) A review and feasibility assessment of products, software, and data security tools available in the commercial marketplace.

“(5) Cybersecurity services, including dashboard monitoring services, continuous threat monitoring services, software patching services, and patch testing services.

“(6) Cybersecurity readiness checks.

“(7) A platform for secure data collaboration between two or more employees of a covered entity and between multiple covered entities.

“(8) Any additional resources or services, as determined by the Director.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered entity’ means a supplier of the Department of Defense that is a small or medium business and registers to access the online platform of Project Spectrum.

“(2) The term ‘defense acquisition system’ has the meaning given to such term in section 3001 of this title.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 249 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR BADR ORGANIZATION.**

None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025 may be made available, directly or indirectly, to the Badr Organization.

AMENDMENT NO. 250 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EMERGING TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES CO-OPERATION.**

Subtitle G of title XII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 is amended by inserting after section 1279 (22 U.S.C. 8606 note) the following:

**“SEC. 1279A. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EMERGING TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES CO-OPERATION.**

“(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to support and encourage further defense collaboration with Israel in areas of emerging technologies capable of enabling the warfare capabilities of both the United States and Israel to meet emerging defense challenges, including but not limited to the areas of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, quantum and automation.

“(b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH EMERGING DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, upon request of the Ministry of Defense of Israel and in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, is authorized to carry out research, development, test, and evaluation, on a joint basis with Israel, in areas of emerging technologies capable of enabling the warfare capabilities of both the United States and Israel to meet emerging defense challenges, including the areas of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, quantum and automation. Any activities carried out pursuant to such authority shall be conducted in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive information and United States and Israel national security interests.

“(2) REPORT.—The activities described in paragraph (1) and subsection (c) may be carried out after the Secretary of Defense submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the following:

“(A) A memorandum of agreement between the United States and Israel regarding sharing of research and development costs for the capabilities described in paragraph (1), and any supporting documents.

“(B) A certification that the memorandum of agreement—

“(i) requires sharing of costs of projects, including in-kind support, between the United States and Israel;

“(ii) establishes a framework to negotiate the rights to any intellectual property developed under the memorandum of agreement; and

“(iii) requires the United States Government to receive semiannual reports on expenditure of funds, if any, by the Government of Israel, including a description of

what the funds have been used for, when funds were expended, and an identification of entities that expended the funds.

“(c) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The amount of support provided under this section in any year may not exceed \$47,500,000.

“(d) LEAD AGENCY.—The Secretary of Defense shall designate the Irregular Warfare Technology Support Directorate as the lead agency of the Department of Defense in carrying out this section.

“(e) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress on a semiannual basis a report that contains a copy of the most recent semiannual report provided by the Government of Israel to the Department of Defense pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii).

“(f) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

“(g) SUNSET.—The authority in this section to carry out activities described in subsection (b), and to provide support described in subsection (c), shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 251 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON POTENTIAL INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall assess the feasibility and advisability of including Israel in the national technology and industrial base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed assessment of the potential benefit to the national security of the United States of including Israel in the national technology and industrial base.

(2) An assessment of how Israel's inclusion in the national technology and industrial base may affect research and development projects on which Israel and the United States are collaborating.

(3) Detailed delineation of the specific steps Israel must take to facilitate eligibility for inclusion in the national technology and industrial base.

(4) An analysis of the progress Israel has made, as of the date of the assessment, with respect to the steps described in paragraph (3).

(5) Analysis of how Israel's potential inclusion in the national technology and industrial base could aid United States strategic competitiveness with China.

(6) An assessment of any barriers—

(A) to expansion of the national technology and industrial base generally; and

(B) to Israel's inclusion in the national technology and industrial base specifically.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (c) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “national technology and industrial base” has the meaning given that term in section 4801 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 252 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORT ON THREAT OF RIFLE-TOTING ROBOT DOGS USED BY CHINA TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on—

- (1) the use of rifle-toting robot dogs by China; and
- (2) the threat such use poses to the national security of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 253 OFFERED BY MS. SPANBERGER OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle B of title IX, insert the following:

**SEC. 9. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SENIOR INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT OFFICIAL.**

Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 430c. Senior Intelligence Oversight Official**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, or a designee of the Secretary determined by regulations prescribed by the Secretary, shall designate a civilian employee of the Department of Defense in the Senior Executive Service to serve as the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Senior Intelligence Oversight Official shall exercise independent oversight of all intelligence, intelligence-related, and sensitive activities of the Department of Defense, including activities involving—

- “(1) tradecraft;
- “(2) the operational use of an individual; or
- “(3) clandestine operational tactics, techniques, and procedures.

“(c) ACCESS.—The Senior Intelligence Oversight Official shall have—

“(1) complete and unrestricted access to all information concerning any intelligence, intelligence-related, or sensitive activity of the Department of Defense regardless of classification or compartmentalization, including special access programs, from any personnel or organizational entity of the Department of Defense, to the extent necessary to carry out the responsibilities and functions of the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official; and

“(2) direct access to the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, as circumstances require in the determination of the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official.

“(d) REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall review and update Department of Defense Directive 5148.13, and any associated or successor regulation or directive, to conform to this section.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 254 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 272, lines 22–23, strike “located within the continental United States” and insert “located within a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States”.

AMENDMENT NO. 255 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title XXXI, insert the following:

**SEC. 31. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PERMANENT STORAGE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL WITHIN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States and the government of Canada should not develop storage facilities for the permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel, low-level or high-level nuclear waste, or military-grade nuclear material within the Great Lakes Basin.

AMENDMENT NO. 256 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 13. REPORT ON IMPACT OF THE MALIGN INFLUENCE OF CHINA AND RUSSIA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as necessary, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes a detailed assessment of the impact of the malign influence of China and Russia in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national security and economic interests of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall also include the following:

(1) A detailed description of the—

(A) current political, economic, and social stability of Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean;

(B) economic investments of Russia and China in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, and the collateral conditions;

(C) impact of the presence of Russia and China in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on democracy and diplomacy; and

(D) use of private military companies by Russia and China to advance political, economic, and military interests.

(2) An assessment of the—

(A) direct and indirect impacts of Russia and China's presence in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national and regional security interests of the United States;

(B) current United States military and diplomatic strategies in response to the expansion of Chinese and Russian influence in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean;

(C) assets and resources available to counter threats from Russia and China, and protect the security interests of the United States; and

(D) United States military force posture in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form without any designation relating to dissemination control, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 257 OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MANUFACTURING INNOVATION INSTITUTES ON THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of the impact of continued investment in Department of Defense sponsored manufacturing innovation institutes on the defense industrial base in the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 258 OFFERED BY MR. RASKIN OF MARYLAND

At the end of subtitle F of title XVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. REPORT ON REDUCING MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SECURITY CLEARANCE ELIGIBILITY.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the Department's activities to inform members of the Armed Forces about how mental health affects security clearance eligibility. The report required under this section shall include the following topics:

(1) The Department's outreach and education activities to inform members of the Armed Forces that seeking mental health care will not affect their security clearance status or eligibility.

(2) The Department's outreach and education activities to ensure that health care providers in the military health system, non-medical counselors, TRICARE providers, and other relevant personnel convey accurate information to members of the Armed Forces regarding mental health and security clearance eligibility, making clear that seeking mental health care will not affect their security clearance status or eligibility.

AMENDMENT NO. 259 OFFERED BY MRS. RADEWAGEN OF AMERICAN SAMOA

At the end of subtitle A of title XXVIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 28. ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES TO SUPPORT FUTURE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall conduct a study and submit a report to the congressional defense committees—

(1) summarizing planned military major and minor construction in the Freely Associated States ("FAS") over the next 5 fiscal years;

(2) assessing the ability of the local workforce in the FAS to support future military construction; and

(3) detailing options for the Department of Defense to cooperate with the Department of Labor, the Department of the Interior, and the FAS to develop plans to help address any construction workforce shortages.

AMENDMENT NO. 260 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

In subtitle G of title V, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 5. ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting "(11)," before "and (16)"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

"(11) Information concerning mental health, including—

"(A) the availability of mental health services furnished by the Secretary concerned, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or a non-profit entity;

"(B) the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety disorders, depression, chronic pain, sleep disorders, suicidal ideation, or other mental health conditions associated with service in the armed forces;

"(C) the risk of suicide, including signs, symptoms, and risk factors (including adverse childhood experiences, depression, bipolar disorder, homelessness, unemployment, and relationship strain);

"(D) the availability of treatment options and resources to address substance abuse, including alcohol, prescription drug, and opioid abuse;

"(E) the potential effects of the loss of community and support systems experienced by a member separating from the armed forces;

"(F) isolation from family, friends, or society; and

"(G) the potential stressors associated with separation from the armed forces.".

(b) SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 6320(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (I) and (J), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraphs:

"(G) assisting eligible veterans who elect to enroll in the system of patient enrollment under section 1705(a) of this title;

"(H) educating veterans about mental health and counseling services available through the Veterans Health Administration;".

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the information and materials developed pursuant to the amendments made by this section.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 261 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 7. COMBATING OBESITY IN CERTAIN ARMED FORCES.**

(a) STRATEGY AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) develop a strategy to align the obesity-related programs of the Department of Defense with the classification of obesity as a medically accepted disease; and

(B) conduct an educational campaign to promote awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of obesity as a disease in the covered Armed Forces.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR STRATEGY.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1)(A) shall include the following:

(A) A plan to coordinate obesity-related programs across the Department of Defense to treat obesity as a disease and reduce the prevalence of obesity in the covered Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the effectiveness of health programs of the Department of Defense that are intended to educate, prevent, or treat obesity among members of the covered Armed Forces, and a plan to modify or update such programs to treat obesity as a disease.

(C) An assessment of the adequacy of nutrition education for physicians and other

health care practitioners in the military health system to evaluate and treat obesity as a disease, including the need for any additional education or guidelines for such physicians and other health care practitioners.

(D) A strategy to work toward members of the covered Armed Forces with obesity receiving appropriate treatment.

(3) REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.—The educational campaign conducted under paragraph (1)(B) shall include the following:

(A) Information to educate members of the covered Armed Forces regarding best practices to prevent, reduce, or mitigate obesity, and available resources to address the root causes of obesity.

(B) Information targeted to physicians and other health care practitioners in the military health system to promote diagnosis and treatment of obesity as a disease.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy and educational campaign required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and other Health and Human Services agencies, as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION REGARDING UNMET WEIGHT STANDARDS IN CERTAIN REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall include information regarding unmet weight standards in any report submitted by the Secretary to Congress regarding disqualifications for enlistment in, disability incurred in, or medical discharges from, the covered Armed Forces.

(c) ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTS.—

(1) EFFECTS OF OBESITY ON READINESS OF COVERED ARMED FORCES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding the effects of obesity on the readiness of the covered Armed Forces. Such report shall include legislative recommendations of the Secretary to address such effects.

(2) EFFECTIVENESS OF OBESITY, FOOD, AND NUTRITION-RELATED PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of the obesity, food, and nutrition-related programs of the Department of Defense in reducing obesity and improving military readiness.

(d) GAO REPORT.—  
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report analyzing the existing obesity, food, and nutrition-related programs of the Department of Defense.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of programs directed to members of the covered Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of programs directed to health care providers in the military health system.

(C) An assessment of the effectiveness of such programs in reducing obesity and the impact of obesity on military readiness.

(D) Recommendations to coordinate and improve existing programs to reduce obesity and the impact of obesity on military readiness.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- (1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:
  - (A) The Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.
  - (B) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.
  - (C) The Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.
  - (D) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.
  - (E) The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.
  - (F) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.
  - (G) The Committee on Finance of the Senate.
  - (H) The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.
- (2) The term “covered Armed Force” means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 262 OFFERED BY MR. IVEY OF MARYLAND

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY AND REPORT ON ANTAGONISTIC USE OF SATELLITES.**

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess threats to the interests of the United States posed by antagonistic use of satellites by adversarial foreign states, including—

(A) use of a satellite for combat;

(B) damage, destruction, or incapacitation of a satellite that is owned, operated, controlled, or used by—

(i) the United States Government;

(ii) a commercial entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; or

(iii) a country that is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

(C) conducting or attempting to conduct espionage or surveillance of, or a cyber intrusion that affects—

(i) a physical resource of the Department of Defense, including a Department of Defense installation; or

(ii) critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1016(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))), including—

(I) an electricity transmission system or network;

(II) a water management system or resource;

(III) a telecommunications facility or network;

(IV) a nuclear facility;

(V) an airport;

(VI) a railway; or

(VII) a sea port.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under this subsection, the Comptroller General shall consult with—

(A) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(B) the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(E) specialists who—

(i) are affiliated with an institution of higher education or research organization; and

(ii) have expertise in satellite technology, satellite warfare, cybersecurity, or another relevant subject related to warfare and communications.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee

on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) includes operational, policy, and legislative recommendations to protect against and respond to threats identified by the study required under subsection (a); and

(2) may include recommendations for—

(A) preventive, preparatory, and emergency response actions by municipal governments, State governments, and private sector entities; and

(B) educational curricula and workforce development programs to address the need for trained professionals who are able to implement the recommendations described in such report.

(c) ADVERSARIAL FOREIGN STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “adversarial foreign state” means—

(1) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(2) the People’s Republic of China;

(3) the Russian Federation; and

(4) any foreign state designated by the Secretary of State as an adversarial foreign state for purposes of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 263 OFFERED BY MR. CRENSHAW OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 12. REPORT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than February 15, 2024, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility and advisability of enhanced cooperation between the National Guard and the Republic of India. Such report shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of the cooperation between the National Guard and India during the 10 preceding calendar years, including mutual visits, exercises, training, and equipment opportunities.

(2) An evaluation of the feasibility and advisability of enhancing cooperation between the National Guard and India on a range of activities, including—

(A) disaster and emergency response;

(B) cyber defense and communications security;

(C) military medical cooperation;

(D) mountain warfare;

(E) jungle warfare;

(F) counterinsurgency;

(G) counterterrorism;

(H) cultural exchange and education of members of the National Guard in Hindi; and

(I) programs for National Guard advisors to assist in training the reserve components of the military forces of India.

(3) Recommendations to enhance such cooperation and improve interoperability, including through familiarization visits, cooperative training and exercises, and co-deployments.

(4) Identification of States that may serve as potential partners with India through a State partnership under section 341 of title 10, United States Code.

(5) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 264 OFFERED BY MR. KAPUR OF OHIO

In subtitle I of title V, add at the end the following:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR LAST SERVICE-MEMBER STANDING MEDAL.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 1135 and 1136 as sections 1136 and section 1137, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 1134 the following new section:

**“§ 1135. Last Servicemember Standing medal**

“(a) MEDAL AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary concerned may issue a service medal, to be known as the ‘Last Servicemember Standing medal’, to persons eligible under subsection (c).

“(b) DESIGN.—The Last Servicemember Standing medal shall be of an appropriate design approved by the Secretary of Defense, with ribbons, lapel pins, and other appurtenances.

“(c) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—Subject to subsection (d), a person eligible to be issued the Last Servicemember Standing medal is any member who—

“(1) served on active duty;

“(2) was deployed during war or overseas contingency operation;

“(3) as a result of a combat instance during such war or overseas contingency, was the last surviving member of a unit;

“(4) demonstrated extraordinary heroism in defense of the United States during such combat instance; and

“(5) whose character is recommended for recognition by their commanding officer and at least two peers.

“(d) ONE MEDAL AUTHORIZED.—Not more than one Last Servicemember Standing medal may be issued to any person.

“(e) ISSUANCE TO NEXT-OF-KIN.—If a person described in subsection (c) is deceased, the Secretary concerned may provide for issuance of the Last Servicemember Standing medal to the next-of-kin of the person.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The issuance of a Last Servicemember Standing medal shall be subject to such regulations as the Secretaries concerned shall prescribe for purposes of this section. The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that any regulations prescribed under this subsection are uniform to the extent practicable.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should take appropriate actions to expedite—

(1) the design of the Last Servicemember Standing medal provided for by section 1136 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); and

(2) the establishment and implementation of mechanisms to facilitate the issuance of the Last Servicemember Standing Medal to persons eligible for the issuance of the medal under such section.

AMENDMENT NO. 265 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS OF OPERATION END SWEEP FOR VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL.**

The Secretary of the military department concerned may, upon the application of an individual who is a veteran who participated in Operation End Sweep, award that individual the Vietnam Service Medal.

AMENDMENT NO. 266 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO COVERED DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY AND BLOCKCHAIN EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES.**

(a) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of Defense may not acquire, or enter

into, extend, or renew a contract or other agreement for, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services as—

- (1) a substantial or essential component of such equipment, system, or service; or
- (2) critical technology as part of such equipment, system, or service.

**(b) PROHIBITION ON LOAN AND GRANT FUNDS.—**

(1) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Defense may not obligate or expend loan or grant funds to acquire, or to enter into, extend, or renew a contract or other agreement for, any equipment, system, or service described in subsection (a).

(2) PRIORITY.—In implementing the prohibition under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense, in administering a loan, grant, or subsidy program, shall prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected entities as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to cease use of covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services, to acquire replacement equipment and services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a) or (b) shall be construed to—

(1) prohibit the Secretary of Defense from acquiring from an entity, or entering into, extending, or renewing a contract or other agreement with an entity for, a service that connects to the facilities of a third party, such as blockchain protocols or interconnection arrangements; or

(2) apply to wireless telecommunications equipment or third-party validators that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**(e) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), beginning on the effective date under subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense may, upon request of an entity, issue a waiver of the requirements under subsection (a) with respect to such entity for a period of not more than two years.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may only provide a waiver under this subsection if the entity seeking the waiver—

(A) provides a compelling justification for the additional time to implement the requirements of this section; and

(B) submits to the Secretary, who shall not later than 30 days thereafter submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a full and complete description of the presence of covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services in the entity's supply chain and a phase-out plan to eliminate such covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services.

(3) ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Beginning on the effective date under subsection (d), each head of an element of the intelligence community may waive the requirements under subsection (a) if such head determines the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

**(f) DEFINITIONS.—**In this Act:

(1) The term “covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services” means distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services that originates from a foreign adversary,

including any of the following companies or subsidiaries thereof:

- (A) The Blockchain-based Services Network.
- (B) The Spartan Network.
- (C) The Conflux Network.
- (D) iFinex, Inc.
- (E) Red Date Technology Co., Ltd.
- (2) The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(3) The term “foreign adversary” has the meaning given such term in section 7.2 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

**AMENDMENT NO. 267 OFFERED BY MR. AMO OF RHODE ISLAND**

At the end of subtitle E of title I, add the following new section:

**SEC. 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT OF DEFENSE ARTICLES FOR AUKUS PARTNERSHIP.**

**(a) IN GENERAL.—**It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) researching, producing, and procuring defense articles for the AUKUS partnership from within the United States boosts local economies and improves national security by enhancing domestic defense article production capabilities; and

(2) therefore, the Secretary of Defense should promote and prioritize domestic manufacturing, supply chains, and research for defense articles intended for use by members of the AUKUS partnership.

**(b) AUKUS PARTNERSHIP DEFINED.—**In this section, the term “AUKUS partnership” means the enhanced trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced in September 2021.

**AMENDMENT NO. 268 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

**SEC. 604. PROGRAM TO ASSIST SERVICE MEMBERS AT RISK OF SUICIDE.**

**(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—**Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the Defense Health Agency, shall develop and implement a centralized program to monitor and provide assistance to members of the Armed Forces at risk of suicide who have been recently discharged from health care, as outlined in Recommendation 6.29 of the final report issued by the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee.

**(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—**The centralized program referred to in subsection (a) shall specify the following:

(1) The individual and agency responsible for conducting service member follow up.

(2) The time when initial follow-up will occur.

(3) The times when subsequent follow-ups will occur.

(4) The manner in which patients will be contacted.

(5) The process for documentation of follow-up attempts.

(6) The procedures for ensuring patient safety where patient is unreachable.

(7) The processes for medical treatment facilities to link mortality data to health care delivery data in order to better identify settings and patients at higher risk of suicide, further inform local suicide prevention strategies for targeted high-risk groups, and ensure compliance with reporting and investigating suicides occurring within 72 hours of discharge from a hospital.

**(c) MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AT RISK OF SUICIDE.—**For purposes of this section, the

term “members of the Armed Forces at risk of suicide” includes members of the Armed Forces who have attempted suicide and members of the Armed Forces who have been discharged as patients and who have been clinically assessed as benefitting from follow-up support related to suicide prevention.

**AMENDMENT NO. 269 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO DETAIL MEMBERS TO LAW EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

**(a) EXPANSION.—**Section 2004 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)—
  - (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;
  - (B) by striking the second sentence; and
  - (C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2)(A) The Secretary of the military department concerned may pay expenses incident to the detail, under this subsection, of an officer or enlisted member for a period of training described in paragraph (1).

“(B) Not more than 25 officers and enlisted members from each military department may, in any single fiscal year, begin a period of training described in paragraph (1) for which the Secretary of the military department concerned pays expenses under this paragraph.

“(3) The Secretary of the military department concerned may detail an officer or enlisted member under paragraph (1) without paying expenses under paragraph (2).”;

- (2) in subsection (b)—
  - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “either” and inserting “in the case of a member for whose training the Secretary of the military department concerned pays expenses under subsection (a)(2), either”;
  - (B) in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (3)—
    - (i) by striking “period of two years” and all that follows and inserting an em dash; and
    - (ii) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(i) in the case of a member for whose training the Secretary of the military department concerned pays expenses under subsection (a)(2), two years; or

“(ii) in the case of a member described in subsection (a)(3), one year for each year or part thereof of legal training under subsection (a).”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) in the case of a member described in subsection (a)(3), either—

“(A) have served on active duty for a period of not less than two years nor more than eight years and be an officer in the grade of O-3 or below as of the time the training is to begin; or

“(B) have served on active duty for a period of not less than four years nor more than ten years and be an enlisted member in the grade of E-5, E-6, or E-7 as of the time the training is to begin;”;

(E) in subsection (d), by striking “under this section” and inserting “paid under subsection (a)(2) of”.

**(b) BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING DURING DETAIL.—**

**(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—**Section 403 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

- (A) by redesignating subsection (q) as subsection (r); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (p) the following new subsection (q):

“(q) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR CERTAIN DETAIL.—A member of the armed forces may

not be denied an allowance under this section solely on the basis that such member has been detailed for a period of training under section 2004 of title 10.”.

(2) RETROACTIVE EFFECT.—A member of the Armed Forces who, on or after August 1, 2023, the Secretary of the military department concerned determined, under section 502 of title 37, United States Code, was absent for a period that is longer than the leave authorized by section 701 of title 10, United States Code, because the member was detailed or assigned by the Secretary of the military department concerned as a full-time student to a civilian institution to pursue a program of education, is entitled to the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, to which the member would have been entitled if the member were not so absent.

AMENDMENT NO. 270 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM FOR SERVICEMEMBERS.**

The Secretary of Defense shall study the feasibility of establishing a mentoring program for members of the Armed Forces who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs or founding start-up businesses after their active duty service.

AMENDMENT NO. 271 OFFERED BY MR. MOSKOWITZ OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CANINE AND FELINE RESEARCH.**

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to conduct biomedical research or testing using canines or felines.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(2) not later than the date on which the waiver is invoked, submits a notification of the waiver and a justification of the reason for seeking the waiver to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 272 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDSON OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title XXXI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 31. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR POWER.**

It is the sense of Congress that in order to achieve geopolitical energy leadership and secure American energy security in the years to come, Congress urges the Department of Defense to embrace and accept nuclear power as a clean baseload energy source that is easily compatible with other intermittent energy sources to ultimately achieve a reliable, secure, and resilient energy apparatus within the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 273 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 12. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL PRIORITIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.**

The Secretary of Defense shall seek to establish a partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit of the Department of Defense and appropriate counterparts of Israel in order to—

(1) enhance market opportunities for United States-based and Israeli-based defense technology companies;

(2) bolster Israel’s defense industrial base;

(3) harmonize global security posture through emerging technology;

(4) counter Iran and Iran-aligned adversarial proxy group development of dual-use defense technologies; and

(5) in coordination with appropriate counterpart offices of the Israeli ministry of defense—

(A) enable coordination on defense industrial priorities;

(B) streamline emerging defense technology research and development;

(C) create more pathways to market for defense technology startups; and

(D) collaborate on the development of dual-use defense capabilities through coordination.

AMENDMENT NO. 274 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 16. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF VERY LOW EARTH ORBIT SPACECRAFT.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Space Force has demonstrated its commitment to building a resilient, safe, and secure space architecture and incorporating transformational commercially developed space technologies in order to accelerate the fielding of capabilities, including in very low earth orbit;

(2) advancements in propulsion systems, materials science, affordable launch costs, and orbital management techniques have opened up new possibilities for utilizing very low earth orbit for various purposes, including ultra-high-resolution reconnaissance, low latency communication, and improved space domain awareness;

(3) Congress and the Department of Defense should continue to pursue the efforts described in paragraph (1) in support of the National Defense Strategy and the Commercial Space Strategy of the Space Force to accelerate the purposeful pursuit of hybrid space architectures; and

(4) the Space Force should continue to scale up those efforts and further explore the benefits of very low earth orbit spacecraft development to improve responsiveness, enhance image resolution, generate orbital diversity, and increase resilience against space debris and other threats.

AMENDMENT NO. 275 OFFERED BY MR. BANKS OF INDIANA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. PLAN ON HACKING FOR DEFENSE EXPANSION.**

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the expansion of the Hacking for Defense program of the Department of Defense over the period of three fiscal years following the date of the plan.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include measures—

(1) to increase the number of institutions of higher education participating in Hacking for Defense programs;

(2) to expand support for certain elite teams after Hacking for Defense course completion;

(3) to expand opportunities after Hacking for Defense course completion in countries that are members of—

(A) the AUKUS partnership;

(B) the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue; or

(C) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(4) to partner with other organizations and elements of the Department of Defense to expand the Hacking for Defense curriculum to a second semester prototyping course; and

(5) to support the development of professional military education programs in the National Defense University system that are similar to the Hacking for Defense program.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “AUKUS partnership” means the enhanced trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced in September 2021.

(2) The term “Quadrilateral Security Dialogue” means the strategic security dialogue between—

(A) India;

(B) Japan;

(C) Australia; and

(D) the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 276 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON POTENTIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT AND THE TAIWAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing a strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit and the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense, pursuant to which the Unit and the Ministry would—

(1) coordinate on defense industrial priorities;

(2) collaborate on the development of dual-use defense capabilities.

(3) establish mechanisms to streamline emerging defense technology research and development and microchip supply chain security;

(4) create additional pathways to market for relevant defense technology startups; and

(5) carry out other activities to—

(A) enhance market opportunities for United States-based and Taiwan-based defense technology companies;

(B) bolster Taiwan’s defense industrial base;

(C) harmonize global security posture through emerging technology; and

(D) counter the development of dual-use defense technologies by the Chinese Communist Party.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 277 OFFERED BY MR. BANKS OF INDIANA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 17. REPORTING ON IRANIAN CENTRIFUGE INSTALLATION.**

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a report to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate with the content described in paragraph (2).

(2) CONTENT DESCRIBED.—The content described for the report in paragraph (1) includes the following:

(A) An assessment of the types and numbers of centrifuges installed in declared and undeclared nuclear facilities in Iran since May 2021.

(B) An assessment of the timeline required by Iran to produce weapons-grade uranium in May 2021.

(C) An assessment of the current timeline required by Iran to produce weapons-grade uranium.

(D) An assessment of whether Iran has moved advanced centrifuges to facilities other than its safeguarded enrichment plants, including where and how many, if applicable.

(E) An assessment of how many advanced centrifuges Iran would need of each type to enrich to weapons-grade.

(F) An assessment of whether a heavily fortified nuclear facility Iran is building near the Natanz site contains or will contain an enrichment plant.

(3) FORM.—This report shall be transmitted in unclassified form and may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 278 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE CONTINUING NEED FOR INNOVATION IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress encourages the Armed Forces to continue innovating, including by using technological methods that incorporate artificial intelligence, quantum information science, advanced air mobility, and counter-UAS systems to ultimately maintain, bolster, and augment military readiness, wartime preparedness, and ensure the overall national security of the United States.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “advanced air mobility” means a transportation system that transports people and property by air between two points in the United States using aircraft with advanced technologies, including electric aircraft or electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft, in both controlled and uncontrolled airspace.

(2) The term “artificial intelligence” has the meaning given such term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(3) The term “counter-UAS system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801(5) of title 49, United States Code.

(4) The term “quantum information science” has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the National Quantum Initiative Act (15 U.S.C. 8801).

AMENDMENT NO. 279 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10. STUDY ON TESTING OF FOREIGN ADVERSARY HIGHLY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a study on the effects on the national security of the United States of highly automated vehicles (as such term is defined in section 503(c)(6) of title 23, United States Code) associated with foreign adversary countries operating or testing in the United States.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The study required by subsection (a) shall also include the following:

(1) An evaluation of the technology used by highly automated vehicles and their capabilities.

(2) A list of entities—

(A) domiciled in or directly or indirectly owned, controlled, or directed by a foreign adversary country;

(B) that manufacture highly automated vehicles; and

(C) are currently operating highly automated vehicles in the United States.

(3) The number of highly automated vehicles currently operating in the United States that are owned or operated by such entities.

(4) An evaluation whether any such entity has contracted with or supplied any technology to the military of a foreign adversary country.

(5) The locations where highly automated vehicles owned or operated by such entities are operating in the United States.

(6) Potential vulnerabilities posed by the operation of such highly automated vehicles in the United States.

(c) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 280 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. 16. REPORT ON SPACE FORCE USE OF NUCLEAR THERMAL PROPULSION AND NUCLEAR ELECTRIC PROPULSION SPACE VEHICLES.**

The Chief of the Space Force shall submit to Congress a report on the use by the Space Force of nuclear thermal propulsion and nuclear electric propulsion space vehicles. Such report shall include—

(1) a description of how the Space Force uses such vehicles;

(2) a description of how the Space Force plans to use such vehicles in the future; and

(3) an identification of any potential benefits that such vehicles can provide to bolster the national security of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 281 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XXXI, add the following new section:

**SEC. 31. SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING PROJECT PELE.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Congress supports Project Pele, which seeks to develop, demonstrate, and deploy an advanced portable nuclear microreactor at Idaho National Laboratory by 2025; and

(2) Project Pele will be critical in maintaining and bolstering United States national security by providing firm, reliable, clean, and dense baseload energy to power United States military bases and other distributed military operations, both domestically and abroad.

AMENDMENT NO. 282 OFFERED BY MS. KELLY OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

**SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF MILITARY ONESOURCE PROGRAM FOR RETIRED AND DISCHARGED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the period of eligibility for the Military OneSource program of the Department of Defense of an eligible individual retired, discharged, or otherwise released from the Armed Forces, and for the eligible immediate family members of such an individual, shall be the 18-month period beginning on the date of the retirement, discharge, or release, as applicable, of such individual.

(b) INFORMATION TO FAMILIES.—The Secretary shall, in such manner as the Secretary considers appropriate, inform military families and families of veterans of the Armed Forces of the wide range of benefits available through the Military OneSource program.

AMENDMENT NO. 283 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MULTIFYEAR PROCUREMENT OF PRIORITY ITEMS.**

(a) RECOMMENDATION.—Along with the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the annual budget request of the President (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code), for fiscal year 2026 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Comptroller General of the United States, shall include an annex with recommendations to Congress—

(1) contracts for priority items that could be considered under a covered multiyear contract that were not considered as such in the budget materials submitted, and the rationale for exclusion of such priority items from such materials;

(2) the cost of implementation of such contracts for priority items under a covered multiyear contract;

(3) any challenges to implementing such contracts for priority items under a covered multiyear contract; and

(4) any technical assistance required to include contracts for such priority items under a covered multiyear contract in a subsequent fiscal year.

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the covered officials, shall designate any contracts for priority items based on need that will best serve the commanders of the geographic combatant commands for contingency planning and execution.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “contract for priority items” means a contract for goods for any the following:

- (A) Shipbuilding.
- (B) Fighter aircraft.
- (C) Submarines.
- (D) Ground vehicle systems.
- (E) Unmanned aerial systems.
- (F) Hypersonics.

(G) Any goods needed to address supply chain disruptions and constraints for the Department of Defense.

(2) The term “covered officials” mean—

- (A) the Secretary of the Army;
- (B) the Secretary of the Navy;
- (C) the Secretary of the Air Force; and
- (D) the Director of the National Guard Bureau.

(3) The term “covered multiyear procurement” means a multiyear contract described under section 3501 of title 10, United States Code, except that—

(A) such contract shall be for a term of greater than one but less than three years;

(B) performance of such contract during the second or subsequent year of such term may be contingent upon the appropriation of funds and may provide for a cancellation payment to be made to the contractor if such appropriations are not made.

AMENDMENT NO. 284 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 28. RESEARCH, STANDARDS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO INDOOR RESIDENTIAL MOLD.**

(b) RESEARCH ON HEALTH IMPACTS OF INDOOR RESIDENTIAL MOLD.—

## (1) RESEARCH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the President of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive study of the health effects of indoor residential mold growth in barracks or other housing on military installations, using the most up-to-date scientific peer-reviewed medical literature.

(B) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall ascertain—

(i) detailed information about harmful or toxicogenic mold that may impact the services and those living on military installations, as well as any toxin or toxic compound such mold can produce;

(ii) the most accurate research-based methods of detecting harmful or toxicogenic mold;

(iii) potential dangers of prolonged or chronic exposure to indoor residential mold growth in residential areas on military installations;

(iv) the hazards involved with inadequate mold inspections on military installations and improper indoor residential mold remediation in barracks on military installations;

(v) the estimated current public health burden of new or exacerbated physical illness resulting from exposure to indoor residential mold on the military services and its effect on quality of life as it impacts readiness, including its impact on children in military families;

(vi) improved understanding of the different health symptomology that can result from exposure to mold in indoor residential environments on military installations, including military barracks;

(vii) ongoing surveillance of the prevalence of idiopathic pulmonary hemorrhage in infants living on military installations; and

(viii) longitudinal studies on the effects of indoor mold exposure in early childhood on the development of asthma and other respiratory illnesses of children living on military installations.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and the President and made available to the general public.

(c) HEALTH, SAFETY, AND HABITABILITY STANDARDS AND MODEL STANDARDS.—

(1) MODEL STANDARDS FOR PREVENTING, DETECTING, AND REMEDIATING INDOOR RESIDENTIAL MOLD GROWTH.—Based on the results of the interagency health study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Secretary of Energy, the Executive Director of the National Institute of Building Sciences, and the President of the National Academy of

Sciences shall, in accordance with section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note; Public Law 104-113), jointly issue model health, safety, and habitability standards for preventing, detecting, and remediating indoor residential mold growth on military installations, including—

(A) model residential mold inspection standards for military barracks;

(B) model indoor residential mold remediation standards for military installations;

(C) standards for testing the toxicity of indoor residential mold and any toxin or toxic compound produced by indoor residential mold on military installations;

(D) health and safety standards for the protection of those inspecting for and remediating mold in housing on military installations;

(E) standards for indoor residential mold testing labs that serve military installations;

(F) model ventilation standards for the design, installation, and maintenance of air ventilation or air-conditioning systems in housing on military installations to prevent indoor residential mold growth or the creation of conditions that foster indoor mold growth in housing on military installations; and

(G) model building code standards for housing on military installations to control moisture and prevent mold growth.

(2) CONSULTATION.—To the maximum extent possible, model standards issued under this subsection shall be developed with the assistance of—

(A) organizations that develop mold and water damage standards and work with military installations;

(B) organizations involved in establishing national building construction standards and work with military installations;

(C) organizations involved in improving indoor air quality;

(D) public health advocates that serve the military community; and

(E) health and medical professionals that serve military servicemembers and their families, including practitioners that care for children of servicemembers.

(3) RESILIENCY.—Model standards issued under this subsection shall take into account geographic diversity, propensity for extreme weather or flooding, and other resiliency metrics impacting military housing.

## (4) DEADLINES.—

(A) PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT.—The officers identified in paragraph (1) shall make draft standards issued under this section available for public review and comment at least 90 days prior to publication of the final standards or model standards pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) PUBLICATION.—Not later than years after the results of the study conducted under subsection (a) are submitted to Congress in accordance with such section, the officers identified in subsection (a) shall issue, and make available to the public, final standards and model standards under this section.

(5) REVIEW AND UPDATES.—The officers identified in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) review the model standards issued under this subsection at least once every 5 years based on latest scientific advances and published studies relating to indoor residential mold growth; and

(B) update such standards and model standards as necessary to preserve and improve the quality of housing on military installations, and prevent the displacement of those currently living on military installations.

(d) CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW HOUSING ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—

## (1) MODEL CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Executive Director of the National Institute of Building Sciences, and the President of the National Academy of Sciences, to the extent such Director and President agree to participate, shall develop model construction standards and techniques for preventing and controlling indoor residential mold in new residential properties on military installations.

(B) CONTENTS.—The model standards and techniques shall provide for geographic differences in construction types and materials, geology, weather, and other variables that may affect indoor residential mold levels in new buildings and on various military installations.

(C) CONSULTATION.—To the maximum extent possible, such standards and techniques shall be developed with—

(i) the assistance of organizations involved in establishing national building construction standards and techniques, especially those who do this work on military installations;

(ii) the assistance of organizations that develop mold and water damage standards on military installations; and

(iii) public health advocates that serve the military community.

(D) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make a draft of the document containing the model standards and techniques available for public review and comment. The Secretary shall make final model standards and techniques available to the public not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(E) APPLICABILITY TO NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION.—Within 1 year of the publication of the final model standards and techniques required by subparagraph (D), the Secretary of Defense shall include such model standards and techniques as a requirement for residential rehabilitation or new construction projects funded with Federal appropriations made available by such agencies.

(e) EDUCATION FOR MILITARY HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—The Secretary of Defense shall include education for military health professions on mold-related illness, including signs and symptoms of toxicogenic mold exposure, in recurring training received by military health practitioners at such time and in such manner as the Secretary chooses.

## (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “indoor residential mold” means any form of multi-cellular fungi in indoor environments, including cladosporium, penicillium, alternaria, aspergillus, fusarium, trichoderma, memnoniella, mucor, stachybotrys chartarum, streptomyces, and epicoccum often found in water-damaged indoor environments and building materials.

(2) The term “toxicogenic mold” means any indoor mold growth that may be capable of producing a toxin or toxic compound, including mycotoxins and VOCs, that can cause pulmonary, respiratory, neurological, gastrointestinal, or dermatological illnesses, or other major adverse health impacts, as determined by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

AMENDMENT NO. 285 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the appropriate place in subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 8. REPORT ON CONTRACT GOAL FOR THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on—

(1) the progress of the Department of Defense in achieving the goal for the Department to acquire products and services from qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind and qualified nonprofit agencies for the other severely disabled (as such terms are defined, respectively, in section 8501 of title 41, United States Code) pursuant to chapter 85 of title 41, United States Code, in an amount equal to one percent of the total funds obligated or expended by the Department for procurement for a fiscal year; and

(2) any obstacles faced by the Secretary in achieving the goal described in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. KRISHNAMOORTHI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following section:

**SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CHINESE E-COMMERCE PURCHASES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to acquire any good from Temu or Shein or through a service operated by either such entity except as provided by subsection (b).

(b) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the acquisition of a good to the extent that the Secretary of Defense determines that such acquisition of such good from Temu or Shein or through a service operated by either such entity is in the interest of national security.

AMENDMENT NO. 287 OFFERED BY MR. MOOLENAAR OF MICHIGAN

Page 599, lines 1 and 2, strike “(d)(1)(A) of such section is amended” and insert “(d)(1) of such section is amended—”.

Page 599, line 2, strike “by” and insert the following:

(1) in subparagraph (A), by

Page 599, line 3, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

After page 599, line 3, add the following:

(2) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) An identification of performance goals and measures to advance the lines of effort of the Initiative relative to the operational requirements of the Initiative, determined in coordination with the Secretary of each military department.”.

Page 599, line 5, insert an em dash after “amended”.

Page 599, line 2, strike “by” and insert the following:

(1) by

Page 599, line 6, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

After page 599, line 6, add the following:

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) A detailed description of the progress made toward achieving the performance goals and measures identified pursuant to subsection (d)(1)(B)(viii).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 288 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle H of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. PROHIBITION OF TIKTOK.**

The Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity shall publish guidance prohibiting the use of TikTok for instructional purposes at schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity.

AMENDMENT NO. 289 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OPTIMIZING THE HUMAN WEAPON SYSTEM PROGRAM.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the Optimizing the Human Weapon System Program of the Army; and

(2) recommendations for improving and expanding the Program.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his leadership on the National Defense Authorization Act.

I rise in support of four amendments today included in this en bloc.

I offer my first amendment in memory of Corporal Adam Lambert, a proud marine from Adel, Iowa. He returned home and, unfortunately, lost his life to suicide shortly after his combat tour of duty.

Today, America loses 22 of its veterans to suicide every single day. We must do more to stop this silent epidemic. Amendment No. 980 aims to reduce the number of veteran suicides by improving our Transition Assistance Program, or TAP, and the Solid Start program to alert transitioning veterans of the mental health services available to them today through the VA.

Second, fighting Communist China requires America be a leader in cybersecurity. My amendment No. 1012 bans the Department of Defense from acquiring, procuring, or utilizing blockchain technology created by our foreign adversaries.

The CCP is developing new technology to manipulate America and infiltrate our national security by rewiring our hard infrastructure.

America is investing heavily in blockchain technology today, developing cloud storage technology. This technology is the future of data management, with worldwide adoption expected in the next decade.

Let me be clear: Failure for America to be able to act or for the Department of Defense to become a subsidiary of a Chinese blockchain is a thousand times worse than anything even TikTok could present today.

This is a critical step to stop this crisis before it is too late, Mr. Chair, and protect Americans.

Last, innovation in America's defense demands a public-private partnership, particularly with our most strategic allies. Amendment Nos. 1038 and 1055 will counter near-peer adversaries in the Middle East and tackle the tech advances that Communist China has made.

As Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah rain down terror on Israel, we must support our strongest ally in the Middle East as she defends herself.

With these strategic partnerships, we can support not only our allies but also learn from the innovations being created by our allies, create new pathways and new markets for our defense tech startups, and continue to leverage America's dominance and spirit of innovation to shape a safer world.

These amendments will establish a key strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit, where I have worked, with our allies in Israel and Taiwan.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc in a bipartisan way across both sides of the aisle, and I thank the chairman for including this in his overall package.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for allowing me to speak on my amendment. It is a bipartisan amendment expressing the sense of Congress that we should not permanently store nuclear waste near the Great Lakes.

My amendment responds to the Government of Canada's recent plans to build a facility that would permanently hold thousands of tons of high-level nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin, the greatest source of freshwater known to mankind.

Permanently storing hazardous nuclear waste so close to our Great Lakes does not make any sense at all. A potential accident involving nuclear waste would threaten the drinking water of millions of people in the United States and Canada and jeopardize thousands of jobs in the fishing, boating, and tourism industries.

Surely, absolutely, there must be a safer location to permanently store radioactive waste than adjacent to the world's greatest source of freshwater.

My amendment, which is included in this en bloc, has strong bipartisan support, and it would be an important step in protecting the Great Lakes.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for including these amendments en bloc.

I rise today in support of the en bloc, which contains two of my amendments.

The first amendment would help identify the national security risk of autonomous vehicles from foreign adversary countries operating in the U.S. AVs will transform the future of transportation and increase safety on roads, but we must ensure our adversaries are not deploying data-collecting vehicles across our country, giving the likes of the CCP an unprecedented vantage point in the United States.

The next amendment would help ensure our Department of Defense schools

are not using TikTok for instructional purposes. As we know, ByteDance is beholden to the CCP, and we cannot allow our military installations or the schools operated by the DOD to become spy cells for the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the en bloc and the underlying bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment No. 256 included in this en bloc.

The United States and its allies are engaged in a global strategic competition with China and Russia. While Europe and the Indo-Pacific are the primary theaters of this contest, China and Russia are increasing their malign influence in the global south, including in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

My amendment directs the Department of Defense to assess the impact of Russia's influence in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national security and economic interests of the United States.

This builds upon my amendment included in the fiscal year 2023 NDAA, which 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 in the region.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of my amendment in amendments en bloc No. 4.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the en bloc package, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member SMITH for allowing me to speak on my amendment No. 267 in the en bloc.

The Australia, United Kingdom, and United States security pact, also known as AUKUS, is one of the most significant security arrangements in generations. It is essential to maintaining free trade and security in the Indo-Pacific.

As we strengthen our coordination of defense article production with our allies, we must continue to prioritize domestic research, producers, and procurement.

AUKUS is a premier example of the domestic benefits. The University of Rhode Island and Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport, formed research and education partnerships with Australian partners. AUKUS will also support good-paying jobs and small businesses across Rhode Island.

My amendment reinforces twin ideas that AUKUS is critical to protecting national security and that it boosts local economies by enhancing defense production capabilities.

Let's ensure the Pentagon promotes and prioritizes domestic production as

we work alongside our allies for a safer and more stable future.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

□ 0930

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, and still I rise. I thank the gentleman for yielding 1 minute and I thank those members of the Rules Committee who made this moment possible.

Mr. Chair, today, I rise to call attention to a 159-year-old injustice. Milton Holland was given a battlefield promotion. When he received that promotion, it was not validated later on when it was discovered that he was a person of African ancestry.

The battlefield promotion he was given was denied because of who he was. He was a member of the Union Army, by the way. He received the Medal of Honor but could not maintain the promotion that he received for the valor he displayed in battle.

This injustice will be corrected today. Every person who votes will be bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice for Milton Holland.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 5 consisting of amendment Nos. 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, and 350 printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

AMENDMENT NO. 290 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 17. AMENDMENTS TO PATHWAYS FOR COUNSELING IN TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 1142(e)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (M) as subparagraph (R); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (L) the following:

“(M) Child care requirements of the member (including whether a dependent of the member is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program).

“(N) The employment status of other adults in the household of the member.

“(O) The location of the duty station of the member (including whether the member was separated from family while on duty).

“(P) The effects of operating tempo and personnel tempo on the member and the household of the member.

“(Q) Whether the member is an Indian or urban Indian, as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (Public Law 94-437; 25 U.S.C. 1603).”

AMENDMENT NO. 291 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 7. PODIATRISTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) QUALIFICATION OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRY FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—Section 532(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting “podiatry,” after “osteopathy.”.

(b) MEMBERS OF MEDICAL CORPS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that podiatrists are assigned to the Medical Corps of each military department. The Secretary shall notify the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives in writing upon carrying out this subsection.

AMENDMENT NO. 292 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8. ADDITION OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE TO THE REQUIREMENT TO BUY CERTAIN ARTICLES FROM AMERICAN SOURCES.

(a) ADDITION TO COVERED ITEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4862(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

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

“(3) Stainless steel flatware.”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4)

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 293 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

Page 920, after line 5, insert the following new section:

SEC. 28. FEASIBILITY STUDY BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON REPLICATING THE ARMY FUTURE SOLDIER PREP COURSE THROUGH THE OTHER SERVICE BRANCHES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a feasibility study on replicating the Army Future Soldier Prep Course through the other services that contains the following:

(1) A cost estimate for each of the services including—

(A) Any military construction or facilities sustainment, restoration and modernization costs;

(B) Additional personnel costs; and

(C) Additional operations and maintenance costs.

(2) Existing bases for each service that could host such a program.

AMENDMENT NO. 294 OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 7. REPORT ON MEDICAL INSTRUMENT STERILIZATION.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the Defense Health Agency shall conduct a study on the adequacy of sterilization of medical instruments at medical facilities of the Defense Health Agency.

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

(A) A description of the processes or checks used to ensure medical instruments are sterilized prior to use on patients at medical facilities of the Defense Health Agency.

(B) A description of the policies and processes used to identify and mitigate the use of insufficiently sterilized medical instruments at such medical facilities and the processes and timelines for informing patients of any such near-miss (if any disclosure is required).

(C) An identification of the aggregate number of adverse events or near-misses as a result of insufficiently sterilized medical instruments at such medical facilities during the period beginning on January 1, 2022, and ending on January 1, 2024.

(D) A determination of primary factors that result in insufficiently sterilized medical instruments at such medical facilities.

(E) A description of the extent to which unsterilized medical instruments have impacted the operation of such medical facilities.

(F) An assessment of whether such medical facilities have sufficient—

(i) medical instruments;

(ii) medical devices to timely clean and sterilize medical instruments; and

(iii) staff to sterilize medical instruments.

(G) An assessment of whether staff at such medical facilities are properly trained to sterilize medical instruments.

(H) A determination of the number of surgeries at such medical facilities that were delayed or rescheduled as a result of unsterilized medical instruments.

(I) Recommendations to improve the sterilization of medical instruments at such medical facilities, including an identification and evaluation of existing options, such as mobile sterilization units and coordinating with community medical centers to expand surgical capacity.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall submit to Congress a report on the study required by subsection (a), which shall include an action plan to consider and implement the recommendations included in such study.

AMENDMENT NO. 295 OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the appropriate place in title XXVIII, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO EXPEDITE CERTAIN MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS LOCATED IN GUAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—To expedite military construction projects in Guam intended to improve the defense of Guam and the Indo-Pacific region, each Secretary of a military department may provide grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement other Federal funds to regulatory agencies located in Guam that such Secretary determines appropriate, including—

(1) the Guam Environmental Protection Agency; and

(2) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each agreement under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the provision of Department of Defense technical assistance to regulatory agencies responsible for the timely completion of military construction projects; and

(2) the use of Department of Defense personnel to perform conservation activities for which the regulatory agency is responsible.

(c) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “military construction project” has the meaning given such term in section 2801 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 296 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

At the end of subtitle B of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_\_. AMENDMENT TO EXTEND TIME PERIOD FOR TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE OF CERTAIN ARMY AND AIR FORCE RESERVE COMPONENT GENERAL OFFICERS.**

Section 14314 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D), respectively;

(B) by striking “Within” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), within”; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) For any general officer covered by paragraph (1) who is released from a joint duty assignment or other non-joint active-duty assignment, the Secretary concerned shall complete the transfer or discharge required by paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the officer’s release.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “subsection (a)(3)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)(C)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 297 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title VIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 8 \_\_\_\_\_. REPORT ON COMPETITION AND EQUIPMENT REPAIR.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is integral that the military be able to fix its own equipment, and that efforts deliberately designed to prevent the military end user from fixing equipment in the field harm our nation’s military readiness.

(b) REPORT AND PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Chair of the White House Competition Council the report required under clause (iii) of section 5(s) of Executive Order 14036 titled “Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy”.

AMENDMENT NO. 298 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

Page 288, insert after line 10 the following:

**SEC. 597. DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION; REPORT.**

Not later than October 1, 2024, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report regarding the Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (DACODAI). The report shall contain the following items:

(1) An overview of the appointment process used to select individuals currently serving as members of the DACODAI, including the nominating source for each individual currently serving as a DACODAI member.

(2) An explanation of how the Department ensures individuals selected to serve as members of DACODAI comprise points of view that are “fairly balanced” as required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

(3) A complete listing of all recommendations made by the DACODAI since September 23, 2022.

(4) A complete listing of all studies initiated by the DACODAI since September 23, 2022.

(5) The cost associated with operating the DACODAI since September 23, 2022.

AMENDMENT NO. 299 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8 \_\_\_\_\_. REPORT ON SMALL PURCHASES OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND MAGNETS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this section, the Di-

rector of the Defense Contract Management Agency shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the dollar amount of covered materials manufactured in China and Russia and acquired by the Department of Defense through contracts valued at or below the simplified acquisition threshold during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on the date of the submission of such report to the congressional defense committees.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the total value of contracts under which covered materials were acquired by the Department of Defense during the period covered by the report;

(2) the total value of contracts under which covered materials manufactured in China or Russia were acquired by the Department of Defense during the period covered by the report;

(3) the total value of contracts under which covered materials were acquired by the Department of Defense during the period covered by the report for which the Director could not determine whether the covered materials were manufactured in China or Russia;

(4) for each covered material, the value of the covered material acquired by the Department of Defense during the period covered by the report that was manufactured in China or Russia; and

(5) any recommendations from the Director for improving the ability of the Department of Defense to track the manufacturer of covered materials.

(c) ACQUISITIONS BY THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY.—Each value described in subsection (b) contained in the report required by subsection (a) shall be disaggregated by acquisitions made by the Defense Logistics Agency and acquisitions made by other elements of the Department of Defense.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of this section, the Director shall regard “manufacturing” as being the main value-add step in the supply chain in which raw minerals are initially combined into a metallic, alloyed, or magnetic form and shall not count late-stage cutting and finishing processes or distribution as the critical manufacturing step.

(e) COVERED MATERIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered material” means—

(1) samarium-cobalt magnets;

(2) neodymium-iron-boron magnets;

(3) tungsten metal powder;

(4) tungsten heavy alloy;

(5) tantalum metals and alloys;

(6) aluminum-nickel-cobalt magnets; or

(7) any other metals listed in section 4863(1) of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 300 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10 \_\_\_\_\_. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON DREDGING CAPACITY AND PORT READINESS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the capability and capacity of Department of Defense to complete harbor and channel dredging at seaports that require such dredging.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) identification of any dredging work required by the Department of Defense to ensure deep water access at seaports, set forth separately by seaport;

(2) a review of the capacity of the domestic dredging industry to complete the dredging work identified under paragraph (1);

(3) an assessment of time required to complete outstanding dredging work at seaports in the Strategic Seaport Program; and

(4) development of recommendations for Federal policies, including contracting policies, that may be implemented to support domestic manufacturers of critical components used in the manufacturing of United States dredging vessels, including critical components such as cranes, spring couplings, torque limiters, diesel engine clutches, clutch couplings, wet brakes, and combination gearboxes.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall consult with—

(1) the National Port Readiness Network; (2) entities in the United States dredging industry;

(3) domestic critical component manufacturers; and

(4) such other individuals and entities as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 301 OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

**SEC. 17. REPORT ON SYSTEM DEPENDENCIES, UPTIME, AND KEY FACTORS OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the electronic health record system and other system dependencies, uptime, and key factors that affect the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include each of the following:

(1) A list of the information technology systems, infrastructure, and entities of the Department of Defense pertaining to the electronic health record system of the Department with which the Department of Veterans Affairs has an operational or technical dependency.

(2) A list of instances of electronic health record system and associated system downtime, performance degradations, outages, or incidents of the Department of Defense during fiscal year 2024, including, for each such instance each of the following:

- (A) The duration.
- (B) The results of a root cause analysis.
- (C) Any after action reporting.

(D) The accountable office within the Department.

(E) An indication of whether the Department of Veterans Affairs was also affected.

(3) Any steps taken by, or plan of, the Secretary of Defense to address, mitigate, or resolve the instances identified in paragraph (2), as well as the an identification of any uptime goals for any system affected by an instance identified in paragraph (2).

(4) Any steps taken by the Secretary of Defense to improve governance, coordination, and policy decisions conducted with or affecting the Secretary of Veterans Affairs related to electronic health record systems and associated systems of the Department of Defense with which the Department of Veterans Affairs has an operational or technical dependency.

(5) A plan or schedule, if any, to modernize or replace systems of the Department of De-

fense pertaining to identity management or patient registration, including the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, with which the Department of Veterans Affairs has an operational or technical dependency.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 302 OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle E of title I, add the following new section:

**SEC. 1. STUDY TO IDENTIFY SOURCES OF SECURE PARTS FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall conduct a study to identify sources of secure parts for unmanned aircraft systems. For purposes of the study, a part shall be considered secure if it—

(1) is not produced or sold by a Chinese military company (as defined in section 1260H of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note));

(2) will not be used for a sensitive platform, such as the F-35 aircraft;

(3) does not connect to wireless or other data networks; and

(4) meets such other criteria as may be established by the Under Secretary.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 303 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDSON OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. REPORT ON USE OF NUCLEAR POWER FOR MILITARY AND SOFT POWER PURPOSES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit a report to Congress on Russian and Chinese efforts relating to transportable nuclear power that specifically evaluates the manner and extent to which both Russia and China are using transportable nuclear power for direct military purposes and as a soft power tool globally.

AMENDMENT NO. 304 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 1. BRIEFING ON INSTANCES OF ATTEMPTED BREACHES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide to Congress a briefing on any instance of an attempted breach of a military installation under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense during the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on the date of the provision of such briefing.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each briefing under subsection shall include, with respect to each perpetrator of an attempted breach described in such subsection, a statement of the applicable immigration status and citizenship status.

AMENDMENT NO. 305 OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subtitle E of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR SOFTWARE.**

Section 2241(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) Acquisition, development, modification, and sustainment of software.”

AMENDMENT NO. 306 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

At the end of subtitle I of title 5, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JOSEPH M. PEREZ FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

(a) RECOGNITION OF ACTS OF VALOR.—Congress recognizes the following acts of valor by Joseph M. Perez:

(1) Joseph M. Perez distinguished himself by valorous actions against overwhelming odds while serving as a Sergeant in the Army, with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, in South Vietnam.

(2) On May 26, 1967, during the Vietnam War, Sergeant Perez acted as the fire team leader with the Commanding Officer of Company C and led an infantry unit conducting a search and destroy task near the Cambodian border. When the unit reached the top of a hill, they were suddenly under attack from a concealed sniper.

(3) During the initial phase of battle, Sergeant Perez and the unit took cover to assess and decide the strength of the enemy and determine the direction of where the attack was coming from. When the enemy launched a hand-grenade, the fire team returned fire. Without hesitation or concern for his personal safety, Sergeant Perez absorbed the full lethal explosion of the grenade and shielded his fellow soldiers from the blast. The explosion caused Sergeant Perez to lose his right eye and severed his right hand.

(4) The fire team moved to relocate to a safer area, leaving Sergeant Perez alone. Once Sergeant Perez regained consciousness, he crawled twenty meters to safe ground to be treated by medics.

(5) Sergeant Perez’s personal leadership in intense close combat resulted in a major win for his battalion against overwhelming odds, though he lost his eye and hand and nearly lost his life, he saved the lives of three of his fire team members from death and serious injuries from the explosion.

(6) Sergeant Perez’s selfless devotion to duty, his extraordinary heroism, conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, and numerous risks of his life above and beyond the call of duty are all in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army, and reflect great credit on himself, the Armed Forces, and the United States.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) When awarding him the distinguished-service cross, Sergeant Perez’s chain of command was unaware of the full extent of his valorous actions and the numerous risks he took for his soldiers, all above and beyond the call of duty.

(2) Although Sergeant Perez absorbed the lethal explosion of a hand grenade, once he regained consciousness, he continued to move with his battalion against devastating and overwhelming enemy fire.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Joseph M. Perez for the acts of valor described in subsection (d).

(d) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of Joseph M. Perez on May 26, 1967, while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the distinguished-service cross.

AMENDMENT NO. 307 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 28. STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a recommendation for a strategy for military construction projects for a sufficient number of child development centers (as defined in section 2871 of title 10, United States Code) as necessary to eliminate wait lists for members of the Armed Forces seeking childcare at such child development centers.

AMENDMENT NO. 308 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI OF CALIFORNIA

Page 949, beginning on line 19, strike “means” and all that follows through the second period on line 21 and insert “means—”.

Page 949, after line 19, insert the following:

“(1) a government owned vessel disposed of in accordance with this part and section 548 of title 40;

“(2) a vessel seized or forfeited pursuant to any law, and auctioned by the Federal Government, including a vessel seized or forfeited pursuant to section 7301 or 7302 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

“(3) a fishing vessel seized or forfeited pursuant to section 310 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1860).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 309 OFFERED BY MR. ROSE OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 10. REPORT ON RED FLAGS MISSED IN JANET YAMANAKA MELLO FRAUD SCHEME.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the fraud scheme perpetrated by Janet Yamanaka Mello, a civilian employee of the Department of the Army, who was indicted and pleaded guilty to stealing over \$100 million in Army funds.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a detailed examination of the following:

(1) Breakdown in supervision of Mello, including any failures of management or oversight that contributed to the ability of Mello to carry out the fraud scheme undetected.

(2) Breakdown in accountability, including any failures to ensure that funds were actually being spent for their intended purposes.

(3) Failure to ensure that financial program managers, such as Mello, cannot funnel money to themselves or their own entities.

(4) Any other red flags or warning signs that were missed or ignored, including any instances of whistleblower retaliation or suppression of concerns.

(5) An assessment of the current policies and procedures in place to prevent similar fraud schemes from occurring in the future.

(6) Recommendations for improvements to policies, procedures, and oversight to prevent similar fraud schemes from occurring in the future.

(7) A description of any disciplinary or administrative actions taken against any individuals or entities found to have contributed to the ability of Mello to carry out the fraud scheme.

(8) A description of any changes made or planned to be made to the Army’s financial management and oversight processes as a result of this incident.

(9) An assessment of the impact of the fraud scheme on the Army’s programs and operations.

(10) Any other information the Secretary of Defense determines relevant to understanding the fraud scheme and preventing similar incidents in the future.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be posted publicly on the website of the Department of Defense

AMENDMENT NO. 310 OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following:

**SEC. 13. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN’S MILITARY PREPAREDNESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on deterrence in the Taiwan Strait.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment on the feasibility of economic tools to deter the People’s Republic of China from conducting covered contingencies.

(2) An assessment by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, on how covered countries would likely respond to various covered contingencies.

(3) A description of the policy changes the Secretary of State would recommend in response to covered contingencies.

(4) A description of the messaging the Secretary of State would employ to in response to covered contingencies.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form with an unclassified summary.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

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

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

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Banking of the Senate;

(2) the term “covered contingencies” include—

(A) a military strike or invasion of one or more of Taiwan’s off-shore islands, including Kinmen, Matsu, Wuciu, and Taiping Island;

(B) a military strike against the Island of Taiwan or Penghu;

(C) a commercial blockade of Taiwan in which international vessels are subjected to search or seizure by the People’s Liberation Army;

(D) a major cyber-attack against the critical infrastructure of Taiwan; and

(E) a seizure of one or several of Taiwan’s outlying islands or territorial claims; and

(3) the term “covered countries” means Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam, and any other country the Secretary of State determines to be relevant.

AMENDMENT NO. 311 OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF FLORIDA

Add at the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII the following:

**SEC. 28. REPORT ON LAND USE PRACTICES AROUND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of land use policies and encroachment risks near military installations (as defined in section 2801 of title 10, United States Code) located in the Freely Associated States, real property located in the Freely Associated States used to support the Armed Forces, and real property located in the Freely Associated States that may be used to support the Armed Forces during the five-year period following the date of submission of the report.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of establishing a coalition to include representatives from Federal agencies, the governments of the Freely Associated States, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners and land managers in the Freely Associated States to advance sustainable land use practices around military installations that would assist in efforts to prevent encroachment and promote conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 312 OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY STUDY AND REPORT ON EXPANSION OF NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

(a) STUDY.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility and benefits of expanding the National Guard State Partnership Program to additional countries in the First Island Chain and the Second Island Chain, including—

- (1) Brunei Darussalam;
- (2) the Federated States of Micronesia;
- (3) the Republic of Kiribati;
- (4) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- (5) the Republic of Nauru; and
- (6) the Republic of Vanuatu.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 313 OFFERED BY MR. LARSEN OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL ON-DEMAND PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall take such steps as may be necessary—

- (1) to expand participation in the Digital On-Demand Program to—

(A) all organizations and elements of the Department of Defense; and

(B) all members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department; and

- (2) to actively promote the Program throughout the Department.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter through 2029, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the Secretary in expanding and promoting the Digital On-Demand Program as described in subsection (a).

(c) DIGITAL ON DEMAND PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Digital

On-Demand Program" means the program overseen by the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer pursuant to which educational resources on artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, data literacy, and related topics are made available to personnel of the Department of Defense through a digital platform on an on-demand basis.

AMENDMENT NO. 314 OFFERED BY MR. LALOTA OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTILATERAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORKING GROUP.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a working group, which shall be known as the "Multilateral Artificial Intelligence Working Group", to develop and coordinate an artificial intelligence initiative among the allies and partners of the United States.

(b) ORGANIZATION.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF HEAD.—The Secretary shall designate a senior civilian officer of the Department of Defense or senior military officer with experience leading relevant efforts, as determined by the Secretary, to serve as the head of the Working Group.

(2) PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES.—The Secretary shall determine which allies and partners of the United States shall be asked to participate as member countries in the Working Group.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Working Group shall be to develop and coordinate efforts to implement an artificial intelligence initiative between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States, including by—

(1) comparing—

(A) the various artificial intelligence systems and the elements thereof (including machine learning and generative artificial intelligence such as large language models) used for covered operational uses by members countries; and

(B) the respective practices associated with the employment of such systems for covered operational uses by members countries;

(2) identifying (including by experimenting, testing, and evaluating) potential solutions to advance and accelerate the interoperability of artificial intelligence systems used for intelligence sharing, battlespace awareness, and other covered operational uses;

(3) testing and evaluating the effects of artificial intelligence model redundancy, including the risks and safety measures associated with operating multiple artificial intelligence systems, including in tandem with one another;

(4) developing a shared strategy for the research, development, test, evaluation, and employment of artificial intelligence systems for covered operational uses carried out jointly by the member countries;

(5) developing a shared strategy for—

(A) managing data-informed artificial intelligence systems; and

(B) testing and evaluating artificial intelligence systems with combined data sets at the unclassified and classified levels;

(6) testing and evaluating the capabilities of the defense industrial base of the member countries to incorporate artificial intelligence systems into systems used for covered operational uses;

(7) comparing and using ethical frameworks to accelerate technological advancements with respect to artificial intelligence systems;

(8) expanding innovation efforts by the member countries and share among such

countries best practices for the accelerated procurement and adoption of artificial intelligence technologies for covered operational uses;

(9) leveraging commercially available artificial intelligence technologies to advance near-term jointness between the armed forces of the member countries;

(10) jointly identifying and sourcing artificial intelligence systems, as practicable, and advising member countries with respect to export controls applicable to such systems; and

(11) carrying out such other activities as the Secretary determines to be relevant to such responsibilities.

(d) CONTROL OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNICAL DATA.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that any knowledge or technical data produced by a member country under any cooperative project carried out by the Working Group shall be controlled by that country under the export control laws and regulations of that country and shall not be subject to the jurisdiction or control of any other member country.

(e) PLAN AND REPORTS.—

(1) PLAN.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the establishment and activities of the Working Group.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) a plan for the establishment of the Working Group;

(ii) a description of any funding requirements or administrative support necessary to carry out this section;

(iii) a description of any additional statutory authorities necessary to carry out this section;

(iv) a plan for the fulfilment of responsibilities under subsection (c) by the Working Group;

(v) an evaluation of existing multilateral artificial intelligence efforts;

(vi) a plan for the integration of the artificial intelligence initiative developed and coordinated by the Working Group with other programs and initiatives of the elements of the Department of Defense with responsibilities relating to mutual security and artificial intelligence efforts among the member countries;

(vii) performance indicators by which the activities of the Working Group will be assessed; and

(viii) a description of how efforts of the commanders of the combatant commands relating to military interoperability and test and evaluation of artificial intelligence systems will be tasked and executed by and through the Working Group.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a semiannual basis thereafter until the date of termination under subsection (f), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the activities and milestones of the Working Group. Each such report shall include, with respect to the period covered by the report—

(A) an assessment of the activities of the Working Group based on the performance indicators set forth in the plan under paragraph (1)(B)(vii); and

(B) a description of any efforts of the commanders of the combatant commands taken in support of the responsibilities of the Working Group.

(f) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Working Group shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

(2) AUTHORITY TO EXTEND.—The Secretary may extend the termination date under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines such extension to be in the national security interests of the United States.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "battlespace awareness" has the meaning given that term in the Joint Publication 1-02 of the Department of Defense, titled "Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms", or successor publication.

(2) The term "covered operational use" means use by a government for operations in a defense context.

(3) The term "member country" means a member country of the Working Group.

AMENDMENT NO. 315 OFFERED BY MR. LALOTA OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 8. REPORT ON BUNDLED CONTRACTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on—

(1) the effects of awarding bundled contracts (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) on the Department of Defense and small business concerns (as defined under such section); and

(2) the potential effects of reducing the number of bundled contracts awarded.

AMENDMENT NO. 316 OFFERED BY MR. EDWARDS OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 10. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF CERTAIN PERMISSIONS TO ACCESS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall suspend or revoke a security clearance held by a covered individual if such individual has expressed support for a terrorist organization or engaged in a demonstration supporting a terrorist organization.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "covered individual" means any—

(A) retired or active member of the Armed Forces; or

(B) employee of the Department of Defense.

(2) The term "terrorist organization" means any foreign terrorist organization designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), as amended, or those designated by Executive Order 13224.

AMENDMENT NO. 317 OFFERED BY MS. OCASIO-CORTEZ OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO INVOLVEMENT OF UNITED STATES IN 1973 COUP IN CHILE.**

The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall conduct a declassification review of documents relating to the involvement of the United States in the 1973 coup in Chile, including—

(1) any record of financial support provided by the United States Government to any organization or other entity, whether private or public, that supported the coup;

(2) any record of communication between an officer or employee of the United States Government and a senior military or intelligence officer of the Government of Chile during the period beginning on September 11, 1972, and ending on September 11, 1974; and

(3) any other document containing information relating to the involvement of the United States Government in the coup.

AMENDMENT NO. 318 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle D of title XV, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 15. REPORT ON USER ACTIVITY MONITORING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on user activity monitoring programs of the Department of Defense. The report shall include—

(1) a description of the implementation and enforcement of the requirements of section 1537 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 2224 note; Public Law 118-31; 137 Stat. 570);

(2) a detailed description of the status of user activity monitoring on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network;

(3) a comprehensive accounting of the funds made available funds made available for user activity monitoring on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network in fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024; and

(4) information on how any such user activity monitoring programs might deviate from the minimum standards outlined in—

(A) the National Insider Threat Policy and Minimum Standards for Executive Branch Insider Threat Programs;

(B) the Committee on National Security Systems Directive 504 (issued on February 4, 2014, relating to the protection of national security systems from insider threats); or

(C) the Department of Defense Directive 5205.16 (issued on September 30, 2014, relating to the insider threat program of the Department of Defense).

AMENDMENT NO. 319 OFFERED BY MRS. RADEWAGEN OF AMERICAN SAMOA

At the end of subtitle J of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON INTEGRATION OF CHAPLAINS INTO ACTIVITIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the use of chaplains and the Chaplain Corps during campaigning efforts in the Indo-Pacific, that also includes the following:

(1) A summary of the manner and extent to which chaplains are deliberately integrated into campaigning events in the Indo-Pacific to build relationships and partnerships with partners and host countries.

(2) A description of the deployment and exercise events chaplains are integrated into.

(3) A list of host country or partner outreach events that chaplains hosted or supported.

(4) An assessment of future integration planned for chaplains in the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

AMENDMENT NO. 320 OFFERED BY MR. ROSE OF TENNESSEE

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. BRIEFING ON INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING OF COUNTRIES WITHIN UNITED STATES AFRICA COMMAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.**

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

(1) Africa is a theater of strategic competition where the People's Republic of China and Russia continue to increase their presence through economic and military relations;

(2) stability in the region has suffered, resulting in 8 military coups in the Sahel region of Africa in just the last 4 years;

(3) this region serves as an important training ground for violent extremist organizations whose attacks spread across the African continent and the globe; and

(4) United States Africa Command faces challenges in building strategic partnerships with African countries and bolstering stability on the continent.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall offer to all members of Congress a briefing on the adequacy of institutional capacity building in countries within the area of responsibility of the United States Africa Command to strengthen governance in the defense sectors of such countries. Such briefing shall also include, at a minimum, an analysis of programs and efforts of the Department of Defense focused on—

- (1) strategy and policy development;
- (2) budget development and execution;
- (3) human resource management systems;
- (4) logistics processes; and

(5) recommendations to counter the influence of the People's Republic of China, Russia, and non-state violent extremist organizations through additional institutional capacity building in such countries by the Department.

AMENDMENT NO. 321 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVE DOMESTIC SOURCE C-130J IRSS.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for operational system development, Aviation Systems, line 281 (PE 1160403BB) is hereby increased by \$6,000,000 (with the amount of such increase to be made available for Alternative Domestic Source C-130J IRSS).

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for operational system development, industrial base analysis and sustainment support, line 214 (PE 0607210D8Z) is hereby reduced by \$6,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 322 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. DIVE SCHOOL REQUIRED ELEMENT OF QUALIFICATION AS A COMBAT CONTROLLER OF THE AIR FORCE.**

The Secretary of the Air Force shall require that training to qualify as a combat controller of the Air Force includes dive school.

AMENDMENT NO. 323 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle C of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMBERS AWARDED CERTAIN DECORATIONS TO WEAR THE UNIFORM WHEN NOT ON ACTIVE DUTY.**

Section 772 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k)(1) A member awarded a decoration specified in paragraph (2) may wear the uniform prescribed by the Secretary concerned on the same basis as a retired officer under subsection (c) while such member attends a special event (including a wedding).

“(2) The decorations specified in this paragraph are the following:

- “(A) The Purple Heart.
- “(B) The Medal of Honor.
- “(C) The Distinguished Service Cross.
- “(D) The Navy Cross.
- “(E) The Air Force Cross.
- “(F) The Coast Guard Cross.
- “(G) The Bronze Star.”

AMENDMENT NO. 324 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. RECORDS OF A SEPARATING MEMBER: PROVISION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES.**

Section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (d)—
- (A) by inserting “(1)” before “In the case”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary concerned shall provide to a member described in subsection (a) an electronic copy of the member's service medical record not later than 30 days before the member separates, retires, or is discharged.”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) SEPARATION DOCUMENTS.—The Secretary concerned shall provide to a member described in subsection (a) an electronic copy of the member's separation documents (including a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214)) not later than 15 days after such member separates, retires, or is discharged.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 325 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, insert the following:

**SEC. 12. REPORT ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE ARCTIC REGION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

- (1) Any military activities of the Russian Federation in the Arctic region.
- (2) Any military activities of the People's Republic of China in the Arctic region.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China, as applicable, the following:

- (1) A description of military activities of such country in the Arctic region, including—

(A) the placement of military infrastructure, equipment, or forces;

(B) any exercises or other military activities; and

(C) activities that are ostensibly non-military in nature but are considered to have military or other strategic implications.

(2) An assessment of—

(A) the intentions of such activities by each such country;

(B) the extent to which such activities affect or threaten the interests of the United States and allies in the Arctic region; and

(C) any response to such activities by the United States or allies.

(3) A description of future plans and requirements with respect to such activities.

(4) A detailed description of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China's cooperation in the Arctic region.

(5) A description of how the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and the resulting damage

to its military forces have impacted the Russian Federation's posture, activities, and policy in the Arctic region.

(6) A description of how the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, has impacted the People's Republic of China's posture, activity and policy in the Arctic region.

(7) A description of how the United States and its allies in the Arctic region have adjusted their posture in response to any recent changes by the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China.

(8) A description of the activities of the Arctic Council and other Arctic fora of which the United States is a member over the preceding 3-year period, including—

(A) a description of how the U.S. Ambassador-at-large for the Arctic region would engage with the Arctic Council and other established Arctic fora;

(B) a description of the United States current role in the Arctic Council and what steps are being taken to ensure that the involvement of the Russian Federation does not detract from continued engagement with regional partners;

(C) a detailing of all meetings, round tables, working groups, and other official activities of the Arctic Council and other Arctic fora, including a description of which such events in which the Russian Federation did and did not participate; and

(D) a description of how the United States is utilizing current Arctic fora to develop and implement regional security strategies.

(c) FORM.—Each report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(e) ARCTIC REGION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Arctic region” has the meaning given the term “Arctic” in the Arctic Research and Policy Act (ARPA) of 1984 (Public Law 98-373).

AMENDMENT NO. 326 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 17. GAO STUDY ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY DISABILITY EMPHASIS PROGRAM.**

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on—

(1) the effectiveness of the Department of Defense Education Activity Disability Emphasis Program; and

(2) how such program supports the employment, retention, and career advancement of individuals with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 327 OFFERED BY MS. BARRAGÁN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. LAND CONVEYANCE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR INTERIM LEASE, DEFENSE FUEL SUPPORT POINT SAN PEDRO, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.**

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Navy (in this section referred

to as the “Secretary”), may convey to the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita, at a cost less than fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to parcels of real property, including any improvements therein and thereon, known as the ballfields and the firing range at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Defense Fuel Support Point, San Pedro, California, as further described in subsection (b), for the purposes of permitting the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) to use such conveyed parcel of real property for park and recreational activities or law enforcement affiliated purposes. A conveyance under this subsection is subject to valid existing rights.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The parcels of real property that may be conveyed under subsection (a) consists of the following:

(1) The City of Lomita Ballfield Parcel consisting of approximately 5.7 acres.

(2) The City of Los Angeles Ballfield Parcels consisting of approximately 15.3 acres.

(3) The firing range located at 2981 North Gaffey Street, San Pedro, California, consisting of approximately 3.2 acres.

(c) INTERIM LEASE.—Until such time as any parcel of real property described in subsection (b) is conveyed to the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate), the Secretary of the Navy may lease such parcel or a portion of such parcel to either the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita at no cost for a term up to three years. If fee conveyance described in subsection (a) is not completed within the period of the lease term with respect to such parcel, the Secretary shall have no further obligation to make any part of such parcel available for use by the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for a conveyance under subsection (a), the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) shall pay to the Secretary of the Navy an amount determined by the Secretary, which may consist of cash payment, in-kind consideration as described under paragraph (2), or a combination thereof.

(2) IN-KIND CONSIDERATION.—In-kind consideration provided by the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) under this subsection may include—

(A) the acquisition, construction, provision, improvement, maintenance, repair, or restoration (including environmental restoration), or combination thereof, of any property, facilities, or infrastructure with proximity to Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, that the Secretary considers acceptable; or

(B) the delivery of services relating to the needs of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach that the Secretary considers acceptable.

(3) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED FOR CONVEYANCE.—Cash payments received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance or to an appropriate fund or account currently available to the Secretary for the purposes for which the costs were paid. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(4) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary shall require the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) to cover costs (except costs for environmental remediation of the property) to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Sec-

retary for such costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out a conveyance under subsection (a), including costs for environmental and real estate due diligence and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance and lease execution.

(5) REFUND OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.—If amounts are collected from the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita under paragraph (4) in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out a conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate).

(e) VALUATION.—The values of the property interests to be conveyed by the Secretary described in subsection (a) shall be determined by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary and in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(f) CONDITION OF CONVEYANCE.—A conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to all existing easements, restrictions, and covenants of record and conditioned upon the following:

(1) The parcels of real property described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) shall be used solely for park and recreational activities, which may include ancillary uses such as vending and restrooms.

(2) The parcel of real property described in subsection (b)(3) shall be used solely for law enforcement affiliated purposes.

(3) The city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate) may not use Federal funds to cover any portion of the amounts required by subsection (d) to be paid.

(g) EXCLUSION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIOR SCREENING.—Section 2696(b) of title 10, United States Code, and the requirements under title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 101-645; 41 U.S.C. 11411) relating to prior screenings shall not apply to a conveyance under subsection (a) or the grant of interim lease authorized under subsection (c).

(h) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If the Secretary determines at any time that a parcel of real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in this section, all right, title, and interest in and to the land, including the improvements thereto, shall, at the option of the Secretary, revert to and become the property of the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto such real property. A determination by the Secretary under this subsection shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(i) CONVEYANCE AGREEMENT.—A conveyance of land under subsection (a) shall be accomplished using a quitclaim deed or other legal instrument and upon terms and conditions mutually satisfactory to the Secretary and the city of Los Angeles or the city of Lomita (as appropriate), including such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(j) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(k) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section affects the application of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

AMENDMENT NO. 328 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 12. REPORT ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO STOP UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of cooperation between the United States and Israel on efforts to counter threats by Iran in the form of unmanned aerial systems, including loitering munitions otherwise known as “suicide” or “kamikaze” drones.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (1) the congressional defense committees;
- (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and
- (3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate

AMENDMENT NO. 329 OFFERED BY MR. TONY GONZALES OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle F of title XVIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 18. BRIEFING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF QUALITY OF LIFE PANEL.**

Not later than March 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall provide, to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, a briefing on the implementation of the recommendations in the report, dated April, 2024, of the Quality of Life Panel of such Committee. Such briefing shall include—

(1) updates to pay and compensation of members of the uniformed services, including—

(A) the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code; and

(B) implementation of any increase to the family separation allowance under section 427 of such title, as authorized by section 626 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31);

(2) improvements to child care accessibility and affordability;

(3) increased transparency on the condition and funding of unaccompanied and privatized family housing;

(4) improvements in access to health care; and

(5) expansion of support programs for military spouses.

AMENDMENT NO. 330 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) the results of a study of the effectiveness of the Exceptional Family Member program authorized under section 1781c(e) of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the manner by which it currently supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

(2) recommendations to improve the program.

AMENDMENT NO. 331 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION.**

Section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10

U.S.C. 1090 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation and effectiveness of naloxone distribution to members of the Armed Forces pursuant to this section to reverse opioid overdoses.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 332 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. REPORT ON NAVY USE OF IMMERSIVE LEARNING CAPABILITIES.**

Not later than December 1, 2024, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an identification of any immersive learning capabilities, including augmented, virtual and mixed reality, have been, or potentially could be, integrated into training across the Navy;

(2) a description of any efforts of the Navy to coordinate with the Air Force on lessons learned in the development of the Headquarters Air Force HAF/A4L Air Force Maintenance and Logistics Extended Reality (XR) Strategy and what elements of that strategy might be applicable to the Navy;

(3) an identification of the status of any activities of the Navy to build a comprehensive and executable strategy to invest, deploy, and sustain immersive learning training capabilities across the Navy; and

(4) a description of any limitations or barriers to integrating immersive learning capabilities into the Navy, including ensuring compliance with relevant cybersecurity requirements.

AMENDMENT NO. 333 OFFERED BY MR. MAGAZINER OF RHODE ISLAND

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. SKILLBRIDGE FOR THE SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) conduct a survey to determine which such employers in the submarine industrial base are experiencing workforce shortages; and

(2) use the Skillbridge program to provide members training under such program with such employers.

(b) PREFERENCE.—In selecting an employer under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall give preference to smaller employers.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on implementation of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 334 OFFERED BY MR. SCHWEIKERT OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle A of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. USE OF TECHNOLOGY USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO FACILITATE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.**

(a) USE OF AI TECHNOLOGY FOR AUDITS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force shall encourage, to the greatest extent practicable, the use of technology that uses artificial intelligence or machine learning for the purpose of facilitating audits of the financial statements of the Department of Defense.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF AI TECHNOLOGY FOR AUDITS.—The Director of the Chief Digital

and Artificial Intelligence Office of the Department, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the Inspector General of the Department, shall oversee the adoption of artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies in support of financial management and enterprise business operations.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a briefing that includes a description of the use of artificial intelligence or machine learning technologies as described in (a) and (b), including an update on the implementation of the strategy titled “2023 Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy” and dated June 27, 2023.

AMENDMENT NO. 335 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. STUDY ON HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING IN DODEA SCHOOLS.**

Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the results of a study on—

(1) the current usage of tutoring programs in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools;

(2) the extent to which current tutoring programs in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools incorporate elements of high-impact tutoring, including tutoring that—

(A) is in math, reading, or both subjects for at least 30 minutes during the school day and for at least 3 days per week during the school year;

(B) is taught by a licensed Department of Defense Education Activity elementary or secondary school teacher or paraprofessional with a student-to-tutor ratio of no more than 3-to-1;

(C) is on a set schedule and with the same tutor each week;

(D) in the case of tutoring that takes place during a regular class, occurs in a classroom or area that is separate from such regular class; and

(E) with respect to a student, is related to and aligned with the classwork in the student’s regular classes;

(3) how to increase the participation of students enrolled in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools in tutoring programs, particularly those tutoring programs with the elements described in paragraph (2), while not reducing funds available for existing Department of Defense Education Activity programs and teacher and staff compensation; and

(4) how to develop a licensed tutoring workforce for Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools.

AMENDMENT NO. 336 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JUAN OGO BLAZ FOR ACTS OF VALOR WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in

the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Juan Ogo Blaz for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of Juan Ogo Blaz on January 18, 1969, while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

AMENDMENT NO. 337 OFFERED BY MR. BURLISON OF MISSOURI

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following:

**SEC. 8. PROHIBITION AND REPORT ON CONTRACTS FOR ONLINE TUTORING SERVICES.**

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into a contract for online tutoring services which could result in personal data of citizens of the United States being transferred to the control of the People's Republic of China.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the risks of personal data of citizens of the United States being transferred to the control of the People's Republic of China pursuant to any contracts for online tutoring services of the Department of Defense in progress.

AMENDMENT NO. 338 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

Add at the end of subtitle C of title VII of division A the following:

**SEC. 9. FUNDING FOR DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, (1) the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1405 for Defense Health Program specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4501, for Education and Training is hereby increased by \$25,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1405 for Defense Health Programs, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4501, for Base Operations/Communications is hereby reduced by \$25,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 339 OFFERED BY MR. POSEY OF FLORIDA

At the end of title XI, insert the following:

**SEC. 11. SUFFICIENT FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL COVERED INSTALLATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that—

(1) a minimum number of firefighter personnel are on duty at each covered installation to maintain optimum manning and optimum level of service to safeguard life and property at such covered installation; and

(2) a risk assessment may not be used to limit the number of firefighter personnel at a covered installation.

(b) COVERED INSTALLATION DEFINED.—The term “covered installation” means a military installation under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Space Operations of the United States Space Force with a space launch facility.

AMENDMENT NO. 340 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR VIRTUAL ENGINEERING FOR ARMY READINESS AND SUSTAINMENT.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Next-Generation

Combat Vehicle Advanced Technology, line 43, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for Virtual Engineering for Army Readiness and Sustainment, is hereby increased by \$7,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, for the office of the Secretary of Defense, line 470, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, is hereby reduced by \$7,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 341 OFFERED BY MR. SELF OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 5. REVIEW OF ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST A CHAPLAIN WHO REQUESTED EXEMPTION FROM THE COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATE.**

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall establish a board under section 1552 or 1553 of title 10, United States Code, as applicable, to review the military personnel record, or the characterization of a discharge or dismissal, of a current or former chaplain in an Armed Force who suffered an adverse personnel action as a result of, arising from, or in conjunction with, requesting a religious exemption from the COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

(b) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—A review under this section shall cover all adverse personnel actions against a chaplain on or after August 24, 2021.

(d) DIRECTED DETERMINATION.—A board established under this section shall consider any adverse personnel action against a chaplain to be the result of such request, unless there is evidence such chaplain—

(1) was disciplined for a reason other than a request described in subsection (a); or  
(2) breached good order and discipline.

(e) PRIORITY.—A board shall consider a request under this section before any other request on the docket of such board.

(f) DODIG REPORT.—No later than one year after enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the results of an investigation by the Inspector General during that one-year period regarding the compliance of the Secretaries concerned with the terms of this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “adverse personnel action” includes—

(A) discrimination;  
(B) a denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment;  
(C) discharge;  
(D) dismissal;  
(E) separation;

(F) a lowered or noncompetitive performance report;

(G) revocation of permanent change of station;

(H) revocation of temporary duty travel orders; and

(I) any other restriction or negative consequence.

(2) The term “performance report” means a report of an Armed Force (including an officer efficiency report)—

(A) that measures the efficiency, leadership, and effectiveness of an officer; and

(B) is used as a basis for promotion selections.

AMENDMENT NO. 342 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

**SEC. 17. COMMON COALITION KEY WITHIN THE BALTIC STATES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a common coalition key within the Baltic states for purposes of sharing ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) among such states for training and operational purposes.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Baltic states” means—

- (1) Estonia;
- (2) Lithuania; and
- (3) Latvia.

AMENDMENT NO. 343 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN AIRBORNE MOBILE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPABILITY.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army for Ground Advanced Technology, line 38, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for Humanitarian Airborne Mobile Infrastructure Capability, is hereby increased by \$4,200,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, for the office of the Secretary of Defense, line 470, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, is hereby reduced by \$4,200,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 344 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR FUEL CELL MULTI-MODULAR USE UTILIZING HYDROGEN.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army for Ground Advanced Technology, line 38, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for Fuel Cell Multi-Modular Use (FC-MMU) Utilizing Hydrogen, is hereby increased by \$10,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, for the office of the Secretary of Defense, line 470, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, is hereby reduced by \$10,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 345 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, add the following new section:

**SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be used to for a contract for the installation of photovoltaic modules at any facility or real property of the Department of Defense unless the contract contains a provision prohibiting the procurement of such photovoltaic modules from a foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 9901(8) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651(8))).

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on

the expected amount to be obligated fiscal year 2025 to install photovoltaic modules at Department of Defense facilities.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and except as explicitly provided in a provision of law enacted after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense may not obligate or expend from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of installing photovoltaic modules at any facility or real property of the Department of Defense more than the amount certified in the report required under subsection (b) for such purpose during fiscal year 2025.

(2) LIMITATION ON TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts are not authorized to be transferred or reprogrammed pursuant to any authority of the Secretary of Defense for fiscal year 2025 to exceed the amount certified in the report required under subsection (b).

AMENDMENT NO. 346 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF SOUTH DAKOTA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. STUDY AND REPORT ON SHIPPING CONTAINERS AND SPECIALTY SHIPPING CONTAINERS.**

(a) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation, shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report that contains the results of a study on—

(1) the national security implications of reliance on shipping containers and specialty shipping containers produced by foreign adversary countries to meet national defense requirements; and

(2) the feasibility and advisability of production of shipping containers and specialty shipping containers by covered countries for procurement by the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the ability of the Secretary of Defense to procure shipping containers and specialty shipping containers from sources other than foreign adversary countries, including—

(A) any barriers faced by the Secretary for such procurement, along with recommendations to mitigate such barriers; and

(B) a timetable for such procurement;

(2) in coordination with entities in the domestic defense industrial base, an assessment of requirements for shipping containers and specialty shipping containers that could be produced in a covered country or which could be acquired from allied or partner countries, including an assessment of the capabilities and capacities of the workforce of the domestic defense industrial base, supply chain considerations, and the impact on the economy of the United States;

(3) an assessment how an alternative source for procurement of specialty shipping containers would affect defense systems requiring specialty shipping containers, particularly in the event of a crisis; and

(4) any other relevant considerations, as jointly determined by the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Transportation.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered country” means the United States or an ally or partner country.

(2) The term “foreign adversary country” means a country specified in section 4872(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “shipping container” has the meaning given the term “container” in section 80501 of title 46, United States Code.

(4) The term “specialty shipping container” means a shipping container that is uniquely configured to support and protect items contained during handling, storage, unpacking, and forward and return shipment, or to protect personnel and equipment from hazardous contents.

AMENDMENT NO. 347 OFFERED BY MR. SCHWEIKERT OF ARIZONA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

**SEC. 10. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORT ON POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS FROM USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the potential cost-saving measures of incorporating artificial intelligence and multi-domain, attributable autonomous, semi-autonomous, unmanned systems, capabilities and processes into military department and the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 348 OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER OF MINNESOTA

Page 625, insert after line 16 the following:

**SEC. 1413. CONSULTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN PROJECTS RELATING TO AVAILABILITY OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MATERIALS FOR ACQUISITION FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a covered project that will result in an increase in the availability of strategic and critical materials for acquisition for the Stockpile, the Secretary shall consult with the head of any cooperating agency or participating agency responsible for the environmental review for the project.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FAST ACT TERMS.—The terms “cooperating agencies”, “covered project”, “environmental review”, and “participating agency” have the meanings given those terms section 41001 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Defense.

(3) STOCKPILE.—The term “Stockpile” means the National Defense Stockpile established under section 3 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98b).

(4) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MATERIALS.—The term “strategic and critical materials” means materials, including rare earth elements, that are necessary to meet national defense and national security requirements, including requirements relating to supply chain resiliency, and for the economic security of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 350 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO MARTIN A. MAGLONA FOR ACTS OF VALOR WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Martin A. Maglona for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of Martin A. Maglona on February 23, 1969, while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, today, I rise in support of my amendment, which requires the Secretary of Defense to review and report on the personnel records of military chaplains who suffered retaliation for seeking a religious accommodation for the COVID-19 vaccine.

By way of background, the Department of Defense’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate violated servicemembers’ and chaplains’ religious liberty and caused substantial harm to their careers.

The DOD’s handling of the chaplains’ religious accommodation requests was an utter disgrace, involving blanket dismissals instead of dismissals considered on an individual basis. My amendment seeks to account for the injustices suffered by the military chaplains.

The primary duty of chaplains is to provide spiritual guidance to our servicemembers. To do so, like every American, they must be free to follow their conscience without facing retribution from the government they swore to defend.

This amendment is an important first step to ensuring that those who serve our country can do so without sacrificing their freedoms, to quote the Declaration of Independence, “endowed by their Creator.”

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment as part of this en bloc package.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), my colleague.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his leadership and steadfast support for the men and women of our armed services.

Yesterday, I was proud to see three of my amendments pass the House and now appreciate the opportunity to speak about three more.

My first amendment requires critical oversight of the DOD’s Education Activity Disability Emphasis program to ensure it operates to support the employment, retention, and career advancements of those living with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.

Employment opportunities offer those with disabilities the experience to strengthen their soft skills and lead more independent lives.

Nearly 70 percent of working-aged people with disabilities are unemployed. Another amendment I have offered, included in the en bloc, will require a study on the effectiveness of the Exceptional Family Member program and outline how it currently supports individuals with disabilities.

Special needs families cannot be left in the dark and too often are left on the sidelines, so we must ensure that they have the necessary resources and programs to support their family members' special needs.

The third amendment I offer requires the DOD to provide consistent reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of naloxone distribution for our servicemembers. Opioid overdose and addiction remain a real risk for our transitioning servicemen and -women. We must together ensure they have access to effective reversal treatments in the event of an overdose to help save lives.

Ensuring our servicemembers have the resources to support their mental health, tackle substance use disorder, and support their families, especially those with children with disabilities, is essential to our mission of strengthening and enhancing their quality of life.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for the support of my previous amendments as well as their consideration of these three, and I urge their adoption.

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

Mr. Chair, I will take this opportunity on the last en bloc package to give my closing remarks on the bill.

We do have a few more amendments to go, but this will be the last opportunity to speak about the broad issues surrounding the bill.

The first thing I will do is thank Chairman ROGERS, his staff, and the entire team on the Armed Services Committee for the work that they have done in pulling this bill together. As we often lay out from the beginning of the process in committee, there were well over a thousand amendments offered in committee, well over a thousand amendments offered to the Rules Committee that we all had to sort through to try to produce a piece of legislation.

Coming out of committee, we produced an outstanding piece of legislation. I think even on the floor and even where we are at right now, this is a very, very good bill. The chairman, Mr. ROGERS, deserves an immense amount of credit for getting us to the point where we have a very good bill that deals with a lot of incredibly important issues.

Most notably, as we have mentioned, this is a piece of legislation that does the most to help support the men and women who serve in the military and their families out of any piece of legislation that I have ever worked on.

I thank DON BACON and CRISSY HOULAHAN and all of the members of the Quality of Life Panel that really did a deep dive to figure out what our servicemembers and their families need. They did a large number of hearings. They brought in veterans. They brought in Active-Duty members. They brought in family members to say what their life is like and how we can make it work better.

They put together a series of proposals that are really quite remarkable. Some of it is pay, certainly, but it also has to do with support for spouses in finding employment. It has to do with childcare, healthcare, education, housing. A wide range of issues are very aggressively addressed in this bill, and I strongly support those provisions.

I also have worked closely with the chairman on what I think is a critical issue of modernizing our military, making sure that we can hit the production numbers that we need to hit, to have an adequate deterrent in light of the challenges we face in the world and then also making sure that we modernize.

So much technology is crucial to warfare when it comes to drones, counterdrones, missiles, missile defense, and having secure information systems. There are a lot of provisions in this bill that put us in a better place to get those technologies quickly and field them.

We have a long way to go. I understand that. We are not where we need to be, but we have made a lot of progress and, again, that is a testimony to everybody who worked on this bill.

I also thank my staff on the Democratic side. We have a real spirit of bipartisanship in this committee that I think serves us well. They have done an outstanding job of getting us to where we are.

The amendments that were adopted yesterday, unfortunately, mean that I am going to oppose this bill and the bulk of the Caucus is going to oppose this bill as well, and there are three main reasons for that.

Number one is the prohibition on the travel policy within the military. This is something that we didn't need to address. We did not address it in committee, but it is a crucial issue. It is a crucial issue because so many States across the country have passed restrictive laws when it comes to access to healthcare for women.

You may find yourself stationed in one of those States, and you may not have access to that healthcare. The travel policy was meant as a way to give people serving and, crucially, their family members, access to the healthcare that they need.

Passing a piece of an amendment to this bill that basically eliminates that access to healthcare is a readiness problem and is a problem for the military.

Women serving, and even if you have a spouse and you are serving, you will

have concerns as to whether or not you are going to be able to access the healthcare that you need. The stories have been documented over and over again: A woman has a miscarriage and can't get the healthcare that she needs because of some law that was passed.

This is a debate and a struggle that will be fought out State by State across the country, sadly, for years to come, but our servicemembers shouldn't be caught in that debate and denied healthcare when they need it. That provision alone is extremely problematic.

Also, along the healthcare theme, we have two severe restrictions now in this bill on trans people and their families receiving the healthcare they need. I am not going to presume to say what the right healthcare is. I am not a doctor. I am not a trans person. It should be between them and their doctor.

We placed two restrictions in this bill that presumed that the United States Congress is a better medical professional than a doctor. It is a restriction on that access.

Again, it hurts the military because not only if you are a trans person serving, but if you are someone who is serving who has a trans child, you now have to wrestle with the fact that if you are in the military, your child is not going to be able to get the healthcare that he or she may need. That is a problem for our servicemembers. It has got no business being in this bill. We had these discussions in committee and decided that we weren't going to do it and didn't. The fact that it is added undermines the credibility of this bill.

Lastly, we have the whole epic fight over diversity, equity, and inclusion. My position is the Department of Defense ought to be able to deal with that issue as is necessary and as they see fit. I understand we are in a very, very difficult culture war right now, but the restrictions in this bill that say you can't do DEI ever for anything fundamentally misunderstands that culture war. I don't think anybody, even on that side of the aisle, would disagree that this fight is going on.

If you are running the Department of Defense or even a commander of a local base, you have to deal with that. I don't like the extremes on either the left or the right when it comes to this.

It is absolutely true that there are some people on the left that interpret diversity, equity, inclusion to mean that basically our country is nothing but a racist country, has never been anything but a racist country, we ought to teach people that, and that all White people are racist and we ought to teach people that as well. That is wrong. That is not what the Democratic Party supports. It is certainly not what the Department of Defense is doing right now.

On the other side, we have the approach that says racism isn't a thing, let's pretend that it wasn't ever that big a deal, we don't have to deal with

it, and let's just blind ourselves and not deal with it whatsoever, which is equally ridiculous. As I have shown over and over again, there is still a problem with racism.

When you are trying to lead a bunch of young men and women in the military, they come to you with those issues. How do you deal with them?

What the Department of Defense very sensibly has done is, they have some people who are focused on how you deal with that. How do you make sure that we are going to work together cohesively as a unit without bias and prejudice?

This bill says nope, you have got to ignore it. You have got to act like none of this has happened. If you are in the Department of Defense, there is no culture war. There is nothing to be worried about. We are not going to let you deal with it at all. That is a really, really stupid approach.

Those three things got into this bill because the Rules Committee ruled them in order, and then by a reasonably narrow vote they passed. That is unfortunate because I believe it will undermine the ability of the military to do its job.

For that reason, I do oppose the bill at this point, but as I have told everybody I know, in the end, we will work it out.

For now, I think it is important to make that statement. I think those areas are wrong.

Again, I applaud the chairman and all of the people who have worked on this bill. Ninety-eight percent of the bill is really good, outstanding work. I know in the end, we will get that 98 percent through, but for now, I think it is really important to point out the deep flaws contained in those three areas.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I will take a minute to thank the ranking member for his leadership. He has been an outstanding partner in this process as we have built what is an outstanding National Defense Authorization Act.

I can't overstate how helpful the Democrat staff and the Republican staff have been working together throughout this entire process. This is truly a bipartisan committee and a model for the rest of this institution.

Mr. Chair, I encourage Members to support the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MEUSER). The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

□ 0945

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 56 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title XI of division A the following:

**SEC. 11. REPORT ON USE OF TAXPAYER-FUNDED OFFICIAL TIME.**

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the use of taxpayer-funded official time, as authorized by section 7131 of title 5, United States Code.

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

(A) The total aggregate number of hours spent on official time by Department of Defense employees for fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023, as well as the overall cost to the Department of official time use during each of those periods.

(B) The total number of Department of Commerce employees who used official time, in any amount, during fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

(C) For those Department of Defense employees who used official time during fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the total number who used 100 percent official time.

(D) A description of how many employees utilized official time during fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023 in the following amounts:

- (i) 99-75 percent of total work hours.
- (ii) 74-50 percent of total work hours.
- (iii) 49-25 percent of total work hours.

(iv) Less than 25 percent of total work hours.

(E) The salaries and benefits of all Department of Defense employees using 100 percent official time.

(F) The total value of free or discounted use of Department of Defense government property by individuals on taxpayer-funded official time.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form and made available on a public website hosted by the Department of Defense.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, let me start out by saying happy birthday to the United States Army. I spent a fair amount of time in my life in uniform in the Army. It is a defining thing in anybody's life who has spent time in uniform, and it has been a wonderful institution for many, many Americans over a long period of time.

I also thank the chairman for the work on this bill. I know that while we are debating it here today and we are going to vote later today, that the work for next year's bill will start tomorrow. I thank him for his hard work.

This amendment is pretty straightforward. It just requires the Secretary of Defense to report on the use of taxpayer-funded union time by DOD employees. We are not saying it is bad. We are not saying it is good. We are not saying it is too much. It is too little. We just want to know what it is. We just want to know.

For those who may be unfamiliar, Congress granted certain employees the ability to perform certain tasks for labor unions while on duty. To be clear, that means that these employees are being paid by our constituents to work for union activities instead of doing the job that they were hired to perform.

I think maybe it would be fine if we said in the job description that your job is to do organized labor activities, but that is not what is in the job description. The job description is what is needed for the country for the Department of Defense; but instead of doing that work, you are doing other work. Unacceptably, the statistics on the use of official time are very few and far between.

Take a GAO report from January of 2017, so we are a few years beyond that now, which is telling in itself. According to the data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 346 employees spent 100 percent of their time on official union activities instead of taking care of our Nation's veterans.

Now, the Trump administration took some steps to improve transparency, including actually reporting the use and the cost of official time by agencies.

A VA press release dated November 8, 2018, cites a particularly egregious example. A VA registered nurse, who was elected as a local union official, spent 100 percent of her time doing organized labor activities. That might be fine if the job description was organized labor activities, but the job description is registered nurse. How much time taking care of veterans as a nurse was this person spending? Well, zero, that is how much time.

To use examples from the Department of Defense, the most recent available data or estimates of the data from the Trump administration's final report was that 3,235 DOD employees used official time in FY19 for a total of 526,990 hours at a cost of millions upon tens of millions of dollars, not to mention the equipment.

We are here debating the National Defense Authorization Act.

There are very serious threats around the world. While we stand here, while we sit here, while we watch, the Russians are moving a fleet into Cuba about 100 miles off the coast of the United States of America. Now, I don't know about you, but for me, I want every DOD employee focused on keeping America safe.

All we are asking for, all this amendment asks for is a report so that we don't go blindly searching around to try and figure out how best to do that. If we have the information, we can make decisions. We don't have the information. This amendment says give us the information, track the information so we can make decisions.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to amendment No. 56, which would require a report that would be prejudicial to the rights and interests of Federal employees by calling into question something called official time.

Official time is a system that we, Congress, established in law almost 40 years ago to ensure that all employees entitled to union representation receive it, regardless if they are in the union or not.

Through official time, Federal employees who volunteer as union representatives spend time on what they call representational activities, working with employers and managers to resolve disputes, to resolve disputes, improvements in the workplace that benefit all employees, one of which—and many people consider it the highest—is for safety issues, so they can walk around, they can do the very inspections that save lives and save people from injury instead of waiting for it to happen and reacting before somebody gets hurt or dies on the job.

Simply put, let's call it what it is. This is an attack on official time, and my colleagues want to gut public sector unions. Call it what it is. The report that this amendment requires would only tally the cost of official time, ignoring many benefits. That official time provides for management as well as workers, their safety, and their productivity.

Workers have the right to have a voice on the job. They have that right. That is exactly what the official time provides for. I know that workplaces are more productive and efficient when management and workers come together. This amendment would lay the groundwork to take us in the opposite direction.

As co-chair of the Labor Caucus, I continue to oppose these efforts to take away rights from workers. When we look back at some of the history on this, it has been incredible. This has been an enhancement for the government.

There has been report after report on this already, but the bottom line is, this is about protecting workers on the job who become more protective of the people, the workers on the job.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, there are many things that I agree with the gentleman, my friend on the other side of the aisle. These are important tasks that need to be done. Disputes need to be resolved. We all care about the people who are working for the Federal Government, but to think that after 40 years we have gotten it perfect, and we can't take a look and we can't ask for a report I think is a little bit shortsighted. This isn't an attack on anyone because those things do need to be done.

However, I would say this: Yesterday I received an email from the AFL-CIO from someone working on official time. This is yesterday. Today is Friday. Yesterday was Thursday. The time stamp on it is 1:38, so 1338 if you are in the Army, is what time it came. That is in the middle of the business day. That is in the middle of working hours. That is not handling disputes. That is lobbying Members of Congress to vote one way or the other. We want them to be able to handle disputes and do the work to make sure employees are protected and the good work of DOD is done, but I, for one, would like a report on how this is the work that taxpayers should be paying for and how that is happening and how much it is happening. That is all we are asking for, Mr. Chairman, is a report.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD the email from the AFL-CIO.

AFL-CIO

LEGISLATIVE ALERT,

June 13, 2024.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 12.5 million workers and 60 affiliate unions represented by the AFL-CIO, I urge you to oppose the following amendments to H.R. 8070, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025. These amendments threaten fair representation for federal workers and attack thousands of workers' fundamental right to collectively bargain.

OPPOSE PERRY AMENDMENT (FLOOR #56)

This amendment is part of an effort to undermine official time. Official time permits federal union representatives to fulfill their duties of fair representation regardless of an employee's membership status. Official time also enables federal managers and employee representatives to collaboratively resolve workplace conflict, enhancing government efficiency and productivity.

OPPOSE SCOTT AMENDMENT (FLOOR #349)

This amendment would strip collective bargaining rights from thousands of Dual Status Technicians (DST), a class of DoD employees. The Supreme Court upheld these rights last year in a 7-2 decision written by Justice Thomas in *Ohio Adjutant General's Department v. Federal Labor Relations Authority*. Collective bargaining rights, both in the federal government and the private sector, are crucial for promoting health, safety, and fairness in the workplace. Enacting this amendment would reverse that Supreme Court decision and eliminate collective bargaining rights for DSTs.

We strongly urge you to oppose these amendments to H.R. 8070, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025. Protecting collective bargaining rights and fair representation by voting against these amendments will help ensure that our federal employees continue to have the rights and protections they deserve as they work to support our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

JODY CALEMINE,  
*Director, Government Affairs.*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I urge support and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Federal employees, and he picks up one issue in one little area. My God, we can just look to our Members of Congress to see where violations happen.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this unnecessary amendment that seeks to restrict the rights and interests of Federal employees by calling into question the role of official time.

Forty years ago, Congress established official time to ensure that all employees entitled to union representation receive it regardless of whether or not they choose to join the union. Official time ensures Federal employees have a voice at the worksite to resolve disputes, address issues of discrimination or retaliation, and propose improvements to the workplace.

The Federal Government covers the cost of official time activities because under Federal law, unions must provide fair representation to all employees at the worksite, not just those who pay dues, but also those who benefit from their unions bargaining for better wages, hours, and working conditions, even though they aren't union members.

Opponents of public sector unions claim that official time is a waste of taxpayer dollars. This is false. The cost of official time amounts to just one-tenth of 1 percent of all the salaries and benefits paid to Federal employees in a given year.

This amendment is an attack on official time and on public sector unions, plain and simple. I urge my colleagues to oppose any and all efforts to take rights away from workers and to oppose this antilabor amendment.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, to wrap up, let's be clear: This is an attack on people's voices at the workplace. This is something that we collectively have looked at for over 40 years, and we continue to have a productive way of keeping people safe on the job and to understand that there is no way that they can use this time to do any union political activities, which has been suggested by the opposition.

Let's keep our workers safe. Let's continue to care about those who make our country the best in the world.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 134 OFFERED BY MR. DOGGETT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 134 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 8. REVIEW PANEL ON FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICING AND CONTRACT OVERSIGHT.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a review panel on fair and reasonable pricing and contract oversight of sole-source contracts for munitions and weapons systems contracts, including related contracts for services and spare parts.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The review panel shall be composed of the following six members:

(A) The Director Price, Cost, and Finance of the Office of Defense Pricing and Contracting of the Department of Defense.

(B) The Director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

(C) The Director of the Defense Contract Management Agency.

(D) An individual from the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

(E) Two individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense with expertise in contract pricing, contract negotiations, and contract oversight.

(2) EXPERT APPOINTMENT CRITERIA.—When appointing individuals described in paragraph (1)(E) to the review panel, the Secretary of Defense shall appoint only individuals—

(A) that have extensive experience in both the public and private (including defense and commercial experience) sectors; and

(B) who, in the three-year period immediately preceding such appointment—

(i) have not been employed by a contractor of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) undertaken any actions on behalf of such a contractor for which the individual was compensated in any way.

(3) MEMBER EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS.—In addition to any other restriction imposed by law, during the period beginning on the date an individual is appointed as a member of the review panel and ending on the date that is 3 years after such individual ceases to be a member of the review panel, such individual may not be employed by a contractor of the Department of Defense or undertake any actions on behalf of such a contractor for which the individual is compensated in any way.

(c) DUTIES.—The review panel shall do the following:

(1) Identify an extensive and representative sample of all fixed price contracts and subcontracts, including delivery and task orders, in excess of \$10,000,000 awarded during a period determined by the review panel, except that—

(A) the period determined by the review panel shall include the 15-year period immediately preceding the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) the sample shall include contracts the performance of which is at least 75 percent complete.

(2) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a comparison between negotiated contract prices and actual cost outcomes on the contracts and subcontracts included in the sample identified under paragraph (1).

(3) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the sample identified under paragraph (1) to determine if the pricing for the contracting in such sample exceeded fair and

reasonable prices and, if so, whether excessive pricing is widespread or unique to certain weapons systems, sectors, or companies.

(4) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the sample identified under paragraph (1) that compares initial price submitted by the contractor and subcontractor in the proposal to actual cost outcomes in order to determine the accuracy of contractor estimating systems.

(5) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the degree of competition on spare parts contracts determined to be a commercial product (as defined in section 103 of title 41, United States Code).

(6) Conduct a review and provide an analysis to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that determines the degree to which contract prices for contracts and subcontracts for spare parts that are subject to the submission of certified cost and pricing data exceed fair and reasonable prices in comparison to contracts and subcontracts for spare parts that do not require the submission of certified cost and pricing data.

(7) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the adequacy and degree of contractor oversight by the Department of Defense, including the sufficiency of post-contract award audits for compliance with chapter 271 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the review panel with timely access to appropriate information, data, resources, and analysis so that the review panel may conduct a thorough and independent assessment as required by this section.

(2) SUBPOENA POWERS.—To the degree that any company who has entered into a contract or subcontract subject to the chapter 271 of title 10, United States Code, and refuses to provide actual cost information to include all internal estimates to complete for unfinished work, the Inspector General shall use its subpoena powers to compel the delivery of the requested information.

(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the review panel.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) REVIEW PANEL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary of Defense establishes the review panel, the panel shall transmit a final report to the Secretary.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the review panel, including all analyses required by this section as well as recommendations regarding the adherence to fair and reasonable pricing for contracts and subcontracts and improvements related to contractor oversight.

(3) INTERIM REPORTS.—(A) Not later than 8 months and 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to, or brief, the congressional defense committees on the interim findings of the review panel with respect to the elements set forth in paragraph (2).

(B) Not later than 4 months after the Secretary submits a report to or briefs the congressional defense committees under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Defense shall submit a second report to, or provided a second briefing to, the congressional defense committees on the interim findings of the

review panel with respect to the elements set forth in paragraph (2).

(C) The panel shall provide regular updates to the Secretary of Defense for purposes of providing the interim reports required under this paragraph.

(4) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the final report of the review panel under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall transmit such final report, together with such comments as the Secretary determines appropriate, to the congressional defense committees.

(f) DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Defense may use amounts available in the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account established under section 1705 of title 10, United States Code, to support activities of the review panel under this section.

(g) REVIEW PANEL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “review panel” means the review panel established under subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

This is a bipartisan amendment that I offer together with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN). We may appear as the odd couple politically, but we share a common interest in trying to ensure that taxpayers get their money's worth, and that is true on military contracts as with every other aspect of government. When it comes to those contracts, we are concerned that that is not happening on too many of them.

We don't ask you to just take our word for it, but we have turned to a fellow named Shay Assad, sometimes referred to as the most disliked person in the Pentagon. He had four decades of experience in negotiating government contracts, served as the top director for procurement for both George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

He was central to an illuminating “60 Minutes” report last year about price gouging, which he described as unconscionable and widespread. He has returned to the Pentagon now as the director of procurement at the Air Force.

□ 1000

I know that Chairman ROGERS and Mr. SMITH have been concerned about this problem. Their committee has given it some attention, but I think we can supplement their efforts. Military contractors deserve to get a fair profit, but American taxpayers deserve to be treated fairly also.

We have seen a consolidation in the defense industry where 50 firms have been reduced to about 5 primary contractors. This is a very modest amendment. It requires essentially a one-time type of audit by a review panel that will conduct oversight on the reasonableness of prices on sole-sourced munitions and weapons systems, a 1-year investigation to determine whether the Department has achieved fair

prices in surveyed contracts and make recommendations made to the Armed Services Committee and the Pentagon to be sure that taxpayers are getting the best bang for their buck.

Just as one example that was cited, we have had inflation. All of us are concerned about it, but the cost of a Stinger missile of the type we have been shipping to Ukraine rose from \$25,000 in 1991 to \$400,000 to replace it. That is a little more than the increase in inflation and the improvements that may have occurred to the missile.

The Patriot, the PAC-3 missile, is very important in defense. Hundreds of millions of dollars were saved after a review, and it was found that the contractor was earning a 40 percent profit.

Our amendment would not change the procurement process or add new requirements of contractors. It would simply look at what has occurred in the past and determine if there is a way to improve it. It has the support of bipartisan groups across the ideological spectrum, including the R Street Institute, the Project on Government Oversight, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Public Citizen, and American Economic Liberties Project.

There have been hundreds of amendments offered to the bill that we are considering. This is the only bipartisan amendment made in order for addressing reasonable prices.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this modest step forward. It is a very modest step, but I think it can be helpful to the committee and to all of us in ensuring that we get our money's worth.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wholeheartedly agree with the gentleman's desire to ensure the Department obtains fair and reasonable prices. The committee has done a lot to reform that process and crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse over the last few years.

However, I believe I speak for both sides when I say we have some concerns that this amendment may be redundant to ongoing efforts as well as efforts we required the inspector general to undertake in last year's NDAA. We also have some questions about how the amendment would be executed.

However, if the gentleman would agree to work with us to address these concerns as the bill moves forward, I would be prepared to accept this amendment at this time.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman, and I know he shares

my concern about this. I am eager to work with him on it. I appreciate his comments and will be delighted to work with him.

Sometimes this offer to work ends and begins at once. So long as this is not going to turn into mush in the conference committee or be totally dropped, I am ready to work with the gentleman and cooperate. I appreciate it.

We so often hear about waste, fraud, and abuse as being able to finance essentially the whole government. I know there are many contractors that are doing their job. They are vital to our security. I hope we can work together and find a way to get at the core of this problem and save taxpayers money at the same time we keep our military second to none.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for agreeing to work with us. We will work with him.

Mr. Chair, I agree to accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 190 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 228 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 228 printed in part B of House Report 118-551.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amend section 1725 to read as follows:

SEC. 1725. CERTIFICATION AND REPORTS ON SOUTH AFRICA.

(a) PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees and release publicly an unclassified determination explicitly stating whether South Africa has engaged in activities that undermine United States national security or foreign policy interests.

(2) REPORT.—The certification required under paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by an unclassified report, with a classified annex if the President considers such as necessary, providing a justification for the determination made pursuant to such paragraph.

(b) REVIEW OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.—

(1) FULL REVIEW.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Ambassador to South Africa, and the heads of such other Federal departments and agencies that play a substantial role in United States relations with South Africa, shall conduct a review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate

congressional committees a report that includes the findings of the review required by paragraph (1).

(c) SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on United States defense cooperation with the Government of South Africa.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall also include the following:

(A) An overview of United States defense cooperation with the Government of South Africa, including military exercises, arms sales, and international military education and training.

(B) An assessment of defense cooperation between the Government of South Africa and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be transmitted in an unclassified form and may contain a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chair, this amendment revises section 1725 of the base text to strengthen the current reporting language regarding South Africa by including my legislation, H.R. 7256, the U.S.-South Africa Bilateral Relations Review Act, that passed a House Foreign Affairs Committee markup with strong bipartisan support back in March.

This legislation would simply require the Biden administration to make a determination on whether South Africa's actions are undermining the United States' national security or foreign policy interests and conduct a full review of the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and South Africa.

The only way that this would be threatening is if the ANC is actually undermining the United States and our partnership with the South African people. It is important to show the South African people that the United States is aware of its plight, and it is important to show the American people that we will no longer be played for fools.

Mr. Chair, on March 20, 2024, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee reminded us that a year and a half ago, the Biden administration put out a U.S. strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa. How is that going? In the last year and a half, in Sudan, there have been 10 million displaced, 15,000 fatalities, and 5 million on the brink of starvation.

The world's largest humanitarian crisis rages while external actors fuel the fight without repercussion.

In the last year and a half, across the Sahel, the epidemic of coups has resulted in severe democratic retreating with the forced withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from Niger being the latest example.

In the last year and a half, in Central Africa, the conflict in eastern DRC threatens to escalate and destabilize the entire region.

In the last year and a half, in Ethiopia, 15,000 to 30,000 have already died; 8 million have fled their homes; and 25 million people, including 14 million children, are in desperate need of food, water, and medicine.

Mr. Chair, in the past year and a half, the situation on the Continent of Africa has gotten even more bleak. Are we so naive to believe that the same U.S. strategy that got it so wrong throughout the rest of sub-Saharan Africa somehow got it right in South Africa?

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I am acutely aware of South Africa's important role on the African Continent, and I am proud that the United States has held cordial relationships with South Africa for nearly my entire life—over \$8 billion in the very important PEPFAR assistance program since 2003, and growth in trade from \$13.9 billion to \$21 billion in 2021.

In fact, South Africa has been the United States' largest trading partner in Africa since 2014 and is home to over 600 American businesses. However, it is clear to me that the ANC of today is no longer the party of Mandela.

The ANC continuously moves away from its traditional stance of nonalignment in international affairs and has displayed consistent and overt anti-Israel sentiment in the wake of the devastating October 7 attacks against our number one ally in the Middle East.

These include then-South Africa Foreign Minister Pandor accepting a call from the Hamas leader on October 17 and visiting Tehran to meet with former President Raisi on October 22, South Africa filing a politically motivated and unfounded case against Israel at the International Court of Justice, and then-Foreign Minister Pandor stating back in March of this year that South Africa will arrest Israeli South Africans who are fighting in the Israeli Defense Forces upon their return and could even strip them of their citizenship.

In addition to this overt anti-Israel sentiment, the ANC has increased its alignment with the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, as well.

In February 2023, on the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the ANC hosted joint military exercises with Russia and China off the coast of South Africa. Excuse me? I am a military veteran. These drills and exercises are practicing killing American sailors and soldiers. Additionally, the ANC hosted the BRICS Conference in Johannesburg in August 2023.

I am also concerned about recent allegations of illicit financing flowing to the ANC from Russia and other malign actors.

In December, the ANC allegedly accepted 10 million rand from a Kremlin-backed holding company called the Chancellor House Trust. Prior to this donation, the ANC was all but bankrupt, and law enforcement had begun to seize assets at the ANC campaign headquarters in Johannesburg. Similar allegations exist relating to Iran. I am concerned that Russia and Iran are seeking to buy official influence in South Africa.

It is the fundamental right of every sovereign nation to chart its own direction, hear me clearly, but actions have consequences and repercussions. American people have choices, too.

I believe in the potential of a U.S.-South Africa relationship, but it is only fair if South Africa desires to remain a close partner to the U.S. and meets us halfway.

The current uncertainty in South Africa following last month's elections makes the determinations required by this amendment all the more timely. In order to strategically engage with South Africa, it is necessary to ensure the United States Government has a contemporary review of the bilateral relationship.

That is what this amendment does. It requires a certification and review that will ensure that the entirety of the U.S. Government is aligned to the realities of the current U.S.-South Africa bilateral relationship.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the James amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Chair, I opposed this bill when it was considered in the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I oppose this amendment today.

South Africa is a key partner of the United States and has been critical to driving innovation and investment on the Continent of Africa.

It is also true that South Africa has taken a number of policy stances I do not agree with and don't believe are helpful to advancing further peace and prosperity, including an all-too-for-giving stance on Russia.

If our goal as the United States is to achieve an open and cooperative partnership with South Africa that advances both our countries' interests, this amendment will not accomplish that.

Almost 2 years ago, the Biden administration put out a U.S. strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa, noting it is impossible to meet today's defining challenges without African contributions in leadership. Underpinning that strategy is the concept that the United States can offer positive choices to Africans, for instance, as they determine their own future.

In other words, we have the opportunity and responsibility to present options to our African partners that they can judge to be worthwhile and in their best interest. We don't get to impose our ideas, and we should be making a compelling case for why it makes sense to partner with the United States and work together to achieve shared interests.

Any past disagreements with South Africa are reasons for us to double down through diplomacy to find productive pathways for U.S.-South Africa cooperation.

This amendment unnecessarily duplicates a review process already laid out in law under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA. As an AGOA country, South Africa already receives a yearly review that takes into consideration any activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests. This review is a requirement for any country to be deemed eligible to participate in AGOA.

The administration already has the power and responsibility to review whether South Africa has participated in any such activities as part of the country's AGOA eligibility review. It seems like a core purpose of this legislation is to undermine the AGOA eligibility of Africa's largest economy. Instead of doing this, my Republican colleagues should be trying to reauthorize AGOA.

Moreover, this amendment was made in order despite the original bill having no defense nexus, which was allegedly the criteria decided by the majority. Both myself and the ranking member submitted Africa amendments that could have attracted bipartisan support, yet those amendments were not made in order.

Finally, this amendment suffers from a bad case of timing. South Africans recently made their voices heard through a democratic election, and South Africa is in the process of forming a new government as we speak.

We need to give the parties in South Africa time to establish a government and pursue the course laid out for them by South African voters. To conduct a review at this point in the process would be premature and potentially damaging to our interest of being a partner of choice for South Africa.

This is a strange, counterproductive, and condescending amendment, and this is exactly what African countries accuse us of doing. They say: Why do you wag your finger at us and tell us what we can't do, but then you don't do that to any other country?

They are right. They are not colonies. They are countries, independent, and this tired approach is what they are asking us to stop doing.

We would not do this to any country in Europe or Asia, so why are we doing this to an African country, especially South Africa, a democratic country that just held free and fair elections and is one of the most strategic partners that we have on the continent?

We need to show up, and we need to show up in a different kind of way. This amendment is not how we should show up for Africa.

□ 1015

Mr. Chair, in closing I want to say what I already said. This is condescending, it is counterproductive, and it is not the way that we should be engaging with our our democratic African partners on the continent.

The best way to counteract Russia and China is to show up with a different approach that is dignified, that is respectful, and that recognizes that these countries are independent so that they see that we are serious and that we are using all of the tools in our toolbox: diplomatic, defense, and development; not finger wagging.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment 349 will not be offered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 118-551 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 56 by Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 228 by Mr. JAMES of Michigan.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 56, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 228, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 276]

AYES—188

Aderholt	Amodei	Babin
Alford	Armstrong	Baird
Allen	Arrington	Balderson

Banks	Gooden (TX)	Moolenaar	Landsman	Omar	Slotkin
Barr	Gosar	Mooney	Larsen (WA)	Pallone	Smith (NJ)
Bean (FL)	Graves (LA)	Moore (AL)	Larson (CT)	Panetta	Smith (WA)
Bentz	Graves (MO)	Moore (UT)	Lawler	Pappas	Sorensen
Bice	Green (TN)	Moran	Lee (CA)	Pascarella	Soto
Biggs	Greene (GA)	Nehls	Lee (PA)	Pelosi	Spanberger
Bilirakis	Griffith	Norman	Leger Fernandez	Peltola	Stansbury
Boebert	Grothman	Nunn (IA)	Levin	Perez	Stanton
Brecheen	Guest	Obernolte	Lieu	Peters	Stauber
Buchanan	Guthrie	Ogles	Lofgren	Petterson	Stevens
Bucshon	Hageman	Owens	Lynch	Phillips	Strickland
Burchett	Harris	Palmer	Magaziner	Pingree	Suozzi
Burgess	Harshbarger	Pence	Malliotakis	Plaskett	Swalwell
Burris	Hern	Perry	Manning	Pocan	Sykes
Calvert	Higgins (LA)	Pfluger	Matsui	Porter	Takano
Cammack	Hill	Posey	McBath	Pressley	Thanedar
Carey	Hinson	Reschenthaler	McClellan	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
Carl	Houchin	Rodgers (WA)	McCullum	Ramirez	Thompson (MS)
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Rogers (AL)	McGarvey	Raskin	Titus
Carter (TX)	Huijzenaga	Rogers (KY)	McGovern	Ross	Tlaib
Ciscomani	Issa	Rose	Meeks	Ruiz	Tokuda
Cline	Jackson (TX)	Rosendale	Menendez	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Cloud	James	Rouzer	Meng	Ryan	Torres (CA)
Clyde	Johnson (LA)	Roy	Mfume	Sablan	Torres (NY)
Cole	Johnson (SD)	Rutherford	Miller (OH)	Salazar	Trahan
Collins	Jordan	Scalise	Molinaro	Salinas	Trone
Crane	Joyce (PA)	Schweikert	Moore (WI)	Sánchez	Turner
Crawford	Kelly (MS)	Scott, Austin	Morelle	Sarbanes	Underwood
Curtis	Kelly (PA)	Self	Moskowitz	Scanlon	Van Drew
Davidson	Kiggans (VA)	Sessions	Mrvan	Schakowsky	Vargas
De La Cruz	Kiley	Stefanik	Mullin	Schiff	Vasquez
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Smith (MO)	Nadler	Schneider	Veasey
Donalds	Kustoff	Smith (NE)	Napolitano	Scholten	Velázquez
Duarte	LaHood	Smucker	Neal	Schrader	Wasserman
Duncan	LaMalfa	Spartz	Neguse	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Dunn (FL)	Lamborn	Steel	Newhouse	Scott, David	Waters
Edwards	Langworthy	Stefanik	Nickel	Sewell	Wild
Ellzey	Latta	Steil	Norcross	Sherman	Williams (GA)
Emmer	LaTurner	Steube	Norton	Sherrell	Williams (NY)
Estes	Lee (FL)	Strong	Ocasio-Cortez	Simpson	Wilson (FL)
Ezell	Lesko	Tenney			
Fallon	Letlow	Thompson (PA)			
Feeenstra	Loudermilk	Tiffany			
Ferguson	Lucas	Timmons			
Finstad	Luetkemeyer	Valadão			
Fischbach	Luna	Van Duyne			
Fitzgerald	Luttrell	Van Orden			
Fleischmann	Mace	Wagner			
Flood	Maloy	Walberg			
Fong	Mann	Waltz			
Foxx	Massie	Weber (TX)			
Franklin, Scott	Mast	Webster (FL)			
Fry	McCaull	Wenstrup			
Fulcher	McClain	Westerman			
Gaetz	McClintock	Williams (TX)			
Garcia, Mike	McCormick	Wilson (SC)			
Gimenez	McHenry	Wittman			
Gonzales, Tony	Meuser	Womack			
González-Colón	Miller (WV)	Yakym			
Good (VA)	Mills	Zinke			

NOES—228

Adams	Clark (MA)	Garcia, Robert
Aguilar	Clarke (NY)	Golden (ME)
Allred	Cleaver	Goldman (NY)
Amo	Clyburn	Gomez
Auchincloss	Cohen	Gonzalez,
Bacon	Connolly	Vicente
Balint	Correa	Gottheimer
Barragán	Costa	Green, Al (TX)
Beatty	Courtney	Harder (CA)
Bera	Craig	Hayes
Bergman	Crockett	Himes
Beyer	Crow	Horsford
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Houlahan
Blumenauer	D'Esposito	Hoyer
Blunt Rochester	Davids (KS)	Hoyle (OR)
Bonamici	Davis (IL)	Huffman
Bost	Davis (NC)	Ivey
Boyle (PA)	Dean (PA)	Jackson (IL)
Brown	DeGette	Jackson (NC)
Brownley	DeLauro	Jacobs
Budzinski	DelBene	Jayapal
Bush	Deluzio	Jeffries
Caraveo	Desaulnier	Johnson (GA)
Carbajal	Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)
Cárdenas	Doggett	Kamala-Harris
Carson	Eshoo	Kaptur
Carter (LA)	Espalliat	Kean (NJ)
Cartwright	Fitzpatrick	Keating
Castan	Fletcher	Kelly (IL)
Castor (FL)	Foster	Kennedy
Castro (TX)	Foushee	Khanna
Chavez-DeRemer	Frankel, Lois	Kildee
	Frost	Kilmer
	Gallego	Kim (NJ)
	Garbarino	Krishnamoorthi
	Garcia (IL)	Kuster
	Garcia (TX)	LaLota

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop (NC)	Garamendi	Miller-Meeks
Bowman	Granger	Moulton
Comer	Grijalva	Moylan
Crenshaw	Hunt	Murphy
Dingell	Jackson Lee	Radewagen
Escobar	Lee (NV)	Watson Coleman
Evans	Miller (IL)	Wexton

□ 1046

Mses. HOULAHAN and CROCKETT, Messrs. JOHNSON of Georgia and GALLEGO changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. Miller of Illinois. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 276.

AMENDMENT NO. 228 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 228, printed in part B of House Report 118-551, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 272, noes 144, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 277]

AYES—272

Aderholt	Gosar	Nunn (IA)	Barragán	Frost	Neguse
Alford	Gottheimer	Obernolte	Beatty	Garcia (IL)	Norton
Allen	Graves (LA)	Ogles	Bera	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Owens	Beyer	Garcia, Robert	Omar
Armstrong	Green (TN)	Palmer	Bishop (GA)	Gomez	Pallone
Arrington	Greene (GA)	Panetta	Blumenauer	Green, Al (TX)	Pascrall
Bacon	Griffith	Pappas	Blunt Rochester	Hayes	Pelosi
Baird	Grothman	Peltola	Bonamici	Horsford	Peters
Balderson	Guest	Pence	Boyle (PA)	Houlihan	Pingree
Banks	Guthrie	Perez	Brown	Brownley	Plaskett
Barr	Hageman	Perry	Budzinski	Ivey	Pocan
Bean (FL)	Harder (CA)	Pettersen	Budzinski	Jackson (IL)	Porter
Bentz	Harris	Pfluger	Brownley	Jackson (IL)	Pressley
Bergman	Harshbarger	Phillips	Bush	Jacobs	Rappersberger
Bice	Hern	Posey	Casten	Kelly (IL)	Sablan
Biggs	Higgins (LA)	Reschenthaler	Clark (FL)	Khanna	Sánchez
Bilirakis	Hill	Rodgers (WA)	Castro (TX)	Kildee	Barbanes
Boebert	Himes	Rogers (AL)	Cherifilis-	Kilmer	Scanlon
Bost	Hinson	Rogers (KY)	McCormick	Kim (NJ)	Schakowsky
Brecheen	Houchin	Rose	Chu	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Buchanan	Hoyle (OR)	Rosendale	Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Bucshon	Hudson	Rouzer	Clarke (NY)	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Burchett	Huizenga	Roy	Cleaver	Lee (CA)	Smith (WA)
Burgess	Hunt	Ruiz	Clyburn	Lee (PA)	Stansbury
Burlison	Issa	Rutherford	Cohen	Leger Fernandez	Strickland
Calvert	Jackson (NC)	Ryan	Correa	Lofgren	Swalwell
Cammack	Jackson (TX)	Salazar	Crockett	Magaziner	Takano
Caraveo	James	Salinas	Crow	Massie	Thompson (CA)
Carey	Johnson (SD)	Scalise	DeLauro	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Carl	Jordan	Schiff	DeBenedictis	McBath	Titus
Carter (GA)	Joyce (OH)	Schneider	Dean (PA)	McClellan	Tlaib
Carter (TX)	Joyce (PA)	Scholten	DeGette	McCollum	McGarvey
Cartwright	Kean (NJ)	Schrier	DeLauro	McGovern	Tonko
Chavez-DeRemer	Kelly (MS)	Schweikert	DelBene	Menendez	Torres (CA)
Ciscomani	Kelly (PA)	Scott, Austin	Deluzio	Menendez	Trahan
Cline	Kennedy	Scott, David	DeSaulnier	Doggett	Underwood
Cloud	Kiggans (VA)	Self	Eshoo	Moore (WI)	Veasey
Clyde	Kiley	Sessions	Espaillet	Mullin	Velázquez
Cole	Kim (CA)	Sherrill	Fletcher	Nadler	Waters
Collins	Krishnamoorthi	Kustoff	Foster	Napolitano	Williams (GA)
Connolly	Kutstoff	Simpson	Foushee	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Costa	LaHood	Slotkin			
Courtney	LaLota	Smith (MO)			
Craig	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)			
Crane	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)			
Crawford	Landsman	Smith (NJ)			
Crenshaw	Langworthy	Smucker			
Cuellar	Latta	Sorensen			
Curtis	LaTurner	Soto			
D'Esposito	Lawler	Spanberger			
Davidson	Lee (FL)	Spartz			
Davis (NC)	Lesko	Stanton			
De La Cruz	Letlow	Stauber			
DesJarlais	Levin	Steel			
Diaz-Balart	Lieu	Stefanik			
Donalds	Loudermilk	Steil			
Duarte	Lucas	Steube			
Duncan	Luetkemeyer	Stevens			
Dunn (FL)	Luna	Strong			
Edwards	Luttrell	Suozzi			
Ellzey	Lynch	Sykes			
Emmer	Mace	Tenney			
Estes	Malliotakis	Thanedar			
Ezell	Maloy	Thompson (PA)			
Fallon	Mann	Tiffany			
Feenstra	Manning	Timmons			
Ferguson	McCauley	Torres (NY)			
Finstad	McClain	Trone			
Fischbach	McClintock	Turner			
Fitzgerald	McCormick	Valadão			
Fitzpatrick	McHenry	Van Drew			
Fleischmann	Meng	Van Duyne			
Flood	Meuser	Van Orden			
Fong	Miller (IL)	Vargas			
Foxx	Miller (OH)	Vasquez			
Frankel, Lois	Miller (WV)	Wagner			
Franklin, Scott	Miller-Meeks	Walberg			
Fry	Mills	Waltz			
Fulcher	Molinaro	Wasserman			
Gaetz	Moolenaar	Schultz			
Gallego	Mooney	Weber (TX)			
Garbarino	Moore (AL)	Webster (FL)			
Garcia, Mike	Moore (UT)	Wenstrup			
Gimenez	Moran	Westerman			
Golden (ME)	Morelle	Wild			
Goldman (NY)	Moskowitz	Williams (NY)			
Gonzales, Tony	Mrvan	Williams (TX)			
Gonzalez, Vicente	Nehls	Wilson (SC)			
González-Colón	Newhouse	Wittman			
Good (VA)	Nickel	Womack			
Gooden (TX)	Norcross	Yakym			
	Norman	Zinke			

NOES—144

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Sherrill of New Jersey moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8070 to the Committee on Armed Services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 202, nays 214, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 278]

YEAS—202

Adams	Correa	Houlihan
Aguilar	Costa	Hoyer
Allred	Courtney	Hoyle (OR)
Amo	Craig	Huffman
Auchincloss	Crockett	Ivey
Balint	Crow	Jackson (IL)
Barragán	Cuellar	Jackson (NC)
Beatty	Davids (KS)	Jacobs
Bera	Davis (IL)	Jayapal
Beyer	Davis (NC)	Jeffries
Bishop (GA)	Dean (PA)	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	DeGette	Kamlager-Dove
Blunt Rochester	DeLauro	Kaptur
Bonamici	DelBene	Keating
Boyle (PA)	Deluzio	Kelly (IL)
Brown	DeSaulnier	Kennedy
Brownley	Doggett	Khanna
Budzinski	Eshoo	Kildee
Bush	Espaillet	Kilmer
Caraveo	Fletcher	Kim (NJ)
Carbajal	Foster	Krishnamoorthi
Cárdenas	Foushee	Kuster
Carson	Frankel, Lois	Landsman
Carter (LA)	Frost	Larsen (WA)
Cartwright	Gallego	Larson (CT)
Casar	Garcia (IL)	Lee (CA)
Case	Garcia (TX)	Lee (PA)
Casten	Garcia, Robert	Leger Fernandez
Castor (FL)	Golden (ME)	Levin
Castro (TX)	Goldman (NY)	Lieu
Cherifilis-	Gomez	Lofgren
McCormick	Gonzalez	Lynch
Chu	Vicente	Magaziner
Clark (MA)	Gottheimer	Manning
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al (TX)	Matsui
Cleaver	Harder (CA)	McBath
Clyburn	Hayes	McClellan
Cohen	Himes	McCollum
Connolly	Horsford	McGarvey



Garamendi	Jackson Lee	Murphy
Granger	Lee (NV)	Watson Coleman
Grijalva	Moulton	Wexton

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1107

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably could not be present today to vote on the Floor proceedings before the House. Had I been present, I would have voted: NO on Roll Call No. 276, NO on Roll Call No. 277, YEA on Roll Call 278, and NO on Roll Call No. 279.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded today. Had it been recorded, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 276, AYE on Roll Call No. 277, YEA on Roll Call No. 278, and NO on Roll Call No. 279.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 276, NO on Roll Call No. 277, YEA on Roll Call No. 278, and NO on Roll Call No. 279.

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AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN- GROSSMENT OF H.R. 8070, SERV- ICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 8070, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section and title numbering, cross-referencing, conforming amendments to the table of contents and short titles, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

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PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4213

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4213, a bill originally introduced by Representative BUCK of Colorado, 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 gentlewoman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

TERRORISTS CROSSING SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this week, eight suspected terrorists with ISIS ties were arrested in New York City, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia after crossing our southern border from Tajikistan where they supposedly were vetted and then released into our interior.

Since President Biden took office, 340 individuals on the terrorist watch list were caught crossing, and that is just who were caught. Who else is among the 10 million individuals that this administration has allowed to enter after making its 60 different policy changes to undo the border security measures of President Trump?

What we know is that he has allowed in drug traffickers, murderers, robbers, those who have assaulted police officers, and even an individual who shot two police officers in New York City a week ago. How many more before President Biden takes action and undoes his disastrous policies, and how many more until cities like mine undo their dangerous sanctuary policies that not only protect these individuals but force the taxpayers of New York and America to house them and provide all sorts of free services to their benefit.

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HIGHLIGHTING UKRAINIAN WOMEN

(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, Ukraine is fighting valiantly to regain its freedom, but today I wish to highlight the sheroes of Ukraine, its women.

These Ukrainian women work hard in the fields and farmsteads to feed their families, neighbors, and nation during war and during peace. These women labor day after day in the hot sun. By hand—you should see their hands—they plant precious seeds they carefully saved from last year using worn, simple implements, and small handheld shovels.

They harvest with scythes and use simple pushcarts to pull their harvest by hand back to their small villages. Underequipped, they toil year after year as best they can against the forces of nature of the season of the hard-scrabble circumstances of their dear lives.

Along Ukraine's eastern front where Russia has brutally invaded and is systematically destroying villagers and villages, these courageous women are planting. They are planting between land mines. Who can even fathom their heroism?

They feed their children, their families, their neighbors, their countrymen and -women. Let us celebrate these inspirational women of Ukraine, women of hope. Their extraordinary sheroism

is perseverance. Their grace under pressure is defined by what U.S. President John F. Kennedy called “pure raw courage.”

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□ 1115

REMEMBERING REIS GRAMS AND JESSE HAUGEN

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Reis Grams and Jesse Haugen, two outdoorsmen who passed away while canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Reis was a beloved husband to his wife, Angie, and a devoted father to his sons, August and Teddy. He grew up in Blaine and was a man of many talents, from his love of the outdoors to becoming a skilled carpenter and businessowner. He was a lifelong learner, a caring family man, and a man of deep faith.

Jesse grew up in Blaine and served our Nation honorably in the U.S. Army. After his military service, Jesse served as a youth leader at his church. A proud father and husband, he owned and operated a business with his wife, Bethany, and cherished every moment spent with their son, Isaac.

Last month, Reis and Jesse's canoes went over the Curtain Falls, leading to their tragic passing.

We are praying for strength and comfort for their families, friends, and all who knew them during this difficult time.

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RECOGNIZING CADEN McCLURE AS OHIO'S 13th DISTRICT CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caden McClure as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Caden is a senior at Green High School, and he became the 2024 Division 1 boys pole vaulting State champion at the State championship meet in Dayton this past weekend.

Several pole vaulters at the meet attempted to jump 16 feet, but after three attempts, Caden was the only one to successfully clear this incredible jump to secure the State title.

The win capped off a very successful season for senior Caden McClure as he is the fourth pole vaulter from Green High School to win the State title.

He also continued his family's history of dominance in this event by winning this year's State title because he followed his brother, Connor, who set the Division I State pole vault record of 17 feet 3 inches back in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate, once again, Caden McClure for this very impressive victory. He has made his

school, his family, and his community very proud, and I can't wait to see what he does next. He is the reason why Ohio's 13th Congressional District is the birthplace of champions.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALDOSTA STATE MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Valdosta State men's tennis team on their recent national championship.

The Blazers tennis team had an impressive season. They finished the year with an overall record of 26-3. In conference play, the team finished 8-1 and were named the Gulf South Conference champions.

At the Division II National Championships Festival in Orlando, Florida, Valdosta State battled for the chance to earn their third national title in school history.

After beating Flagler College 4-3 in the final match, the Blazers earned the title of national champions as well as the number one team ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Boruch Skierkier, Rodrigo Carvalho, Takeshi Taco, and Luca Mack also earned Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division II All-American honors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Head Coach John Hansen and the entire men's tennis team on an outstanding season and a national championship.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

(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, last week, I traveled with my colleagues to Normandy to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the battle that turned the tide of World War II and led to the defeat of the Nazis.

I met 100-year-old Air Force Tech Sergeant Chuck Richardson from my State of North Carolina, who flew 35 combat missions including on D-Day. He was a real hero.

We saw rows and rows of white crosses and Stars of David marking the graves of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in that terrible battle.

We were reminded of the fragility of democracy and the dangers of tyrants who disregard the rule of law.

Today, democracies around the world are under attack and authoritarian regimes are rising.

D-Day proved that brave Americans working together could save the free world.

We must put partisan divides aside and, once again, provide the leadership the world so desperately needs.

#### CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSFUL AND IMPACTFUL CAREER OF AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BROOKS KEEL

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the successful and impactful career of Augusta University President Brooks Keel, who is retiring after more than 14 memorable years in the university system of Georgia.

Dr. Keel arrived at Augusta University during a defining moment for the future of the institution in July 2015, and his tenure has been defined by his steadfast leadership and commitment to the success of the university and its students.

As President, Dr. Keel ushered in 8 straight years of enrollment growth and a 48 percent increase in the University's economic impact on the State of Georgia.

I consider myself blessed to call Dr. Keel a dear friend, and while it saddens us to see this chapter end, I join the community in congratulating him on an extraordinary career and expressing our deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication.

As Dr. Keel and Tammie embark on a well-deserved retirement, we will continue to follow his example and build on the foundation he established for a brighter future.

In the words of Dr. Keel, go Jags.

#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Homeownership Month, a time to reflect on the American Dream of owning a home and what it means for the communities of eastern North Carolina.

Homeownership for communities across the east is the cornerstone of stability and prosperity.

From putting down roots to building wealth, owning a home represents a significant milestone in the lives of Americans.

Through homeownership, we build strong communities and provide stability for families, yet we know there are many challenges.

Affordability remains a concern for many hardworking families. Congress has a duty to ensure that the American Dream of owning a home is alive and well no matter what your background or ZIP Code.

We must double down on our efforts to improve access to affordable housing, especially in rural America.

#### CELEBRATING PAUL WOJAHN ON HIS 103RD BIRTHDAY

(Mr. FINSTAD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate Paul Wojahn. Paul is a World War II veteran, beloved New Ulm community member, veteran advocate, neighbor, relative, and friend who will celebrate his 103rd birthday next week on June 19.

Paul grew up on a farm near Comfrey, Minnesota, and when he turned 21, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, answering the call to serve his country like many in his family and like so many in the Greatest Generation.

After completing basic training in San Diego, Paul served aboard the USS *Mount Vernon* and was stationed in various locations throughout the Pacific theater, including Okinawa.

When he returned home from the war, Paul worked as a farmer and an excavator and went on to serve as a conservation officer for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 25 years before retiring in 1983.

Today, Paul is actively involved in several veterans' groups and community organizations. He volunteers with The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and VFW, as well as the Salvation Army and Lion's Club.

Even at 103 years old, Paul continues to live each day to the fullest and finds time to enjoy the little things like a quiet morning catching crappies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Paul for the many ways he has made southern Minnesota a better place for all of us to call home. We wish him the happiest of birthdays and many more to come.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF PAMELA RICHARDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor one of the Virgin Islands' very own, the recently departed, Pam Richards.

A dedicated public servant, Pam's unwavering service to the Virgin Islands and tireless efforts to enhance our culture and heritage leave behind a legacy and an indelible mark on all us.

Pamela Richards served as Commissioner of Tourism of the Virgin Islands Government, executive director of the 29th legislature of the Virgin Islands, district director of my office, and more recently, she was the interim chief of staff for President David Hall of the University of the Virgin Islands. She served on too many nonprofits and government boards to mention.

Although deeply saddened by her passing, I find comfort in the memories of her: her sarcastic humor, our shared stories of our Virgin Islands ancestors, history, and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Pam, rest well, queen. We will remember her legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF JUDGE TIMOTHY H. POGUE

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Judge Timothy Pogue and his dedication to serving the people of Florence and Marion Counties in South Carolina.

Judge Pogue led a career as a distinguished and well-respected attorney, public defender, civil servant judge, husband, and father. His commitment to serving juveniles and those experiencing abuse and neglect soon earned him a reputation as one of the finest jurists in South Carolina.

His public service was felt throughout the community and his leadership made him a role model to many practicing law.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his devout service to South Carolina and to the bench. We wish him nothing but the best in his retirement.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the North Hollywood High School baseball team for winning their first CIF-Los Angeles City Division I championship by defeating the Banning High Pilots 3-1.

In a competitive and nail-biting championship game, the Huskies overcame a 1-1 tie in the top of the eighth when second baseman Nick Park hit his second triple of the game and produced the winning run.

The Huskies started the season losing six of their first seven games, yet they never gave up. They quickly turned things around and finished the season with a 20-13 record and earned the city title.

What is more admirable is they succeeded without having their own field to practice or play on all season.

I commend Head Coach Eder Tapia and assistant coaches Erik Morante and Daniel Campos for overcoming the on-and-off-the-field challenges as they developed remarkable student athletes and a winning team culture.

We will be rooting for these young, bright men and wishing them all the best next season and beyond.

□ 1130

## SECURE OUR BORDER NOW

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, last week President Biden stated that the border should not be a political issue to be

weaponized. I agree that Americans don't have time for games in Washington, but I think the President should take his own advice.

Since day one of his Presidency, President Biden has been laser focused on rolling back President Trump's policies that were effective in lowering illegal immigration. As a result, we have had nearly 12 million illegal encounters at our border since January of 2021, with this past April being the 38th straight month that encounters at the border have been higher than even the highest month under President Trump.

For 3 years, House Republicans have passed good legislation that would actually secure the southern border and have urged President Biden to work with us on the border crisis, and we have been met with silence. President Biden needs to wake up.

Just this week, CBP and the FBI arrested eight men with ISIS ties in New York, L.A., and Philadelphia who all entered the country through Biden's wide-open southern border. We can't keep pretending this is normal. We need to secure our border now.

## CONGRATULATING COLONEL RICHARD GOLDENBERG ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career of Schuylerville resident Colonel Richard Goldenberg as he retires from the U.S. Army National Guard after 36 years of distinguished service.

In his 13 years as the public information officer for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, he has been the steadfast voice of more than 20,000 men and women serving in the New York National Guard, the Naval Militia, and the New York Guard, where his leadership in community relations and strategic information support has been vital during overseas deployments and disaster response missions.

Colonel Goldenberg's impact on our capital region has extended well beyond his service in the National Guard. As adjutant of Jewish War Veterans Post 105 and commander of the Jewish War Veterans Capital District Council, he has honored a legacy of service and brotherhood, presenting the annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award.

Colonel Goldenberg has also been a cherished partner in our efforts to honor veterans, joining me in seeing off hundreds of capital region veterans on Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

Colonel Goldenberg's legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire each and every one of us. I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement and wish him God-speed.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on June 16, the Northwest Youth Corps will celebrate its 40th anniversary. This program, which is headquartered in my district, is the largest Youth Conservation Corps program in the Northwest. For over four decades, it has given over 27,000 teenagers and young adults the opportunity to participate in conservation stewardship in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington State.

These teenagers and young adults work to improve our lands and waters, which helps to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires and maintain our outdoor recreational assets.

The Northwest Youth Corps, which is well known nationally for its innovation and quality, was recently awarded \$12 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to improve urban tree canopies and make urban forests more resilient to climate change across the Northwest.

I am proud to celebrate the Northwest Youth Corps on their anniversary and look forward to their continued contributions in our local communities and our forests for years to come.

## HONORING JUAN JOSE "JOHNNY" CANALES

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Juan Jose "Johnny" Canales, a legend of Tejano music, who died on Thursday at the age of 77.

Johnny was a champion for civil rights, an advocate for veterans, and a musician in his own right, but he was best known as the host of the "Johnny Canales Show," a bilingual variety show that ran for decades in the United States and Latin America.

It helped launch the careers of countless Tejano stars, including Selena Quintanilla, who made one of her live TV performances on the show in 1985.

To his loyal fans, Johnny was best known for his catch phrase: "You got it, take it away," the words of encouragement he would share with all the performers who joined him on stage.

Johnny, you will always be remembered, especially among your loyal fans in south Texas. Johnny, "rest in peace," "que descansen en paz."

## SALEM HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1944 CELEBRATES 80TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salem High

School Class of 1944 and congratulate them on a successful 80th reunion.

This incredible group of Oregonians holds a Guinness World Record for the longest running high school reunion, which usually takes place at their favorite Denny's restaurant in southeast Salem, Oregon.

Their determination and school spirit are admirable. This is a class that grew up in the shadow of the Great Depression and held its commencement just 5 days before Allied troops stormed the shores of Normandy on D-Day.

This is a generation—America's Greatest Generation—that has witnessed some of the highest and lowest points of our Nation's history. They have lived through times of war and peace, raised families during economic booms and downturns, and watched the tides of change sweep over our country.

Through it all, they still found time to come together to remember their roots and celebrate their bonds. That is a special kind of fellowship you don't often see today.

Again, congratulations to the Salem High School Class of 1944. Here is to many more years of great memories and even stronger friendships. They make our community proud.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP RETURNS TO WASHINGTON

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week the person who occupied the White House for 4 years before President Biden returned to Washington for the first time since he left.

Since that time, he has been found guilty of sexual abuse with E. Jean Carroll, and he has been found in defamation of E. Jean Carroll on two different occasions for nearly \$100 million. He has been found to be fraudulently projecting his income and liabilities in his businesses in New York and the State to the tune of about a \$480 million civil judgment. He has also been found guilty of a felony in New York State 34 times.

What he also did before he left was he led an assault on this Capitol, on this government. I was up there in the balcony when they were beating on the doors, and we were told to get out for our lives and put on gas masks. Gunfire was in this room. Four officers were killed or died because of that insurrection against our government.

Trump didn't come here to apologize to the Capitol Police, who put their lives on the line, which he should have. It is unfortunate.

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

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commun-

ication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC.

June 14, 2024.

I hereby designate the period from Friday, June 14, 2024, through Monday, June 24, 2024, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

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

#### PROTESTS SHOULD BE NONVIOLENT AND HATE-FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise today to address a topic of concern to a good many Americans. In my opinion, it should be of concern to all Americans, and that is the right to peacefully protest, the right to protest.

I am a person who has engaged in peaceful protests. I look forward to engaging in peaceful protests in the future, but I would like to just talk about what this really means when we talk about peaceful protests.

We have reached a point where it is not enough just to say peaceful protest. You have to add some additional verbiage. Today I will talk about nonviolent, peaceful protests; nonviolent, hate-free, peaceful protests.

I would not engage in peaceful protests where hate is a part of the verbiage that is being utilized. I believe in peaceful protests, but I don't believe in bringing hate to the protest movement. I believe in nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protests.

I am going to share one example of protest that I absolutely disagree with because it is not nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protest. I am amazed at what I saw and what I have read as it relates to this. I first saw it on television, and I was stunned, shocked, thunderstruck. I have since read a news story about it which I shall share excerpts with you that relate to this protest that was taking place.

Remember, I am the guy who believes in protests. I have been to jail for protesting, which means I broke the law. When you break the law and you are protesting, you have to be prepared to suffer the consequences. I and John Lewis on multiple occasions protested, and we broke the law. We went to jail, and we suffered the consequences. If you are going to protest, be prepared to suffer the consequences. Be prepared, if you are going to jail, to bail yourself out of jail.

Some protest movements have gone too far. I hope that this will help some of us to better understand what peaceful protest is all about. I have an article in my hands. This article is from ABC News dated June 13, 2024. June 13, 2024, recent news. The style of it is: "Gaza War Protests Denounced by

NYC"—that would be New York City—"leaders as 'anti-Semitic' after subway car threat chant, vandalism."

I am not reading it in toto. In part, it reads: "The New York Police Department said Thursday that they are working to identify the masked leader of a call-and-response chant by protesters on a crowded Manhattan subway car on Monday. The chant asked Zionists to identify themselves.

"Video surfaced Wednesday of the incident on a Brooklyn-bound subway train that was halted with its doors open at the Union Square station in Manhattan.

"Repeat after me: Raise your hands if you are a Zionist."

I would not want someone to say raise your hand if you are an African American, raise your hand if you are a female, raise your hand if you are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, raise your hand if you are a Muslim or if you are an Asian. I would not want a person to say that on a subway car and then continue with what I am about to read.

"Repeat after me:" it says. "'Raise your hands if you are a Zionist,' the leader, wearing sunglasses and a traditional Palestinian keffiyeh scarf . . ."

I have one of these scarves, by the way. There is nothing wrong with having such a scarf. The leader had this scarf, which has become a symbol of pro-Palestinian resistance. He is heard repeatedly saying in the video, adding: "This is your chance to get out."

I wouldn't want someone to say, raise your hand if you are an African American, and then go on to say, this is your chance to get out, to get off the car.

It goes on to read, and this is a quote: "'Okay, no Zionists, we are good,' the leader is then heard saying." This is anti-Semitic.

□ 1145

If he had said raise your hand if you are a Black person, it would be racist.

If he had said Raise your hand if you are a Muslim, it would be anti-Islam, which can be said to be Islamophobia.

Raise your hand if you are Asian; that is anti-Asian if you go on to say these other things.

This is not the kind of nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protests that I would engage in and that I would ever support. I denounce this. This is hate.

We cannot have legitimate, nonviolent protest movements if we inject hate into the movement. We have to do it void of hate and void of violence.

I am absolutely opposed to what was done, and I want those persons to know that they are hurting the protest movement by doing what they are doing.

You can protest your disdain for what is happening in Palestine without injecting hate into it.

You have every right to protest what is happening in Palestine. I have protested what is happening there, but you don't do it with hate, and you don't do it with violence. You do it peacefully.

If you decide that you are going to do what John Lewis called “get in the way,” you get in the way, but you know that there are consequences if you get in the way, and you are arrested.

We got in the way by getting in the street, and we were told that if you don’t move, you are going to be arrested. You are impeding traffic. We didn’t move. We were arrested. We went to a place of incarceration. We eventually posted our bond. We were released. We paid a fine. I was prepared to suffer the consequences.

You cannot engage in violence in a protest movement and expect to receive positive coverage. The coverage is going to be negative if you engage in violence, and the coverage is going to be negative if you engage in hate speech.

You are hurting the movement. You are hurting those who are peacefully protesting in a nonviolent fashion without hate speech. Protest if you will, but do it in such a way as not to hurt the protest movement itself, which I support.

I support the protest movement. I don’t support hate within the movement.

I support saying to the world that you don’t think what is happening in terms of the killing of the babies in Gaza to be something that is acceptable. Now, that is my language, and there is other language that is acceptable. But you cannot do it, in my opinion, and expect a positive response if you do it with violence or hate speech.

We in this country understand that the country was founded, to a certain extent, on protests. The pilgrims were protesting, and they came to this country and brought their movement with them.

When the farmers came to Washington, D.C., protesting with their tractors, it was a perfectly legitimate protest—perfectly acceptable.

Nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protest is acceptable.

I would ask the news media, all of those various outlets that cover these protests, to cover some of the protests that are positive. Present them. Let the world know that not everybody is engaging in hate speech. Not everybody is anti-Semitic who is protesting. Not everybody is violent who is protesting. Let the world know that there is peaceful, nonviolent, hate-free protest taking place in this country.

I am asking you to do this, CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, and FOX. Cover some of the positive protest movement, positive in the sense that there is no violence and no hate speech.

When you don’t do that, when you fail to cover those protest movements, in covering the protest movements that are filled with violence and hate speech, you are then showing the world what might appear to be only that type of protest taking place in this country, and that is not the case.

There are many protest movements that have taken place that were non-

violent, hate-free protests. We ought not allow ourselves to believe that only hateful protest movements are taking place.

There are many protests with one or two people and some outsiders will intrude. They are interlopers. These interlopers intrude, and they then engage in hateful messaging or engage in some sort of violence. That shouldn’t taint all the other persons, perhaps the hundreds of persons, who are protesting without violence and hate speech.

Cover them fairly. Say that there was a handful or this number, whatever it is, but be fair to the many people who are there and are protesting without hate and without violence.

I am asking the news media to please do this. Let other people in the world see that we protest in this country, and we do it without violence and without hate speech.

I think that I can give evidence of what I speak. We had in Houston, Texas, an event to have, if you will, a candlelight ceremony to memorialize the lives of persons who lost their lives in Gaza. We had a packed house. We had some debate. There was no hate speech, and there was no violence—and there was no coverage. No coverage.

Now, I have seen multiple protests concerning what happened on October 7, and that merits being protested. I support protesting it. What happened was horrific. We ought to protest that. When that is protested, I have seen it covered with positive news coverage.

Well, there are two sides to this when you get to the things that have happened since October 7 and all that has happened in Gaza with the destruction of schools, the destruction of hospitals, of roads, of bridges, of homes. With all of this destruction, it is not unreasonable for some people to conclude that this ought to be something worthy of protestation.

So, when this occurs and there is no violence, no hate speech, I challenge the news media to cover it, too, just as you cover those who protest what happened on October 7.

I am among those who would do so. October 7 was a horrific day in infamy.

Let us be fair in the coverage, and let those who are protesting understand that if there is a person among your protest movement who is out of line, who is being hateful, if there is a person who is being violent—in the sixties when we were protesting, we would meet before the protest would start, and we would agree on certain things. One, we wouldn’t be violent.

If someone should do something to indicate some degree of violence, we would turn to that person and point and say: “Not with us.” We would remove that person from the protest, “Not with us, not with us,” and let the police take them away, and we continued with our peaceful protest.

It is important to have free speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to protest. That is what this country was

founded on, to a great extent, and we want to maintain it.

To do it, I think the news media has a role, and that is to present fair coverage of these protest movements. I think that the people who are protesting have a role. Their role is to say to the world that they are there to have a peaceful, nonviolent, hate-free protest.

I think you should be able to simply peacefully protest, and it should incorporate these other things, but you can say it all and that those who act in a violent way are not with us. Say it before you start the protest: They are not with us.

Anybody who says something that is racist, anti-Semitic, sexist, utilizing Islamophobia, behaving in an Islamophobic way, anti-Islamic, anti-Asian, announce they are not with us. We don’t want them to be a part of this. If you have a sign that says it, take your sign someplace else. That is not for this movement.

That is your job if you are part of a protest movement and you are a leader.

Finally, be prepared. Be prepared to suffer the consequences. Be prepared.

We would, if arrested, not resist. That is another charge. If you get arrested, don’t resist.

Remember this: Those who tolerate hate perpetuate hate. If you are going to tolerate hate, you are going to perpetuate it. The persons who are actually behaving in a hateful fashion are perpetrating it, and if you tolerate it, you are perpetuating it. We cannot tolerate hate.

Now, do I expect people to denounce everything hateful that is said? That is impossible to do. There are things that you can select in your own way that you want to denounce, as I am today. Do that. You can be selective.

It is impossible to denounce all of the hate in the world. I wish we could except for saying I denounce all hate in the world. I have said that. When you get to the specificity, it is impossible to denounce every specific act of hate.

I am denouncing today what happened in New York on that subway when people were singled out. You don’t do that, not in this America. You shouldn’t. If you do it, then you are going to be labeled as anti-Semitic.

There is nothing unfair about that label being placed on you if you behave in the fashion that I articulated earlier. Those who tolerate hate perpetuate hate. Those who tolerate hate perpetuate hate.

There were other incidents that occurred, and there are persons from the New York delegation who spoke up and indicated that there was anti-Semitic activity taking place. I am very proud of them. Majority Leader SCHUMER spoke up on the floor, denouncing the hate. Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ spoke up, denouncing the hate. Our minority leader here in the House, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, spoke up, denouncing the hate.

I don't expect them to speak up every time something happens. I appreciate what they have done this time, but I don't expect them to speak up every time.

I do hope that as we move forward, we will not allow one side of the protest movement, which is obviously distasteful, to be continually publicized to the extent that it gives the image to those who don't know better that all the protest movements are about hate and violence because this is not the case.

I support peaceful, nonviolent, hate-free protest, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1200

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

#### WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative GROTHMAN, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women Veterans Recognition Day, which is the anniversary of President Truman's signing of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act, which allowed, for the first time, women to serve as regular members of the military.

While only about one in six Americans serving in the Armed Forces are women, they are responsible for some of the most important accomplishments in military history. Whether it is the Hello Girls from World War I who connected the U.S. military's communications in imperative ways, the thousands of volunteer nurses who saved lives in the Vietnam war, or the hundreds of thousands of women currently in active service, women in the military are playing an active role in ensuring the safety of our Nation, and I was one of those as a 24-year Army veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating all the brave women who have put their lives on the line for this incredible Nation we call home.

#### HONORING RONALD KNOCHE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of my constituents, Ronald Knoche, for being named a 2024 Top 10 Public Works Leader of the Year by the American Public Works Association.

As the most prestigious national award in the public works profession, Ron and the other honorees are recognized for their professionalism, expertise, and personal dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities through the advancement of

public works services during their career.

Knoche has served Iowa City for 25 years. He joined the city as a civil engineer in 1999, was promoted to senior engineer in 2001, and the city engineer in 2003.

In 2015, Knoche was promoted to public works director. In this role, Knoche oversees the city's engineering, equipment, resource management, streets, wastewater, and water divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ron. I am very proud of him.

#### JOHNSON COUNTY ENGINEER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Johnson County, Iowa, engineer, Greg Parker, on being named the 2024 Urban County Engineer of the Year by the National Association of County Engineers.

Mr. Parker's career has spanned 40 years and earned him a reputation for being a national authority on pavement reconstruction.

Mr. Parker and the Johnson County Secondary Roads Department are responsible for 915 miles of county highways and the 213 bridges and infrastructure they contain.

As the department director, Mr. Parker oversees construction and year-round maintenance with 50 employees.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Greg Parker for winning this award and wishing him all the best as he continues to pave the way for all Iowans.

#### PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the seven amazing Peace Corps volunteers from Iowa's first district who are currently serving worldwide on behalf of our great Nation.

By freely providing their various skill sets, such as healthcare, education, and peacekeeping in the world's developing nations, these volunteers are on the front lines of ensuring a better world for all of us.

Despite the stresses and tribulations the job may provide, these seven heroes have a true unending passion for helping people.

Furthermore, I would like to specifically congratulate two of our Peace Corps volunteers from Iowa's First Congressional District, Katheryn Peck and Kent Rice, for completing their tenure in the Dominican Republic on May 17, 2024, and returning home to Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these incredible Peace Corps volunteers and wish them the best on their continued journeys.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative GROTHMAN, for yielding me time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, the first issue I would like to take up this afternoon that has not received anywhere near the discussion it demands in this Chamber concerns the month of June. As everyone knows, June is Dairy Month in the United States of America.

The number one dairy product which most milk goes for in this country is cheese, and the number one cheese-producing State in the country is Wisconsin. The number one district for dairy farms happens to be the Sixth Congressional District of Wisconsin.

In any event, there are many things that good cheese is used in, and Wisconsin cheese is the best. This was proven once again in the 35th biennial World Champion Cheese Contest, which is the most respected and honored technical cheese and butter competition in the world.

Earlier this year, Wisconsin cheesemakers demonstrated their exceptional craftsmanship earning 117 cheese awards, more awards than the combined total of the subsequent six highest-earning countries.

Wisconsin's cheesemaking heritage goes back more than 180 years. The State is home to 1,200 licensed cheesemakers who produce more than 600 varieties. Sometime if you come to Wisconsin, spend an evening driving around the countryside, and you will see many cheesemakers open and working past midnight.

Today, please pick up some delicious Wisconsin cheese, and enjoy it no matter which type you prefer. Whether you are purchasing it from the Cascade Cheese Company, Cedar Valley, Gibbsville, Grande Cheese, Henning's Cheese, Baker Cheese, Laack Brothers Cheese, Masters Gallery, LaClare, Sargent, Sartori, Pine River, Union Star, Willow Creek, or Widmer's cheese out of Theresa, they are all great.

Again, whether you buy provolone, mozzarella, Colby, or sharp cheddar, they are all tremendous. I would like to one more time thank the wonderful cheesemakers in Wisconsin for making Wisconsin America's Dairyland.

The second issue that we have to discuss today, and it has been discussed just about every week, but we still don't discuss it enough, is the number one issue facing America today, and that is the people flowing across the southern border.

Our office has been in contact with the Border Patrol. They do not see any change in the people coming across the border. I want to remind people in the last month for which we have statistics—and the press should be waiting for the next month's numbers to come out—in April, we were at 205,000 migrants remaining in the interior, and that is before you count another 30,000 paroled from Cuba, Haiti, and Central America. That is an all-time record for that month. With it, as always, comes about 9,000 unaccompanied minors. If we found an unaccompanied 12-year-old wandering around the streets at night, we would think that was a scandal, but every month we let another 8 or 9,000 unaccompanied minors come into this country.

I call upon the press corps to finally report the number of people who come across this May and make a guess at the number of additional people who are being paroled.

A year ago in May, we were at 196,000. Now, what you have to do is you have to take the official number, add up the got-aways, and then you should add up those paroled to see where we stand this year. When it comes out, it should be a banner headline, and something that all Americans should be deeply concerned about. Whether you are talking about illegals committing crimes, whether they are putting pressure on local budgets at the school board, whether they are changing the culture of America because they think worldwide most people do not have the respect and love for freedom that we do in this country, but for whatever purpose, this is a real tragedy and something that is going to permanently change America.

I beg the press corps to give us a banner headline, and see where the May figures line up with those of a year ago.

The next issue that hasn't been talked about anywhere near enough concerns what is going on in the Middle East. You know, one more time when I leave here today, I am going to see protestors saying that the Arabs who live in Gaza—they call them Palestinians—need their own country, and they are living in some sort of horrible situation in a country and that even though Israelis don't live there, Israelis have ultimate control over the Gaza Strip.

In a report which was in a story that was underreported, but we all should be aware of, recently another agreement was reached with Israel and another country around the world to bring more people, non-Jewish people, into Israel to perform work in this wonderful country.

I have had the privilege to go to Israel. I have seen what they have done at their border, along the Jordan River, about all the immigration that happens, about all the industry that is going on there, but in any event, it appears as though under a recent agreement immediately 2,000 people from Ecuador on the other side of the world are agreeing to come to Israel to work. Under this agreement there is a hope that eventually they will work their way up to 25,000 people from Ecuador coming to Israel.

Now, that is in addition to a sea of other people who are already there from India, from Thailand, from Philippines, from China, from Nepal, from Sri Lanka, from Moldova, Malawi, from Kenya. All around the globe, people are coming to Israel to work.

Nevertheless, there are some malcontents in this country who feel that it is difficult living in a country adjacent to Israel, a country which, by the way, the people in Gaza many of them had an opportunity to work in Israel where they were making better wages, and probably had safer jobs than almost anywhere else in the Arab world.

I hope—and I haven't seen it anywhere in the newspaper—the press picks up on this story that 25,000 people from Ecuador are hopeful to come to

Israel. Israel, in so many ways, reminds me of the United States. In the United States we have hundreds of thousands of people crossing the southern border. We are just a little bit shy of a million people being legally sworn in to become new citizens in America every year from all over the globe. Nevertheless, we have people in this Chamber, actually earlier today, making a claim that America is a horribly racist country, and we have to do something to fundamentally change it because it is so bad.

People make fun of this country, but the whole rest of the world would rather live here, apparently, than anywhere else.

I hope the press picks up the point that we have people from all around the globe coming to Israel and that another 25,000 people from Ecuador want to go there, and that would give an indication of what it is really like to live in Israel even from countries that are not primarily Jewish.

Now, we are going the pickup another story that I think—probably the border right now is the number one issue that the United States has to deal with. Under normal circumstances when I talk to people back home, they tell me that things in America are getting worse, particularly at my age when you get up to 60, 65. They feel that when they were growing up, America was a better nation, and they wonder what happened.

When I ask them why they think it was a better nation, they hesitate for a minute, but finally they say that they think we have had a breakdown in the family. It is true, particularly with older people, we went from 1960 when about 95 percent of the newborn births had both a mother and father at home to more recently only about 60 percent have a mother and father at home. We have had a dramatic decrease in the number of children born that are living without a mother or a father.

Now, any type of family can be successful, but common sense and the statistics will tell you it would be nicer if you had a father at home.

Nevertheless, we are going in the opposite direction. You may say, GLENN, why are you even wasting time on that. Everybody is for the old-fashioned family, why do you spend time on that? Actually, if you look, there have been people who, over a period of time, have felt that the road to paradise necessarily means getting rid of the nuclear family.

□ 1215

We know Karl Marx himself, who is still studied in our universities, was opposed to what he referred to as the bourgeois family. He felt it would vanish as a matter of course when capitalism disappears. He believed the only reason for the family is because we have private property, and that served as the basis for traditional marriage, which it didn't. In any event, Karl Marx did want to get rid of the nuclear family.

Did anybody else carry this odious thing? Or was he just a guy who died almost without family and not missed at the time he passed away?

I think we have to turn to the 1960s when we started the great welfare state, the Great Society, of Lyndon Johnson. At that time, there were some leaders who were very well-known to anybody who lived through that era who did want to get rid of the family.

The first person I will mention is Kate Millett. Maybe some people aren't familiar with Kate Millett. She was one of the primary feminists during the 1960s, and I will bet to this day most Americans are under the mistaken impression that people like Kate Millett were a force for good. Actually, Kate Millett, we should all be aware, was another person who wanted to "destroy the American family."

In a back-and-forth with one of her other audiences, she demanded, how do we make a cultural revolution? She felt we needed a cultural revolution. Her follower said by destroying the American family. She said, how do we destroy the American family? It is by destroying the American patriarch—in other words, by getting the man out of the family.

In the 1960s, one of the most prominent feminists, Kate Millett, and her comments were echoed by others, felt that she had to destroy the American family.

At the same time we had a Black Power movement, which I don't think was embraced by the vast majority of Black Americans, but it did exist. One of the primary leaders of that Black Power movement was Angela Davis.

Anybody who lived in the 1970s remembers that name. What was Angela Davis for? One of the things she was for was she wanted to get rid of the family-based structure of oppression. In other words, she, as well, felt a mother and father at home raising their children was a form of oppression. Women must be liberated from the drudgery of full-time childrearing.

She was given a great job at California State University at Santa Cruz, where the left made sure she had a nice job for the rest of her life even though she participated in or abetted murders that took place in California at the time.

We have to remember that one of the things that Angela Davis wanted, because she is primarily remembered for being a member of the Black Power movement, was to get rid of the nuclear family.

Mr. Speaker, how could one get rid of the family? I think Lyndon Johnson, at the time when these radicals were flying high, hit upon it by introducing a lot of subsidies in America as part of his Great Society.

In order to get these subsidies, not always, but almost always, you could not have a mother and father together because if you had a mother and father together, then you would be earning

enough money that you wouldn't be considered in poverty, but once you were in poverty, you were eligible for a variety of government subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, these were government subsidies that you wouldn't get if you had a mother and father at home, and let's say that father was making, in today's income, \$50,000 or \$60,000. Whether it is food stamps, whether it is low-income housing, whether it is daycare, whether it was, at the time, AFDC, or whether it was a hugely poorly done subsidy, the earned income tax credit, which kicked in in the 1990s, all of these benefits were conditioned upon not having a man in the household earning a decent income. There were probably some exceptions, and my detractors will point out somewhere a mother and father and kids at home who are getting these subsidies. By and large, they were subsidies not available to a family with a man and woman who both worked or with one of the two working and making a decent wage.

Now, in this budget that President Biden has put forth, we have a variety of new programs, almost all of which are adding to the marriage penalty that the Great Society ushered in.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, when you look at that marriage penalty, it varies from person to person, depending on how many jobs they took up. It varies depending upon their income whether you are not working at all or whether you are making \$14,000 or \$15,000 a year. There is usually a huge medical benefit, as well.

What do we do in light of all of these programs? Robert Rector, who is an expert in this field, believes there are 78 programs that all are working toward a marriage penalty. All are working toward a world where Kate Millett or Angela Davis or Karl Marx were looking for.

By the time you got done, it could be \$15,000, \$20,000, \$25,000, \$30,000 that you would lose if you were a married couple as opposed to having a single person raising the children at home.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you would think that, ultimately, people would wake up and look at, not in every case but in general, all the possible problems that we had with the government encouraging not having two people living at home.

By the way, another one I should point out is something called Pell grants. Pell grants are grants that go to children if they can say the custodial parent is in poverty. They might have a father making \$100,000 a year, who knows, but Pell grants is another program kind of pushing in that direction.

I will repeat an anecdote I have talked about before, but before we expand Pell grants, we ought to think about it. I used to talk about the marriage penalty about 12 years ago in Wisconsin at a variety of Tea Party groups. I would go through all the programs that you got, provided you didn't get married and had a low income.

I talked to a young woman afterward who was in the audience. I had been talking to a Tea Party group. Anybody familiar with the Tea Party at the time knows it was largely a bunch of people over 60 years old. We had a young gal who was there tending bar in the room where I gave the talk. I am guessing she was 25 years old.

I asked her what she thought about this marriage penalty and all these programs. She told me: Well, me and my husband got married before we had a child. None of my friends are getting married. They get free college.

That was kind of my introduction to Pell grants in which the government, for whatever reason, has decided to say that if you are not married to someone with an income, then you are eligible to go to college as well as your children may be eligible as well to get Pell grants while the middle-class kid, the kid who is raised by a couple who maybe has a middle-class income, they may not be able to afford college for the kid, and that kid has to take out student loan debt.

Again, Pell grant is another program that is kind of designed to push America more toward the paradise that some of these people want, or the so-called paradise in which we do not have a mother and father at home.

In any event, in President Biden's budget, he wants to expand government daycare, expand the earned income tax credit, which can easily give you \$6,000 or \$10,000 if you have a couple of kids, provided you don't have two parents working or anybody making more than \$16,000.

I should point out that all of these programs not only discourage marriage, but they discourage work because usually to get the most out of these programs, you want to work and make \$14,000, \$15,000, or \$16,000. You sure don't want to make \$40,000 or \$50,000 because they will take away your benefits.

He wants more housing subsidies as opposed to staying with mom. He wants to expand these Pell grants I just talked about.

So, I encourage my Republican colleagues to stand up against President Biden's goal of further subsidizing and further trying to break down the old-fashioned family.

By the way, I mentioned all the people whose goal it was to get rid of the nuclear family. I should have included Black Lives Matter in that group that wanted to get rid of the so-called Western-prescribed nuclear family, which is really not Western. It happens all around the world. That is a more recent group. Black Lives Matter had as one of its goals to get rid of the nuclear family.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up to President Biden's goal of further taxing the middle class or taxing certain groups to further promote or subsidize the idea of raising families without both parents in the home.

In any event, these are stories I wish the press would cover. This marriage

penalty has been going on for 60 years. Whenever I talk about it, nobody has heard of it.

Where is the press corps? They ought to be talking about the huge penalty.

Again and again when I get back to my district, I find young people saying: We are not getting married because we lose the benefits.

Let's have the press corps pick up on that. Let's have the press corps pick up on why Ecuador wants to send 25,000 people halfway around the globe to work in Israel, and they can ponder if things are that tough.

These people protesting out here on Independence Avenue should also consider whether or not it is so tough living in Israel when actually it is a paradise. People are coming from all around the globe.

The next thing that I want the press to pick up on is you should be waiting every day when we get the new figures on the number of people who came across our southern border in May and report if we are getting another all-time record for May or not.

I know I am probably going to have to pick it up from some obscure government website because, again, our press corps is asleep at the switch on the issue of the decade.

Finally, if we want a little upbeat thing the press corps is not paying enough attention to, remember: June is Dairy Month. Go home and have some cheese.

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

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF EBRAHIM RAISI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last month, the United Nations Security Council had a moment of silence in memory of the death of the late Iranian President, Ebrahim Raisi, known as the Butcher of Tehran.

Even on the Senate floor, the Senate Chaplain said something sorrowful about Raisi's death.

Mr. Speaker, the death of any human being is a tragedy perhaps, but no one had a moment of silence when Osama bin Laden died, and Ebrahim Raisi killed far more people than Osama bin Laden.

At some point, we should take a moment of silence to remember the victims of Raisi's vicious cruelty, such as the 30,000 Iranian political prisoners who were tortured and murdered to death by the death commissions that Raisi headed back in 1988; the 1,500 Iranian freedom protesters murdered in 2019, Bloody November; or the murders of potentially thousands of protesters who were incensed by the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in September 2022.

□ 1230

She was Mahsa Amini, who was beaten and died in custody. Her crime? Not wearing her hijab just the way the morality police thought was appropriate.

Among those murdered by Raisi's regime during the Woman, Life, Freedom uprising was 16-year-old protester Nika Shahkarami in April of this year. The BBC did an investigation and discovered documents that showed that Nika was heinously sexually assaulted and killed by three men from Iran's security forces after she was detained.

Today, many brave Iranians face the death penalty for just speaking out in favor of the Woman, Life, Freedom movement and speaking out for democracy in Iran.

Just recently, we saw the rapper Toomaj, a critic of this regime, who, on April 30, was sentenced to death.

During the last year, Iran admits to having executed 853 people, the highest number in 8 years. That doesn't count all those killed secretly.

I have referred only to the evil that this regime does to its own people. Iran, as we know, sponsors terrorist organizations around the world, including the Houthi, Hamas, and Hezbollah, and those are just the organizations that begin with the letter h.

The evil done by Hamas, I think, is well-known, but one should reflect on all those killed in Yemen by the Houthi, and now their action blocking the Red Sea raises prices of grain for poor people living near the Indian Ocean, from Bangladesh to Ethiopia, raising prices and leading, if not to starvation, to the compromised immune system that then leads to thousands and thousands of deaths.

I am proud to represent California's 32nd Congressional District, home, I believe, to more Iranian Americans than any other district in this country. I know firsthand from talking to them about their opposition to the murderous Islamic Republic regime and their troubled reaction when they saw Ebrahim Raisi mourned without his victims even being remembered.

The brave Iranian people deserve a moment of silence not for the Butcher of Tehran, but for those he butchered, and so I ask, Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent that this House observe a moment of silence for those killed at the hands and under the Presidency of Ebrahim Raisi.

#### PEACE TREATY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for the past 4 years, I have been working on the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, designed to try to move us in the direction of a negotiated settlement with North Korea.

The war stopped, or seemed to have stopped, in 1953, but that was just an armistice. It is now time to negotiate a formal peace treaty.

There are those who say that is an unwarranted concession to North Korea and Kim Jong-un. That is hardly the case. The armistice of 1953 was

done by both sides and was equal. If an armistice is not an unwarranted concession, neither is a formal peace treaty.

There is majority support in the South Korean Parliament for ending this war formally, and I believe it would be a first step to negotiating a solution to North Korea's very dangerous nuclear and missile program.

We currently have 41 and growing number of cosponsors in the United States here in the House of Representatives. There is support for this effort in Canada, Britain, and, as I mentioned, in Seoul.

I am proud to represent a large and vibrant Korean-American community, and I look forward to being able to take a step toward a rapprochement with North Korea, knowing full well that dealing with its nuclear program and its deprivation of human rights will be daunting tasks.

#### HOUSING FOR VETERANS

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to redistricting just last year, I now represent what I believe is the largest veterans' facility in the West, the West Los Angeles VA.

I have seen exemplified in my own district a problem in large quantity that should strike at the hearts of all of us, and that is homeless veterans. To see any American out on the street is a shame, but when that American has put their life on the line for this country, it is a shame that we need to correct.

This Congress has provided significant money to build housing for veterans. We need to do more. I will focus on one particular problem with the HUD-VASH program that we fund. It sets a limit on the income that a veteran can have, and it is understood we are building this housing for low-income veterans.

Included in that income calculation are disability benefits. We have a situation right in my district where disabled American veterans are living on the streets and can't get into veteran housing on veteran land because they are receiving veteran disability benefits for the disabilities they suffered in the service of the American people.

I have proposed legislation, which passed unanimously, 49-0, through the Financial Services Committee, to say that disability benefits not be included in that income calculation.

Two things to be aware of: First, the income of a disabled veteran can be calculated, but what must be kept in mind is that they face higher expenses. They have to live a different life, and that additional income or payments that they receive does not mean that they are middle class or wealthy.

Second, our Internal Revenue Code already recognizes that disability payments received by veterans are not counted as income.

Finally, the people who I think would most benefit from housing on the VA campus, where we have the largest VA hospital in the southern California

area are the disabled veterans who need the medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join in cosponsoring and supporting this legislation.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VALLEY INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, known as VICA, for 75 years of working tirelessly to make the San Fernando Valley the place to do business in California.

VICA serves 1.8 million residents, nearly a quarter million businesses, and VICA has been a leading voice for the business community since 1949. Under the leadership of President Stuart Waldman and Chair Lupita Sanchez Cornejo, VICA has helped the valley become an economic engine that has powered the recovery from the COVID downturn for the entire area of Los Angeles, where they are advocating for a better business climate, improved regional infrastructure, and a 21st century workforce. VICA has left its mark.

I congratulate VICA on this 75th anniversary. I look forward to working with VICA day after day, month after month, as I have in my 28 years in Congress.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MORRIE MARKOFF

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Morrie Markoff, and what a life it was. Morrie was a well-known resident of Los Angeles and the father of my good and longtime friend, Steven Markoff, and Steve's sister, Judith Markoff Hansen.

Morrie lived to be the oldest man in the United States, reaching the age of 110, before passing away in his southern California home on June 3 of this year.

Morrie grew up in New York City, attended trade school, married the love of his life, Betty Goldmintz, and settled in Los Angeles.

Morrie was a skilled machinist, businessman, artist, and author. He was not just someone who lived to an incredibly advanced age. He was famous for his cognitive abilities late in life. He held his first art exhibit as a centenarian. At age 103, Morrie was selling his book, "Keep Breathing," a good idea, from his own booth at the LA Times Festival of Books. He was known as the world's oldest blogger.

Morrie witnessed tremendous social and technological changes in 110 years. He inspired so many of us to live life to the fullest. Los Angeles reflects with pride on the life of Morrie Markoff.

#### DEFINING ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Jewish Americans are facing a tide of hate in this country that we thought could only be in a different century, on a different continent. U.S. anti-Semitic incidences have skyrocketed 360 percent since October 7.

Between October 7 and January 7 alone, the Anti-Defamation League has recorded 3,283 anti-Semitic incidents,

including harassment, vandalism, and physical assaults. Just outside of my district, Paul Kessler was bludgeoned in the head and bludgeoned to death by an anti-Israel protester.

Recent polling from the American Jewish Committee found that 93 percent of Jews in this country think that anti-Semitism is a problem, and 87 percent think that it has gotten worse since October 7. Yet, some refuse to listen.

That especially is happening in campuses across this country. Too often, university administrators have failed to protect their Jewish students. At Columbia University, leaked text messages show how administrators were mocking a panel on anti-Semitism while it was happening.

At Yale, a Jewish student was assaulted by encampment protestors. At Reed College, Jewish students had their mezuzah torn down or struck with a rock through their dorm room. Just this week, a man was arrested for throwing a rock in the face of a Jewish Columbia student. The list goes on and on.

Now, anti-Semitism can't be fought, particularly on campuses, if it can't be defined. So many are engaging in anti-Semitism and claiming that it is not anti-Semitism. If there is dedication to fighting it, it has to be defined.

America should use the same standard for evaluating its own campuses that the State Department has been using for a decade and a half in looking at global anti-Semitism. The same standard that we use in criticizing or evaluating the University of Bucharest should be used for Columbia University.

That is the IHRA definition, and the most controversial part of that definition says that, when there is a call for the expulsion or death of every Jew living between the river and the sea, that is anti-Semitic. That shouldn't even be a question. If, God forbid, a Member were to come to this floor, grab this microphone, and shout: "Death to Albania," would anyone doubt that that Member was anti-Albanian?

When one calls for the destruction and ethnic cleansing of the only Jewish majority country in the world, is there any doubt that that is anti-Semitic?

□ 1245

Some oppose adopting this definition because they say it deals with free speech. Keep in mind, fortunately or unfortunately, homophobic speech, racist speech, and anti-Semitic speech enjoy substantial First Amendment protection.

We should adopt a definition of anti-Semitism and then use that to evaluate and use our free speech rights to comment on the anti-Semitic speech being screamed on campuses across this country.

Students are entitled to the protection of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That says that you cannot interfere with their education because of their race or national origin.

I have battled for 20 years three or four different administrations' Department of Education, and we now have it clear—as we had it clear and then they revoked it and then they made it clear again—that title VI applies to Jewish students. It may say race and national origin. People can debate whether Judaism and the Jewish people are a people or a religion or a civilization. That issue has been handled.

What campuses have to do is follow title VI if they are going to receive any Federal aid, and they are not. Their method for ignoring civil rights law is to refuse to define anti-Semitism.

Let us hope that this Department of Education will take its responsibility seriously, that this Department of Education will go that last step from saying that they are using the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism to say that they actually publish it as their definition of anti-Semitism. That is a slight step.

Let us hope that university administrators will protect Jewish students just as the National Guard was used to protect African-American students many decades ago when they entered campus.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, there is substantial discussion of cryptocurrencies. It was one of the things that I agreed with Donald Trump on when he tweeted in 2019, back when he was on Twitter: "I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which are not money and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated crypto assets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity."

"We have only one real currency in the USA, and it is stronger than ever, both dependable and reliable. It is by far the most dominant currency anywhere in the world, and it will always stay that way. It is called the United States dollar."

Donald Trump got it right in 2019 because he hadn't figured out that there was a way to get money by getting it wrong. Since then, he has flip-flopped. He has decided that he likes cryptocurrency.

Why is that? First, he may have discovered that those who are doing crypto mining are creating enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, entire mothballed electric plants have been taken out of mothballs. These are coal-burning plants, and the entire output is used to do highly complex calculations in order to mine cryptocurrency. That is to say, whoever does these calculations, the system gives them crypto.

Maybe it is the enormous amount of greenhouse gases, but I don't think that is it. What Trump has discovered is that there is an enormous amount of money for him by embracing crypto.

What is crypto? Why does it have a value? At first blush, it looks like an electronic pet rock.

Why does it have value? It is right in the name. It aspires to be a currency, and if it actually became a currency—if you went to the local McDonald's and were told how much a burger cost based on its crypto value, how many hamster coins for an order of fries, then it would be a currency.

Those who are investing in crypto mostly are just thinking they will buy it now and will sell it in a month, and it will go up in value. They have no idea what they are buying, why it would have any value, why anybody else would buy it except they heard they can make money on it.

There is a constituency for that. A lot of people will make investments without thinking of the consequences.

Those in the crypto movement have told us why they have created it. They want to compete with the U.S. dollar in order to make enormous amounts of money themselves and to take from the U.S. dollar its tremendous role as a reserve currency and as an international settlements currency. The effect of that would be to make a mockery out of the sanctions that we impose on Iran, North Korea, and others.

What is the market for cryptocurrency? Why does anybody need a new currency? What is the matter with the euro? Hell, what is the matter with the dollar? The dollar is an outstanding currency. It is a medium of exchange, a store of value, but there is a huge market for another one.

That is because dollar transactions can be discovered by American law enforcement. Yes, we do have the one hundred dollar bill, but big-time drug dealers, big-time tax evaders, and big-time human traffickers find it difficult to carry around that many suitcases filled with one hundred dollar bills, let alone to try to spend them.

They need an electronic currency that gives them all the anonymity of a sack full of one hundred dollar bills and all the convenience of a 21st century currency.

If it catches on, what are the markets? The biggest market, the only market that justifies the current prices that some crypto is getting, is the tax evasion market.

Trump's own Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, his appointee, testified that there is roughly a trillion dollars of uncollected taxes. The vast bulk of that is from very wealthy people who are hiding their income.

In order to not pay \$1 trillion in taxes, you have to hide \$3 trillion of income. If you hide \$3 trillion of income year after year, after a decade, you have \$10 trillion of assets to hide. That is a lot of assets. You cannot put it all in a sack full of one hundred dollar bills.

So, they create a currency that meets the needs of the tax evaders. What about the sanction evaders? It does it even better. What about the

drug dealers? We have all seen the movies where the toughest problem the big-time drug dealer has is how to deal with all this cash. It solves that problem.

You can tell by the name. They are trying to create a currency. What do they call it? Cryptocurrency. What does that literally mean? Hidden money.

Donald Trump is finding that he can get hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions, God knows what else he might be taking, from people who see this as an opportunity to create a currency where they are the first owners of it. They create it. They mine it. They already have it.

They have over \$1 trillion of this “currency,” and they have to find somebody who will take it off their hands. That market won’t arise unless they can change the laws of the United States, the security laws and a host of others, in order to compete with the U.S. dollar.

First, if they are able to do this, bankruptcy laws will be unenforceable. Husbands or wives trying to hide assets from their former spouses will not be detected. The income tax will become a tax only on wages. The IRS has your little W-2 form. They know how much you have to pay, but the big-time folks, for them, the income tax will be as much as they feel like paying.

We have to deal with crypto. We also have to deal with the rank hypocrisy of the Republican nominee for President.

Finally, as of today, Mr. Trump is 78 years old. Both parties have nominated Presidential candidates that are older than those that have been nominated anytime in history.

There are those who say one or the other is too old. I will simply say this: It is true, Biden is 3 years older as of today, but Trump is 83 pounds heavier. If you were a life insurance agent, perhaps you wouldn’t want to sell that policy.

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

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Thereupon (at 12 o’clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-4562. A letter from the Deputy Director, Legislative and Regulatory Coordinator,

Packers and Stockyards Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Transparency in Poultry Grower Contracting and Tournaments [Doc. No.: AMS-FTPP-21-0044] (RIN: 0581-AE03) received May 31, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture. EC-4563. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Ongoing Data Collection of Non-Centrally Cleared Bilateral Transactions in the U.S. Repurchase Agreement Market received May 29, 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-4564. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department’s letter — Implementation of Program Length Restrictions for Gainful Employment (GE) Programs, received May 29, 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-4565. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Council on Environmental Quality, transmitting the Council’s Major final rule — National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions Phase 2 [CEQ-2023-0003] (RIN: 0331-AA07) received May 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4566. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security — USCIS, Department of Labor — ETA, transmitting the Department’s temporary final rule — Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Fiscal Year 2022 Numerical Limitation for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H-2B Workers Seeking To Change Employers [DOL Docket No.: ETA-2022-0001] (RIN: 1615-AC77) (RIN: 1205-AC09) received June 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-4567. A letter from the Chief, Immigration Law Division, Office of Policy, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Efficient Case and Docket Management in Immigration Proceedings [Docket No.: EOIR 021-0410; AG Order No.: 5930-2024] (RIN: 1125-AB18) received May 31, 2021, 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-4568. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission’s Major final rule — Non-Compete Clause Rule (RIN: 3084-AB74) received May 21, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4569. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Valkaria, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0298; Airspace Docket No. 24-ASO-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4570. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31549; Amdt. No.: 4116] received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31548; Amdt. No.: 4115] received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4571. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31548; Amdt. No.: 4115] received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4572. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Edward G. Pitka Sr. Airport, Galena, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2482; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AAL-26] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4573. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-44, V-128, and V-493, and United States Area Navigation Routes T-315 and T-323 in the Vicinity of York, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1737; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4574. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2137; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01389-T; Amendment 39-22737; AD 2024-08-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4575. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class C Airspace and Removal of Class D Airspace; Harrisburg International Airport, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1021; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWA-6] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4576. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s IRB only rule — Extension of the Phase-in Period for the Enforcement and Administration of Section 871(m) (Notice 2024-44) received May 29, 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-4577. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Section, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service’s notice of proposed rulemaking — Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Credit and Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Credit [REG-119283-23] (RIN: 1545-BR17) received June 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 8281. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-552). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. AMODEI: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 8752. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-553). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 8771. A bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-554). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8749. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote preparedness and Medicare beneficiary access to safer, more accurate sterile intravenous drug preparations through automated hospital infrastructure; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 8750. A bill to designate the exclusive economic zone of the United States as the "Donald John Trump Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 8751. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to support State data infrastructure projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. LALOTA):

H.R. 8753. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 8754. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage practices that benefit both soil and wildlife habitat by increasing payments to producers for such practices under the environmental quality incentives program and the conservation stewardship program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MENG, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 8755. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Eid Days as Federal holidays, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 8756. A bill to establish the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers Council, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers, and Artificial Intelligence Coordination Boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. DAVIDSON (for himself, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HERN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 8757. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to support cell-cultured meat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 8758. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under such Act to public employees; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 8759. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow certain payments made by public service employees to qualify for public service repayment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 8760. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., in recognition of his contributions to the United States through the promotion of nonviolence during the Civil Rights movement and beyond; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H.R. 8761. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that non-Federal revenue generated through certain distance education programs may be counted purposes of the non-Federal revenue requirements applicable to proprietary institutions of higher education (commonly known as the "90/10 rule"); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. GONZALEZ-COLON, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 8762. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 8763. A bill to provide grants to States to encourage the implementation and maintenance of firearms licensing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER,

Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FROST, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 8764. A bill to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 8765. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 8766. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to allow for cemetery flags to be displayed in an upright position directly adjacent to the grave sites of deceased members of the Armed Forces or veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 8767. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CASE, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 8768. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants available to support State, Tribal, and local firearm destruction activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 8769. A bill to provide financial assistance to States and Indian Tribes for the development, implementation, improvement, or expansion of a flex-tech energy program to enhance manufacturing competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 8770. A bill to establish a grant program carried out by the Department of Homeland Security to fund university-based cybersecurity clinics at junior or community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), and other minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 Mr. MOULTON:

H. Res. 1301. A resolution expressing support for the inaugural Heart Recovery Awareness Day on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. TITUS:

H. Res. 1302. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 396) to regulate bump stocks in the same manner as machineguns; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. BICE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SELF, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. FRY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. BACON, Mr. ESTES, Mr. McCaul, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H. Res. 1303. A resolution condemning the Biden administration's politically motivated ban on liquefied natural gas exports to non-free trade agreement countries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote preparedness and Medicare beneficiary access to safer, more accurate sterile intravenous drug preparations through automated hospital infrastructure

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 8750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate the exclusive economic zone of the United States as the "Donald John Trump Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States"

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 8751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 : Commerce Clause

The single subject of this legislation is:

Commerce

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 8752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . ." In addition, clause

1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The subject of the bill is the making of appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2024.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 8753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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;

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establishes zip codes for these 31 individual communities.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 8754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 8755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation establishes Eid, the Muslim holiday, as a federal holiday.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 8756.

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:

Promote leadership and coordination on AI in the federal government.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 8757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

"To restrict federal funding for research, development, procurement and promotion of cell cultured meat."

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 8758.

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:

Worker Protections

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 8759.

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:

education.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 8760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws that are necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Award Congressional Gold Medal

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 8761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that non-Federal revenue generated through certain distance education programs may be counted purposes of the non-Federal revenue requirements applicable to proprietary institutions of higher education (commonly known as the "90/10 rule").

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 8762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 8763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill improves public safety with gun violence prevention measures.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 8764.

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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 8765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Disaster relief

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 8766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Flag code

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 8767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress shall have . . . power to make all laws. Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases.

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 8768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Attorney General to make grants available to support State, Tribal, and local firearm destruction activities.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 8769

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support State Energy Offices with industrial energy efficiency

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 8770

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a grant program carried out by the Department of Homeland Security to fund university-based cybersecurity clinics at junior or community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU's), Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), and other minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 24: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 233: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 396: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MANNING, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BERA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1015: Mr. ALFORD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1077: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MENG, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHOLten, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1478: Mr. DELUZIO and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1582: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 1721: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1787: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2451: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 2463: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 2630: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 2711: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2802: Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. McGOVERN, and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 2830: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 3036: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 3265: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3486: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3491: Mrs. MCBATH and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 3790: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3962: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4020: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 4137: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 4184: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. AMO, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 4439: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 4606: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 4756: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 4757: Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 4758: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 4974: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 5003: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 5048: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 5049: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 5163: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5175: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 5220: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 5455: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 5488: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 5492: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 5547: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 5611: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 5685: Mr. VASQUEZ and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 5840: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 6013: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 6050: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 6159: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 6203: Ms. McCLELLAN.

H.R. 6242: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 6348: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 6394: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 6470: Ms. CHU, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 6618: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 6928: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. McGOVERN.

H.R. 6950: Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 6951: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 7046: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 7265: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 7279: Mr. KILEY.

H.R. 7378: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 7438: Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. TURNER, Ms. WILD, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 7465: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 7468: Ms. BOEBERT.

H.R. 7597: Mr. LALOITA.

H.R. 7666: Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 7770: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 7771: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 7808: Mr. BALDERSO.

H.R. 7829: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 7936: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 7999: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 8044: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 8061: Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 8068: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 8114: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 8300: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 8370: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 8416: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 8426: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 8427: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 8503: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 8560: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 8571: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 8593: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 8623: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 8632: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 8680: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 8692: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 8702: Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 8704: Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 8732: Ms. WATERS and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.J. Res. 72: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.J. Res. 82: Ms. SHERRILL, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.J. Res. 123: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DONALDS.

H.J. Res. 138: Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.J. Res. 164: Mr. JACKSON of Texas and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.J. Res. 165: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. HOUCIN, and Mr. BENTZ.

H.J. Res. 167: Mr. ROY.

H. Res. 620: Mr. BACON.

H. Res. 882: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 1021: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. DUNCAN.

H. Res. 1032: Mr. HARDER of California.

H. Res. 1053: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H. Res. 1121: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 1148: Ms. McCLELLAN and Mr. CARL.

H. Res. 1230: Mr. VASQUEZ and Ms. SCHOLten.

H. Res. 1279: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H. Res. 1285: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. FINSTAD.

H. Res. 1290: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

#### DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 8 by MS. DEGETTE on House Resolution 916: Mr. Torres of New York, Ms. Wilson of Florida, and Mr. Veasey.

Petition 12 by MS. MANNING on House Resolution 1240: Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Golden of Maine, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Perez, Ms. Lofgren, Ms. McClellan, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Kim of New Jersey, Ms. Porter, Mr. Mrvan, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Smith of Washington, and Ms. Wilson of Florida.